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Emily Wurramara was named Artist of the Year, and won Film Clip of the Year for her 2024 single *Lordy Lordy* ft. Tasman Keith, shot by Claudia Sangiorgi Dalimore.

Stars shine bright

First Nations music stars, fans and stars in the sky were all out Saturday for a night of Blak excellence at the 2025 National Indigenous Music Awards (NIMAs) in Garramilla (Darwin), with Top End performers taking home all but one of the awards. Emily Wurramara and Andrew Gurruwiwi Band were both double award winners while Jessica Mauboy was inducted into NIMA's Hall of Fame. **Full story, Page 3.**



Andrew Gurruwiwi Band took out New Talent of the Year and Song of the Year for their irresistible track *Once Upon A Time*.



Jessica Mauboy was inducted into NIMAs Hall of Fame. Pictures: Jillian Mundy.



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First Nations media converge

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AFLW season preview

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MY FAMILY

Nathan Logan, Hughenden, Qld



Myself Nathan Logan, right, and my brother Bryson Riversleigh.

Living in Hughenden, which is 390km inland from the east coast of North Queensland, I have many relatives living there and at other places in the far north.

At home I do lots of family activities including get togethers for barbecues and fishing.

The Flinders River is dry at the moment but we have a lake there which provides lots of fish and recreation.

It has been stocked with Barramundi which I enjoy catching for a feast.

Hughenden is a quiet town with many Aboriginal families and we all know each other.

Your photographer saw me with my 22-year-old brother Bryson Riversleigh as we were walking in the Townsville CBD at lunchtime on August 9.

I had travelled from Hughenden by road and Bryson had caught a train.

My reason for being there was with my job as an apprentice boilermaker for a TAFE course and Bryson stayed with me.

It gave us the opportunity to see extended family in the town and just chill out.

I stayed at the Grand Chancellor Hotel also known as the Sugar Shaker in the Mall, and there was good views of the city.

Many family members live at places out west of Hughenden including Richmond, Julia Creek, Cloncurry and Mount Isa.

There is a big Mob in Mount Isa in the Major family which my dad is from.

As a family we try and get to Allblacks carnivals in Townsville which are good to watch and where we also see many friends.

Myself and Bryson are very big supporters of the Brisbane Broncos in the NRL and we hope they do well in the coming finals series.

When I get time to relax back in Hughenden I like to meet family and friends at the Great Western or Royal Hotels for a meal and yarn.

Family is so important to me and it is a real bonus to have so many who live at different places as well as at home.

SHARE YOUR FAMILY WITH OUR READERS

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

OUR CHILDREN



Young primary school students from Bwgcolman State and St Michael's Catholic schools on Palm island enjoyed several days on mainland Townsville. They cruised across Cleveland Bay from Palm to Townsville and spent two nights staying at Ryan Catholic College whilst they prepared to participate in the 11th Garbutt Magpies AFL Cup.

Koori Mail

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BARKAA was awarded Album of the Year for her acclaimed record *Big Tidda*, cementing her status as one of hip-hop's fiercest voices and its 'Blak matriarch'.

NIMA award winners announced

By JILLIAN MUNDY



FIRST Nations music stars, fans and stars in the sky were all out on Saturday for a night of Blak excellence at the 2025 National Indigenous Music Awards (NIMAs) in Garramilla (Darwin), with Top End performers taking home all but one of the awards.

Emily Wurramara and Andrew Gurruwiwi Band were both double award winners.

Wurramara, an artist, activist, author and proud Warnindhilyagwa woman hailing from Groote Eylandt and Milyakburra/Bickerton Island, was named Artist of the Year, and won Film Clip of the Year for her 2024 single *Lordy Lordy* ft. Tasman Keith, shot by Claudia Sangiorgi Dalimore.

Fresh from a tour of Turtle Island (Canada) the ARIA and now first time NIMA award-winning artist was moved to tears when the second award was announced.

Making it even more special was having her great grandmother in the crowd to see her receive the accolade.

"NIMA is beautiful because we can all come together as community, it feels like family backstage, a bit ruckus, but we love it," the songstress told the *Koori Mail*.

Wurramara said being a black woman in the music industry came with responsibility.

"To our culture, to our community, the next generation to be that inspiration for them, it's a big responsibility."

Andrew Gurruwiwi Band took out New Talent of the Year and Song of the Year for their track



Kutch Edwards presents Bulman School and Community with the Community Clip of the Year Awards.

Once Upon A Time.

The high-energy eight-piece Yolngu Funk band is led by Andrew Gurruwiwi, a shy-but-extravagant, blind, keytar-wielding Yolngu Elder with a passion to make people dance and share his culture and native tongue. The band honed their craft on the beach at Birtjimi and in the dirt of Yirrkala, in north-east Arnhem Land.

Andrew Gurruwiwi told the *Koori Mail* he felt happy and proud.

"Proud of my people, in the Northern Territory and Arnhem Land. I'm proud of all of Australia's First Nations.

"Doing this work with music is not easy work, it can be a pain in the ass sometimes," he said.

"It means a lot to be recognised in this way, in front of Yolngu people around Australia.

"Through our culture we share stories and songlines that connect through all the tribes to all the First Nations of this land."

BARKAA was awarded Album of the Year for her acclaimed

record *Big Tidda*, cementing her status as one of hip-hop's fiercest voices and its 'Blak matriarch'.

Community Clip of the Year went to Bulman School and Community for *Crocodile Style*, a lively and joyous retelling of the Dalabon story of how humans came to have fire, featuring local students celebrating traditional knowledge and contemporary creativity.

The NIMAs kicked off with a smoking ceremony from the Larrakia people followed by an electrifying performance by the Red Flag Dancers from Numbulwar.

There was a star-studded line up of Indigenous performances from those fresh on scene to legends throughout the evening.

Best New Talent nominees Drifting Clouds kicked off the music, followed by Eleanor Jawurlngali and Mick Turner premiering their new single *Alice Rising*, then Kankawa Nagarra from Fitzroy Crossing and her guitar captivated the crowd.



Red Flag Dancers from Numbulwar dancers had the audience pumped with their energy and skill.

A surprise performance from Best New Talent nominee Miss Kaninna showed everyone she's got that 'dawg' in her, while BARKAA and Leroy Johnson performed their Song of the Year nominated track *Ngamaka*.

Even with six major awards announcements and a star-studded line up of performances, it would be hard to argue that the Induction of Jessica Mauboy into the NIMAs Hall of Fame stole the show.

In her acceptance speech, the sweetheart of Darwin honoured her family and ancestors, paying homage to her journey, community and the sacrifices made along the way, encouraging people to follow their dreams.

She also performed her beautiful new single *While I Got Time*.

There were also powerhouse performances from rising stars Velvet Trip and Artist of the Year nominee Emma Donovan with her own enchanting version of *Take Me to the River*.

Country-music legend Troy Cassar-Daley ended the night with his haunting *Windradyne* then *Dream Out Loud* – a most fitting closing, with a message that had reverberated across the evening.

The 2025 NIMAs can be viewed on YouTube, which were the major sponsor.

This year's winners were presented with a framed vinyl record, painted by artists from No Fixed Gallery, a 100% Aboriginal, female and artist owned and operated family business in Mpartwe (Alice Springs).

● More pictures next edition.

Massive family reunion underway

By CHRISTINE HOWES



FROM Samoa and New Zealand to Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait) and all across Australia, 1,600

descendants of Tipoti Nona will meet in Cairns later this week, in one of the biggest, most organised family reunions in their history.

Family members will collect their shirts, wristbands and enjoy a sausage sizzle with other family members from tomorrow (Thursday, August 14 onwards at the Cairns Showgrounds.

A packed program includes a presentation about the life of Tipoti Nona, storytelling, feasting, dancing and organised activities for the 270-plus children expected to make up their numbers.

A working group, including Sami Nona, Bernard Sabadi-Nona and Stacey Ketchell, has been organising the massive reunion for less than 12 months.

"This is our family, I'm fifth generation from my great-great-grandfather," Sami said.

"I have children, that's the sixth generation, and there are about seven generations over the 120 years.

"This has been a long time



Members of the Cairns working group.

coming, we've never been able to get the family under one roof before because it's such a massive family, but we made it happen this year."

She said their ancestor Tipoti Nona, who was Samoan, came to Australia to marry his second wife, a Saibai Islander woman, Ugarie.

"They moved to Badu to raise their 14 children," she said.

"Ugarie and Tipoti were born in the mid-1800s.

"They moved to Badu in the late 1800s and their children were born from 1901 onwards.

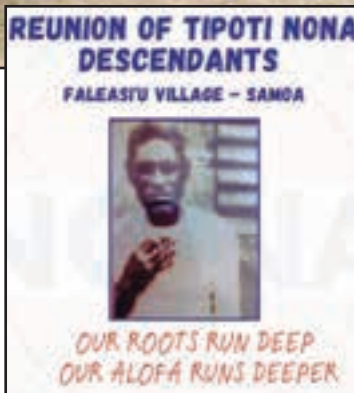
"Tipoti was 74 years of age when his last son, Walter, was born, he only died about 13 years ago.

"The matriarch, (Ugarie), she lived through World War I, World War II and the Referendum.

"She died in 1968 at the age of 107, she was my great-great-grandmother, so she really was the pillar."

Bernard said it was the first time they had been able to get everyone together.

"We've had a lot of great family members who have been able to dedicate a lot of time and



effort to make this happen," he said.

"We have a lot of families spread all over Australia and also the world, so it's been a monumental effort to try and get

everyone together, to reconnect with our roots and learn a bit more about ourselves."

He said the family had a governing body of Nona Elders made up of each line from each of the children of Athe Tipoti.

"Each of the children of Athe Tipoti has one representative, an Elder elected by that family," he said.

"They are the governing body and they help make the decisions as a collective, so everybody is across everything.

"For the reunion, there are working groups and tasks that have been delegated all around, but as the host city, we've been the heavy movers here."

Reunion representative for the governing body, Laurie Nona Snr, said they were as one.

"Though our family names are many, like the branches of a mighty tree, we are of one blood, from one Athe and one family tree," he said.

"Today, we gather beneath its shade for the first time, a shade that will carry the spirit of care, protection, love, respect, joy and unity into all time.

"Ngalpa urapun, Koey iradal Puy - we are one, we are one big shady tree."

● Reunion pictures, next edition.

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Culture takes centre stage in musical

By KEIRA JENKINS



GAMILARAAY performer

Googoorewon Knox has music in his blood. His grandfather Roger Knox is a country music legend and on the other side of his family, his grandmother Auriel Andrew was also a respected performer.

Knox made his debut in musical theatre as George Washington in the Australian return season of *Hamilton* in 2024.

While on a slightly different path to the one set out in his family roots, it's not that much of a stretch for him.

"It makes sense being a singer, being in a musical family and enjoying being an entertainer at the same time," he said.

"The fact that it's happened isn't a huge surprise."

Knox is returning to the stage in August to play Agwe, the god of water in the award-winning musical *Once on This Island*.

The contemporary re-imagining of the classic Hans Christian Andersen tale *The Little Mermaid* and the book *My Love, My Love* by Rosa Guy follows the story of Ti Moune, who risks everything to save a boy from the other side of the island where she lives.

Beginning on Australia's own shores, the show blends Caribbean origins with the rich cultural history found closer to home.

Knox says it's a freeing experience to bring himself and his heritage to the stage.

"That's who I am," he said.

"Hamilton was a historical piece; all the characters are real people, they're played by Black people but they weren't Black people," he said.

"To be able to play Black characters as a Black person is very freeing."

The show is directed by Gumbaynggirr and Turkish writer Brittanie Shipway, who says it is a



Googoorewon Knox.

celebration of storytelling, music and the rich tapestry of culture.

"What better way to honour the spirit of our island home than through the voices of 12 extraordinary performers, each bringing the depth and beauty of their own cultural heritage."

Ti Moune is "a dreamer, a healer and a trailblazer on a journey of love, sacrifice and self-discovery", she adds.

To Knox, the story is a "representation of us" filled with the music and dances of culture, which he's looking forward to sharing with audiences.

"It's going to be incredible," he said.

"There's a section in the middle that's going to be mind blowing. I don't care who you are, you're going to go crazy for it." *Once on This Island* plays at the Hayes Theatre in association with Curveball Creative, until August 31.

– AAP

Legal bid to stop Olympic park plan

By SAVANNAH MEACHAM



PLANS to convert a park into the 2032 Olympic centrepiece are facing legal action from an Indigenous group who say it will damage a significant cultural site.

An Indigenous group has launched an application to stop controversial plans to develop a park with cultural significance as the 2032 Olympic centrepiece.

The group wants the Commonwealth to step in and save inner Brisbane's Victoria Park, which is set to become the 2032 games hub, hosting a \$3.7 billion, 63,000-seat main stadium.

The Yagara Magandjin Aboriginal Corporation has lodged an application with the federal government to protect the park, warning the 2032 plans will cause "long-term injury" to a site of Indigenous significance.

The main stadium is set to be built at a park that contains stories, archaeological evidence, possible ancestral remains and ancient trees, the corporation's Uncle Steven said.

He also believes there's potential for further Aboriginal heritage research at the park, but fears that won't happen if it's bulldozed for the Olympics.

"Once it's lost, it's gone forever," the Yagara Elder told media.

"This is about trying to protect the cultural heritage for future generations, for our First Nations



Brisbane's Victoria Park.

children, for non-First Nations children – it's the history of Queensland."

The clock is ticking to construct the 2032 venues after Queensland's Liberal National government finally unveiled its blueprint in March, more than 1,300 days after Brisbane was named the Olympics host.

It also fast-tracked legislation to override 15 environmental and heritage acts to speed up the 2032 build.

This ensured the government

could bypass existing laws to construct the main stadium at Victoria Park, despite half of it being state heritage-listed.

"The state government has gone to a lot of trouble to take away any democratic rights that we had to be consulted, or to make submissions about the proposals, so we've gone to the federal legislation," Save Victoria Park's Sue Bremner said.

Save Victoria Park has backed the corporation lodging an application under the *Aboriginal*

and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act.

If successful, the federal government could declare the long-term protection of the park and halt any development.

But the legal process may take years, sparking fears among activists that the park may be bulldozed before a decision is made.

Ms Bremner warned the group is willing to look at alternative emergency action to halt shovels in the ground in support of the

corporation.

Uncle Steven said the application was not about stopping development for the 2032 Games at other locations but instead about protecting Victoria Park's values and history.

"We don't want to hold progress up. We don't want to stop people from enjoying the facilities that may come with 2032," he said.

"But just stop a moment and have a look at what's already been destroyed and impacted in southeast Queensland, and have a little bit of thoughtfulness towards it and work out something more appropriate."

A state government spokesperson defended the 2032 venue plan, claiming recent legislation would still recognise Aboriginal heritage matters.

"The Crisafulli government's new laws underpin the delivery of Games infrastructure on time, on budget, and with a clear legacy for communities beyond 2032," the spokesperson said.

"The new laws provide a bespoke process that recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage matters, incorporating engagement and consultation with relevant parties and preparation of a cultural heritage management plan."

A damning report last week revealed the Games blueprint may not be completed in time due to a productivity drop.

But Treasurer David Janetzki said the government was up to the 2032 challenge.

Death in prison was preventable



AN Aboriginal woman's newborn baby was ripped from her arms soon after giving birth while in prison.

But Heather Calgaret was not given any mental-health support after this traumatic event.

Over the next two-years behind bars, the mother-of-four became obese, developed type 2 diabetes and suffered depression before being denied parole.

She died in custody in November 2021 after being given an inappropriately prescribed injectable opioid substitution.

Countless missed opportunities to prevent the 30-year-old's death in custody were outlined by a coroner, as her family and supporters filled the courtroom.

"Not only was her passing preventable, she should never have passed in the manner that she did," Victorian coroner Sarah Gebert said as she delivered a 300-page finding.

The proud Yamatji, Noongar, Wongi and Pitjantjatjara woman had been six months' pregnant when she arrived at Dame Phyllis Frost women's prison in July 2019.

The removal of her baby girl

just after giving birth, because she had been denied access to the prison's Living with Mum program, was a "pivotal" moment, the coroner found.

"Heather had her other children removed ... and her family had been affected by the Stolen Generation," Ms Gebert said.

"Each of these factors would be expected to produce a range

of both trauma-related symptoms and feelings of despair."

Ms Calgaret was not given access to a psychologist while at Dame Phyllis and her mental health declined.

About six months before her death, Ms Calgaret pleaded in a letter to be released on parole.

She explained the See Change program she was

required to complete was not available at Dame Phyllis and asked to do it outside prison.

"I have four children that need me. I believe I have suffered enough," Ms Calgaret wrote in the letter.

She begged for someone to "please read and answer my letter", but it was never forwarded onto the parole board.

The coroner said Ms Calgaret had been eligible to be considered for parole more than a year earlier, about seven months after her sentence for aggravated burglary was imposed.

It wasn't until October 2021 – a month before she died – that she was told her parole application had been denied because of a lack of suitable accommodation.

On November 22, a doctor gave her a dosage of opiate replacement therapy that was too high for her tolerance level.

Ms Calgaret's sister Suzzane, who was housed with her at the prison, found her struggling to breathe the following morning.

She shook Ms Calgaret to let her know it was time for the daily count, but her younger sister was not moving.

A "code black" was called and she was taken to hospital where she died four-days later.

The Correct Care Australasia doctor had "lacked the careful consideration required" to prescribe the injectable drug, the coroner said.

She found Ms Calgaret would not have died if she had not been given the drug, or if she had been supervised afterwards.

Suzzane Calgaret welcomed the findings but said it should not have taken her sister's death for changes to be made.

"I hope they just have learned from this because it's taken my sister's life, my mum's daughter's life," she said outside court.

"There's a reason now for her passing and that reason has been justified by the outcome, but it doesn't bring her back."

Ms Gebert issued 16 recommendations, including monitoring women who give birth in custody for post-natal mental health treatment.

She encouraged Justice Health to work with the government and stakeholders to improve the psychological services available at the prison and their care of inmates with chronic health issues.

Ms Gebert said the parole application process should be reviewed to ensure it does not undermine the integrity of prison sentencing.



Ms Calgaret's family outside the courtroom.

Third-world conditions in



DETAINEES crammed into cells, unable to shower or brush their teeth for days and denied toilet privacy.

Legal advocates say an overcrowding crisis in Northern Territory prisons and watch houses is prompting constant lockdowns and making it unsafe for detainees denied basic human rights and forced to accept "third-world conditions".

It's claimed Aboriginal children as young as 11 have been held at Palmerston Watch House, south of Darwin, and that cells there have at times been jammed with up to 17 people, with frequent cases of self harm occurring.

Detainees report having to use toilets in front of others, make do with limited sanitary products, sleep under bloodied blankets and go without medication for epilepsy and other conditions.

The NT police union is concerned watch house conditions are making it dangerous for both officers and detainees.

Territory barrister Lyma Nguyen says the "appalling" situation reflects a justice system that appears to be breaking down.

The Country Liberal Party government has been pushing through a tough-on-crime agenda, including harsher bail conditions designed to send more people to the cells to await court cases.

It is unapologetic about favouring victims over offenders and has been rolling out hundreds more beds in prisons and hiring more guards to cope with the influx.

But until prison capacity catches up, watch houses are often crammed and lockdowns are constant, largely due to lack of staff.

"I defend many people in criminal cases who are arrested and held at watch houses over weekends before they are brought to court to see a judge," Ms Nguyen said.

Some clients then find out in

Overcrowding in Northern Territory prisons and watch houses has led to 'third-world conditions' and a denial of human rights, legal advocates say.



Police Commissioner Michael Murphy and Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro during an inspection of watch houses that are now being used as holding cells for people arrested by NT Police. *Picture: AAP*

court on a Monday their paperwork is not ready or there are too many cases to hear that day so they are sent back to the watch house, she says.

"So people are held in custody for longer than necessary in really appalling conditions; I'm told there are often 17 people to a cell."

Ms Nguyen says one of her clients was in Palmerston Watch House for five days without an opportunity to shower or brush his teeth despite his family bringing him fresh clothes and supplies.

The circumstances are arguably worse than in some

prisons in third-world countries, she says, suggesting United Nations scrutiny of the issue is needed.

Her clients who have spent time behind bars in Indonesia and elsewhere in Asia have reinforced this. Constant lockdowns mean lawyers are often barred from seeing clients, a breach of the international right to representation, Ms Nguyen says.

"This would not happen in the bigger states, especially states that have a bill of human rights," she said.

NT Opposition Leader Selena Uibo says comments by the

police association and Aboriginal justice agency make it clear Palmerston Watch House is unsafe for officers and those held there.

A request for Labor MPs to visit the facility has yet to be granted, she says.

"I understand police have changed their shifts and changed the way they look after the Palmerston Watch House so they can deal and cope with that extra pressure," Ms Uibo recently told reporters.

NT Police Association president Nathan Finn agrees the facility has reached "crisis point",

putting officers, prisoners and the broader community at "unacceptable risk".

"The CLP government has made repeated promises to stop using police facilities for correctional purposes, yet the Palmerston Watch House is now overflowing," he says.

"It's not a matter of if but when a serious custody incident occurs.

"This government continues to beat its chest about locking up more offenders but it has utterly failed to plan for the consequences of its own policies."

● Continued next page .

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NT watch houses

Youth detention spit-hood plan under fire



The watch house at Parmlerston Police Station regularly houses detainees. (Picture ABC)

Mr Finn says police are exhausted, burnt out and being called in on overtime just to maintain basic safety.

The North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency recently highlighted the case of an 11-year-old girl held at Palmerston with "adults in surrounding cells screaming, yelling".

The agency described that as a "breach of human rights" when children taken into custody should be transferred to a youth detention centre as soon as possible under court order.

Police data recently released to the ABC under freedom of information laws show 19 cases of children self-harming over six months at watch houses in

Palmerston, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs and Katherine.

The youngest of the teens to self-harm was 13, while there were five cases featuring 14-year-olds and all but one matter involved an Indigenous teen.

NT Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro, who is also police minister, stands by authorities using watch houses to process youths taken into custody.

She's told ABC Radio they employ "a lot of oversight and controls and policies and procedures" and she considers them "very safe places".

The territory's police force similarly says they are managed within a strict

framework that provides guidance on the care and treatment of persons in custody.

"The primary consideration in relation to people in police custody is the safety and welfare of the individual," it says.

Corrections Minister Gerard Maley has acknowledged the pressures at Palmerston but says his department is working as quickly as possible to get more beds online.

He says the government is also easing the load on police and corrections officers by contracting private service provider G4S to take on prisoner transport and custody services.

A CONTROVERSIAL plan to reinstate spit hoods in a crime-troubled territory's youth detention centres has come under fire, with critics calling it a "dangerous tactic". But the Northern Territory government has defended the move as part of its youth-justice overhaul.

Spit hoods are set to return to NT youth detention centres for the first time in almost 10 years as part of youth-justice measures debated by the territory parliament this week.

The Country Liberal Party government has vowed to table the youth-justice legislation "on urgency" after a 15-year-old was stabbed and seriously injured in front of shocked onlookers at the Royal Darwin Show recently.

A 15-year-old has been charged, with police alleging the teen knew the victim.

The NT Police Force confirmed in October spit hoods had been made available to use on youths in police watch houses and cells, with strict protocols.

The proposed youth-justice law changes would extend the use of the hoods to youth detention centres, reversing a ban imposed eight years ago.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Steve Edgington defended the move, saying they were already being used in adult settings.

"When young people come into custody that are spitting, biting their tongue and spitting blood at correctional officers, we want to ensure that our frontline staff are protected," he told reporters last week.

"We're hoping that we will never need to use these."

The CLP promised during the NT election in 2024 to reintroduce spit hoods for youth detainees.

An ABC Four Corners report into the NT's Don Dale Youth Detention Centre in 2016 prompted outrage over the use of spit hoods and led to then prime minister Malcolm Turnbull announcing a royal commission into juvenile justice in the territory.

The NT government stopped the use of spit hoods and restraint chairs in youth detention centres in 2017, following the federal government's formal endorsement of a United Nations protocol against torture and inhumane punishments.

In 2022, the use of spit hoods for youths in police custody was also banned by the then-NT Labor government.

A return of spit hoods at youth detention centres has been slammed by advocacy groups who say it breaches international law, will traumatise children and not lead to safer communities.

— AAP

Family misses farewelling dying son



LATHAN Brown was a warm and creative young man with a "fighting spirit", one of eight siblings who shared deep bonds with a big extended

family.

That family is now living with "endless pain", having missed saying their final goodbyes by just 10 minutes after Mr Brown's sudden death on January 6, 2024.

The 28-year-old, a proud Kamilaroi and Barkandji man, was on remand in Wellington Correctional Centre, in central western NSW, when he collapsed in his cell that afternoon.

Deputy State Coroner Stuart Devine last Thursday found Mr Brown's unexpected death from heart arrhythmia was not



Latham Brown.

preventable.

But Mr Devine highlighted several gaps in NSW Corrective Services officers' communication with the Brown family, which meant they were not at his bedside when he died in hospital.

Paramedics took Mr Brown to Wellington hospital just before 5pm

and a prison officer called his family to inform them of his dire condition, the inquest was told.

One of Mr Brown's uncles called the officer for an update at 6pm and was told he would be transferred to the larger hospital at nearby Dubbo.

Mr Brown's father Michael then drove 150km from Orange to Dubbo to be with his son, but medical teams had already arranged for him to be flown by helicopter to Orange Health Service.

Resuscitation efforts were stopped soon after Mr Brown arrived at the Orange facility and he died at 11.15pm.

His father got to the hospital at 11.25pm.

"Lathan passed away without his family being with him and this is

still deeply horrifying and upsetting to me," Michael Brown said in a statement, issued through the NSW Aboriginal Legal Service.

"We didn't get a chance to say goodbye."

"There was time wasted where we could have spent time with him and we can never get that time back."

The coroner made several recommendations, including that NSW Corrective Services policies be amended, requiring a senior officer to closely liaise with families in the event of an inmate's imminent death.

Mr Devine said Mr Brown's case should also be considered in the context of First Nations deaths in custody.

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are notoriously

over-represented within NSW's prison population and consequently there are a disturbing number of Aboriginal deaths in custody," he said.

"There can be no argument that First Nations people continue to experience significant disadvantage and poorer health outcomes across the board compared to the broader population."

The Brown family showed strength, fortitude and "quiet dignity" while demanding answers for their son, grandson and brother, Mr Devine said.

"It is obvious to me they wanted to understand the full circumstances of Lathan's death, but also wanted to be part of any positive change that could arise from his passing."

— AAP

People's choice prize for Barton painting



Artist Loribelle Spirovski was 'taken over' by the music of didgeridoo player William Barton. (AAP)



WINNING the Archibald Prize People's Choice award is hard enough, but doing it with a painting method you've never tried before adds another level of achievement.

Loribelle Spirovski was forced to abandon the paint brush and take matters into her own hands to develop her winning portrait of Indigenous composer and didgeridoo

player William Barton.

Suffering from thoracic outlet syndrome, causing nerve pain in her extremities, she became inspired to drop the brush and try the simpler method of finger-painting to soothe her strained hands as Barton's music played in her studio.

A seven-time entrant into the Archibald Prize, Australia's most prestigious portrait competition, Spirovski's work topped the People's

Choice vote. More than 40,000 people voted, the highest ever tally in the 37-year history of the award.

News of the win came at a busy time for didgeridoo virtuoso Barton, who was finishing a European tour with the Australian Youth Orchestra, but he still found time to share his musical talent at the presentation.

"It's about that feeling I want to give people each and every day through the power of music," he said.

Indigenous children's commissioner to begin urgent work



Sue-Anne Hunter at the 25th annual Garma Festival. (AAP)



OVER-REPRESENTED in the out-of-home care and justice systems, Indigenous children will for the first time have a commissioner to represent their rights.

Wurundjeri and Ngurai Ilim Wurrung woman Sue-Anne Hunter has been appointed Australia's first National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

She said it's an honour to accept the responsibility to protect the wellbeing, rights, and interests of Indigenous children and young people.

"The work is urgent and the statistics are grim. But our children are not statistics, they are our future," she said.

"This role will elevate their voices and their concerns. They will be at the centre of everything I do."

Ms Hunter has a background in the family services sector, including work at the peak body for Indigenous children, SNAICC, as well as at the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency and as a frontline social worker.

Most recently she was a commissioner and deputy chair of the Yoorook Justice Commission.

Ms Hunter will replace Lil Gordon who has performed the role of acting commissioner since January.

Indigenous Affairs Minister Malarndirri McCarthy thanked Ms Gordon for her service, saying she was looking forward to working with Ms Hunter.

"Sue-Anne Hunter will be a fierce advocate for First Nations children and young people as Commissioner," she said.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are over 10 times more likely to be in out-of-home care compared with non-Indigenous children, and 27 times more likely to be in youth detention.

Data shows efforts to reduce the over-representation of First Nations children in out-of-home-care are going backwards.

Through her role as commissioner, Ms Hunter will hear from children and young people on issues that directly affect them, and drive change to dismantle the barriers they face.

"I recognise that we are at risk of losing another generation to systems that fail them, to removal, out-of-home care, detention and a bleak future," she said.

Ms Hunter's appointment came in time for National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day on Monday.

Social Services Minister Tanya Plibersek said the day was a reminder that more work needs to be done to ensure all children have the same opportunities.

"First Nations children and young people are the heirs to 65,000 years of continuous culture and heritage," she said.

"We must ensure they can grow up connected to their family, community, culture, and Country."

– AAP

Australia paying lip service to Closing the Gap: Thorpe



FAILURE to bring Indigenous people's outcomes up to par with the rest of the community has led one

outspoken senator to question the point of Closing the Gap targets.

The latest update from the Productivity Commission found just four of the 19 targets were on track to be met by 2031.

Closing the Gap targets are part of a national agreement aimed at reducing First Nations peoples' disadvantage.

But with progress towards several key targets going backwards, independent senator Lidia Thorpe said there appeared to be no consequences for not Closing the Gap.

Key targets, including adult imprisonment rates, children in out-of-home care, suicide rates and childhood development are continuing to worsen.

While there have been improvements in Year 12 attainment, tertiary education levels and housing access, the measures were not on track to meet deadlines in six years' time.

Catherine Liddle, chief executive of SNAICC – National Voice for our Children, said there had been improvements in areas where there had been partnerships between



Independent Senator Lidia Thorpe with a message stick representing deaths in custody. AAP

communities and the government.

She said the Closing the Gap figures showed there was a lack of follow-through from the government to address issues, rather than a lack of solutions.

"The update shows that when governments work in true partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, we see real change," Ms Liddle said.

"Progress in areas like land rights and employment shows what's possible when communities are empowered and governments step up."

Ms Liddle added the same commitments should be shown to worsening targets, such as

child protection and youth justice.

Indigenous Australians Minister Malarndirri McCarthy said work continued to turn around the targets.

"It is very concerning that we are still seeing outcomes worsening for incarceration rates, children in out-of home care and suicide," she said.

"It's important that state and territory governments all back in their commitments under the national agreement with actions that will help improve outcomes for First Nations people."

Senator Thorpe called for urgent action to address Indigenous deaths in custody following the death of 24-year-old Kumanjayi White in Alice Springs in May.

She said the government has been paying "lip service" rather than following through on First Nations deaths in custody, which affected Australia's ability to close the gap.

"What are we doing to address a national crisis?"

(Deaths in custody) has been a national crisis for 34 years and more," Senator Thorpe told reporters.

"If there's no consequences to not Closing the Gap, then what's the point of having it year after year?"

Pat Turner, from the Coalition of Peaks, said governments must hold themselves to account for the commitments they'd

made under the national agreement.

"That requires smart investment, longer-term flexible funding, and full implementation of the four priority reforms – shifting power, not just policy," the lead convener of the Indigenous representative body said.

"Without a real power shift, we'll keep seeing the same patterns repeat, and our people will continue to pay the price."

Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council chief executive Paula Arnol said the latest Closing the Gap report card was disappointing.

"It's 2025 and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are still not experiencing the health outcomes that non-Indigenous Australians enjoy," she said.

"This is unacceptable."

Productivity commissioner Selwyn Button said the review showed the outcomes of the agreement were falling well short of what governments had committed to.

"What the outcomes in the agreement reflect most of all is the limited progress of governments in collectively acting on the priority reforms: sharing decision making and data with communities; strengthening the Aboriginal community controlled-sector and changing the way governments operate," he said.

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It's an invitation to the world, and every Australian can join in. Because when our overseas friends arrive, we'll give them what we promised. A warm welcome. From mob and from mates. It all starts with...

G'day



Garma inspires real change



Shelley Ware

Garma is a four-day festival, hosted by the Yothu Yindi Foundation, with the generosity and support of the Yolŋu people, this year's was jam-packed and there was certainly something for everyone. I was blessed to MC the Key Note Forum again, which is where the politics of the day, important human rights conversations and celebrations of success stories around the country happen. At the start people were invited to listen and open their hearts and that is what they did.

The stand-out conversations were plentiful and importantly many centred around the rushed actions of the Country Liberal Party (CLP) since their re-election into the Northern Territory government. The changing of the Youth Justice Act in particular, bringing back spit hoods and lowering the age of criminal responsibility to 10, with NO consultation at all with First Nations people. Once again we are being told, what we need.

Everyone was outraged by the CLP's recent actions, there are talks of human rights violations



Rirratjingu Traditional Owner and Yolŋu woman Mayatili Marika, Tashina Red Hawk, Noella Red Hawk, Dan Bouchier, Shelley Ware and Seneca Holy Cloud Martin. Picture Mike Bowers, Yothu Yindi Foundation.

and where to next as a community, the CLP is accused of "not listening" and frankly from what I've read since Garma, they don't plan on it.

People power is needed and it's needed quickly to support the NT First Nations community and all affected by the new changes to the Youth Justice Act. Thankfully people power met together at Garma and I am hopeful from the whispers I heard as they are full of plans to fight against these changes. They are real and they are happening.

Garma brings people together who often have little to none lived experience of what it is to know or be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person in this country. People in positions of power and

everyday people with a strong sense of justice come together to learn and share. I can honestly say with my hand on my heart, real change comes from Garma and it's an absolute honour to witness it and play a small role in helping people share their stories, so change is possible.

This year delegates from the Pacific Islands, Lakota, Navajo, Santa Clara Pueblo and New Mexico Indian Countries came to Garma. They brought their culture, stories of difference and so many more of similarity, it was a pleasure to share in their connection to Country, spirituality, dance and ceremony. All incredible people who generously shared their culture. It was beautiful to see the people from

Indian Countries dancing in their full regalia on the bungul ground, we were all invited to dance in the circle of life and it was a moment I will treasure forever.

When it was sadly time for the delegates from the Pacific Islands to go home, they had a gift exchange, where the Yolŋu people shared their story through song and ceremony about their shared history of trade and connection. It was breathtaking.

The Garma Youth Forum is just for the students, adults are not welcome, unless invited to share in their life experience. What we do get to see is a presentation of what they have been up to on the final day. This year they have declared they want to start a movement called "The Fire

Carriers" where they travel Australia, listen to the young people and share their findings with government.

It was perfect timing, with the announcement that Sue-Anne Hunter is the inaugural National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People. I look forward to the work of Commissioner Sue-Anne Hunter and feel a congratulations is needed. Very proud of you.

Our young people at Garma were inspired for real change, not only them but our future generations, it was a heartfelt moment that touched many. The whispers of support to help them make this happen are exciting too, so watch this space, our young people have something to say.

I was blown away by the additional cultural activities that people could be involved in, spear making, basketweaving, ochre dying, ghost-net bag making, bark painting and believe it or not more. The women's healing, star gazing, storytelling, art shows, honestly there was something to do every minute and everyone's Garma experience is different and rich in culture, love and connection.

Every day people heard stories and committed to actions of what is possible if we work together. People were reminded to take what they learnt home with them and to act in their sphere of influence for all First Nations people around this country.

The Yolŋu people and their fearless leaders are inspiring, warm, kind and it is joyful to be in their space. Garma is a blessing for all, so put it on your bucket list now and I will see you there next year.



Denise Bowden, chief executive of the Yothu Yindi Foundation.



Selena Uiobo, opposition leader of Northern Territory.



Wild Honey band member Gawukawu Gurruwiwi.



Gumatj Elder Djapirri Mununggirritj speaks at the Key Forum.



Members from the Galpu clan from north-eastern Arnhem Land during the 25th annual Garma Festival in Gulkula, Northern Territory, Saturday, August 2, 2025. (Pictures: AAP)



Australian Actor Jack Thompson speaks during the 25th annual Garma Festival in Gulkula, Northern Territory.



Members of the Wadeye clan perform the Bunggul traditional dance during the 25th annual Garma Festival in Gulkula, Northern Territory.

PM lays out economic path



WHILE some welcomed the prime minister's focus on economic empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, others branded it a further step from truth-telling.

Anthony Albanese used his address at the Garma Festival in northeast Arnhem Land to unveil an economic partnership with the Coalition of Peaks and First Nations Economic Empowerment Alliance.

"This builds on our commitment to the Closing the Gap Agreement, to its call for a new way of doing business and to the principle of shared decision-making," he told the festival audience at Gulkula in the Northern Territory on Saturday, 2 August.

The approach will allow Traditional Owners to advocate for infrastructure, housing and energy projects on their land and build equity beyond the land itself.

Coalition of Peaks lead convener Pat Turner said the partnership was about putting Indigenous communities in control of their economic future.

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been clear for decades that our community-controlled organisations are



Prime Minister Anthony Albanese during the Garma Festival. AAP

the best employers of our people, providing the foundation for our economic development," she said.

Addressing the crowd at Garma, Yolŋu leader and chair of the Yothu Yindi Foundation Djawa Yunupingu said he wanted a real economy for his people.

"We intend to use our lands and waters for our own future and the future of our children, and the future of our nation," Mr Yunupingu said.

Mr Albanese also announced \$70 million for Indigenous clean energy projects, \$31 million for a mobile TAFE program and \$75 million for native title reform under the partnership.

National Native Title Council chief executive Jamie Lowe said this funding showed the government was serious about supporting Traditional Owners.

"Investing in the native title sector is game-changing," he said.

"This injection of capacity will mean more jobs, more opportunities for young people and stronger protection for our cultural heritage.

"While some organisations met the prime minister's announcement with praise, Auntie Glendra Stubbs, the Elder in residence at community legal centre Knowmore, expressed disappointment in a lack of any mention of truth-telling.

The government backed away from its commitment to Makarrata in 2024 and though he acknowledged the work of the Victorian truth-telling inquiry Yoorrook, Mr Albanese made no mention of a national process in his address.

Auntie Glendra said it hurt to see truth-telling missing from the conversation.

"Our people have been asking for this for generations," she said.

"Without truth, the pain of colonisation remains open – generation after generation. We can't heal what we won't name."

Victorian senator Lidia Thorpe said it was time for Mr Albanese to recommit to federal truth-telling and treaty.

"Cash for the corporations and a few utes are crumbs on the table while so many of our people are dying in custody and governments continue to steal and jail our children at record rates," she said.

Garma was marking its 25th festival and Mr Yunupingu acknowledged those who started it in 1999 – his brothers – and the festival's roots in promises of treaty, which were "washed down" by governments of the past but never forgotten.

Mr Yunupingu said he felt the disappointment again at the result of the voice referendum in 2023.

"We talked about it last year, we shed a tear to that and now it's behind us," he said, speaking about Mr Albanese's visit to Garma in 2024.

"Even though we live with shattered dreams, we must keep looking to the future."

– AAP



Members from the Gumatj clan of the Yolŋu people from north-eastern Arnhem Land perform.



Michael Yunupingu, operations manager of Gumatj Corporation, speaks at the Key Forum.



Gumatj schools kids from Dhupuma Barker School.




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news



Victoria Legal Aid executive director Gunditjmara man Ashley Morris, and First Nations access manager, Noongar woman Isabella Unwin-Hayward, launch a new legal helpline for Mob in Victoria.

Legal advice only a phone call away

By JILLIAN MUNDY



IF you are Mob in Victoria and need quick and easy access to legal assistance – who are you going to call?

1300 MOB VLA.

It is Victoria Legal Aid’s (VLA) new helpline offering free, confidential and culturally safe legal help and referrals – often on the spot – for First Nations people.

It was launched in Naarm/Melbourne last week.

“We walk alongside callers, make warm referrals, follow up matters, and ensure no one falls through the cracks,” said Victoria Legal Aid’s (VLA) First Nations access manager, Noongar woman Isabella Unwin-Hayward, who led the development of the helpline from a recommendation in a VLA report to the live priority line.

Recent research revealed First Nations clients accessed legal help at only half the rate others were accessing the rest of VLA, and they were less likely to wait on hold.

The line was co-designed for Mob, by Mob at VLA, the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS) and Djirra Aboriginal Family Violence Legal Service. It complements rather than competes with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations already providing high-quality legal services.

While it is not the first legal helpline of its kind, it is the first co-designed one.



Elder Uncle Colin Hunter welcomed the gathering to the lands of his Wurundjeri ancestors of the Kulin Nation.

VLA engaged Yamagigu Consultancy, the largest First Nations business in Australia of its kind, to facilitate consultations with community members, frontline workers and people with lived experience.

“The truths we heard, the stories of shame, fear, mistrust and being dismissed became the foundation of what we built,” Unwin-Hayward explained.

“A one-size-fits-all approach does not work.

“There are still barriers for First Nations people accessing legal support, stemming from colonisation, systemic injustice and cultural disconnection.”

1300 MOB VLA provides a choice, including where there might be a conflict of interest representing Aboriginal clients in the same case, or where criteria like income limits make a client ineligible for other services.

It is also available to grandparents and kin caring for First Nations children, including in child protection matters.

“We needed a service that recognised the diversity within community, the intersectionality of our experiences and the fundamental need for cultural safety.”

She said the new helpline is grounded in trauma-informed care, community voice and continuous feedback.

VLA’s First Nations Access team – three lawyers and three information specialists, the majority being First Nations – ensuring callers find someone of the other end of the line who understands culture, identity, lived experience, the weight of navigating mainstream systems and unique needs of First Nations clients, often at a times when they are scared, overwhelmed or unsure.

“The service supports our communities to take control of their legal issues, understand their rights and make informed decisions – on their own terms,” Unwin-Hayward said.

1300 MOB VLA (1300 662 852) is open 9 am to 4 pm, Monday to Friday, or by requesting a call back through on the VLA website.

Later this year a live web chat service, connecting with First Nations specialists – no AI – will be added.

1300 MOB VLA came just weeks after the launch of a First Nations Cultural Capability Framework for the Legal Profession, a partnership between VLA, VALS and the Law Institute of Victoria.



People from across Victoria travelled to Naarm for the launch, and tuned in online.



Djirri Djirri dancers Kiera Hunter and Nanjera Pender performed at the launch.

Women's choir revitalising language

By MARION WILLIAMS



MUDJINGAAL

Yangamba is a Koori women's choir revitalising language through song. They are weaving language into their songlines and songs about their personal stories.

Although the Nowra-based women only came together in 2022, some of their songs are on albums and they provided backing vocals for the debut song by Cooeee, a collaboration by Kirli Saunders and Mark Chester Harding.

Wodiwodi/Walbunja woman Aunty Jeno Luland helped establish the choir with some other choir members. Like many of them, she is a professional singer/songwriter in her own right, "but coming together and putting language in songs is special. Some of the songs are about the impact of our upbringing and our ancestors, and it all accumulates into something wonderful."

For several years Aunty Jeno was involved in *Singing for Healing* through Waminda, an Aboriginal-owned and-run health and wellbeing service provider.

Some members of that healing group wanted to form a choir. Around that time, Waminda facilitated a singing language workshop in partnership with *Four Winds* and an inter-generational Koori choir.

It was a catalyst for *Mudjingaal Yangamba*.

Cultural expression

"We wanted to start the journey and see where it led," Aunty Jeno said. "It started with six or seven of us, then others joined. Aboriginal community organisations gave us a space to sing until we got on our feet."

The choir was formed as a vehicle for cultural expression. The women wanted to come together, sing in language and write their stories in language.

Nicole Smede is the choral coach, as well as a choir member.

The choir consists of ten members. Managing the choir financially is a juggling act.

They are in strong demand and determined to move forward, have sometimes had to accept donations from community groups.

Weaving language

Their earliest songs predominantly used Dhurga language because many Nowra Elders had that link.

They were then mentored in Dharawal language.

The other language is Gathang so *Mudjingaal Yangamba* – Our Spirit Singing in Dhurga language – sought permission from Biripi Elders to incorporate Gathang language into their songs.

The choir met Biripi women and



Mudjingaal Yangamba choir members Aunty Mary Bloxsome, Sharlene Cruickshank, Aunty Jeno Luland, Raiya Ardler, Raquel Rebolledo, Elizabeth Luland, Aunty Christine Finney, Aunty Pat Walker, Wyian Foster and Nicole Smede.

Elders at the Canberra International Music Festival. It led Ms Smede to write a song using Gathang language, but it was overseen and held very closely by those Biripi Elders present.

"When we sing to Elders sometimes you can see tears coming into their eyes," Aunty Jeno said. "Coming from a world when we couldn't speak our language, now they can hear this wonderful language being woven into songs."

Aiming for an album

Forming those collaborations and connections along the way has led to some high-profile

opportunities.

The choir wrote a song in Dhurga for BigHart's 2023 production of *Bulla Midhong* which involved Eden, Wallaga Lake and Nowra communities. The song was included in the subsequent *Bulla Midhong* album.

Another collaboration was the Kinchela Boys Home 100th commemoration album.

After yarning and listening to the stories of Kinchela uncles and strong sisters, Aunty Jeno and fellow choir member Sharlene Cruickshank wrote the album's first track, and the choir recorded it with Joel Wenitong.

The album also includes a song that Aunty Jeno wrote, *Because Of Her We Can*.

They are determined to record an album of their own. It will require a massive fundraising effort, drawing on some of the connections they have made.

"The stories we put down today, we hope to be around for years to come, weaving language into our songs so the next generation can listen and be proud," Aunty Jeno said.

Anyone or any organisation can donate by contacting their Facebook page or email the choir: mudjingaalyangamba@gmail.com

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Nominations close Tuesday 9 September 2025.



Celebrating artists at 'the night for Mob'

By JILLIAN MUNDY



HUNDREDS gathered for the spectacular Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAA) ceremony and concert on Friday night on Larrakia Country.

The annual gathering is fondly referred to as 'the night for Mob'.

Families, artists, locals and visitors from far and wide descended on the lawns outside the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory for the free event.

The scene was set with last year's winning NATSIAA entry by Pitjantjatjara man Noli Rictor inspiring the stage design as the sun set on Fanny Bay, with leading Aboriginal musicians performing between award presentations.

The event was guided by the creative vision of Shilo McNamee, a Darwin-based curator, artist and musician of Greek, Eastern Arrernte and Jaru heritage.

It would be impossible to choose a highlight performance from the night – Larrakia artist Leah Flanagan's delivered a powerhouse performance and Warnindhilyagwa artist Emily Wurramara's made a welcomed surprise appearance for one beautiful song.

Yolngu songwoman Eleanor Jawurlngali from West Arnhem Land delighted the the crowd with her blend of traditional songlines and contemporary melodies, and Velvet Trip fronted by Dharug-descended man Zeppelin Hamilton had the crowd on their feet to top the night off.

As the stage was packed downed some punters headed home, others out on the town and many into the NATSIAA exhibition inside the museum which was open late for the occasion.

Read more about the winners and the exhibition on pages 16–17.



Kamillaroi woman Lauren Ganley, who is head of Telstra's First Nations Strategy and Engagement, presented the General Painting Award.



Larrakia artist Leah Flanagan.



Larrakia man Richard Fejo delivers the Welcome to Country.



George Cooley came to the stage to receive Iluwanti Ken's NATSIAA General Painting Award on her behalf. George was also a finalist in the awards.



This year's NATSIAA judges Stephen Gilchrist, Brian Martin and Gail Mabo announce the Telstra Work on Paper winner.



Punters settle in as Leah Flanagan, Eleanor Jawurlngali and Zeppelin Hamilton take to the stage for the opening performance.



A smoking ceremony by Larrakia man Trent Lee accompanied the Welcome.



Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndirri McCarthy presents the Bark Painting Award to Lucy Yarawanga.



Eleanor Jawurlngali delivered mesmerising performances at the awards.



2025 NATSIAA winner Gaypalani Wanambi, holding daughter Jamaya Marawili, goes to collect her award as the crowd cheer and clap.



Mayatili Marika pays tribute to her late father Wandjuk Marika, whose image was displayed on a screen beside the stage, before she announces the Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D Award.



A surprise performance by Emily Wurramara who joined Zeppelin Hamilton on stage to sing her song *Going Back Home*.



Rachel Minnapinni-Woody with nephew Jeman Tipiloura, travelled from Tiwi Islands for the NATSIAAs to support their family.



Naomi Hobson, NATSIAA Works on Paper winner, holds her award, pictured with her family Maden Hobson with baby Araya, Temira Creek-Dewis and Shonae Hobson.



Selma Hoosan with grandchildren Alfieneisha, Jayshaun and Joseph who came in from Booraloola for the big weekend of Indigenous excellence and celebration in Darwin.



Karen McDonald, Sharon Butcher, Roslyn Dixon, Sonda Turner (Mt Liebig) and Puuni Brown from Papunya turned out to the awards night in support of their countrywoman, NATSIAA finalist Doris Bush Nungarrayi.



Yindibarndi Elder and NATSIAA finalist Allery Sandy on the left and her daughter Donna Willis and niece Renee Wally, who travelled from Roeburne in WA for the occasion.



Eastern Arrernte woman Shanyssa McConville from Melbourne, Palawa and Wiradjuri woman Nicola Ingram from Hobart, Gomilarway and Wiradjuri man Marcus Wright from Sydney and Dharug Boorooberongal woman Jess Alderton from Melbourne.



Ian Muir and Glennys Briggs from Albury, Tania Hartigan and Tess Reading from Tamworth and Amber Seccombe-Flanders from Coffs Harbour.



Erik Havnen, Richard Gustin, Annie Hastwell, Phil Harris, Annie Gustin and Jane DeGault.

NATSIAA award winners

By JILLIAN MUNDY



Yolŋu artist Gaypalani Wanambi has transformed discarded road signs into a spectacular large-scale artwork, taking out the top gong in this years Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards

(NATSIAA)

Called *Burwu*, which translates to blossom, is an important songline about Wuyal the Ancestral honey hunter, an ancestor of the Marrakulu clan. Passed to her by parents and grandparents, she grew up knowing it was her responsibility to tell the story in her artwork.

Finding out she won the award was perfect timing.

"Back at home the season is now for the honeys, wild honeys, and the stringy bark trees, the flowers blossom, beautiful time," Gaypalani said.

"Wuyal was the first man to look for a homeland for the Marrakulu people.

"He began a journey from Njilipitji through Gurka'wuy, travelling via Yuŋuyudu to Cape Shield, up to Trial Bay and along the Goyder River until he came to Nhulun (Mount Saunders).

"He felled the Ancestral Wanambi tree, causing a river of honey and thus founded the Marrakulu clan homeland at Gurka'wuy.

"The Marrakulu dance as bees in their ceremony, elbows extended, hands clutching stringybark leaves, which vibrate as wings."

Burwu is made up of 15 road signs collected from along the sides of the Arnhem Highway, smoothed out, each intricately etched with a dremel over months and months, then joined together. The finished work is three-by-three metres.

Gaypalani's winning entry was chosen from 71 finalists, selected from a pool of 216 entries.

The 38-year-old from Yirrkala in Eastern Arnhem Land takes home \$100,000 in prize money and is considering buying a car and boat, or even multiple, so her and the family can spend more time staying out on their Country.

The judges described Gaypalani's piece as "presenting two worlds with two sides".

"Each time the viewer moves, the work responds accordingly, revealing and concealing the undulations and intangible lifeforces of Country," they said.

Each jewel-like panel shimmers with exquisitely rendered designs that are deeply anchored to Yolŋu philosophies. Despite its scale and its composite parts, there is a visual cohesion to the work that has been ambitiously, intentionally and expertly assembled."

Gaypalani is the eldest daughter of renowned artist Wukun Wanambi who taught her to paint.

Their family home doubled as an art studio.

On the verandah or in the lounge room large poles or bark would be transformed into works of art by her parents and siblings. Her father's renditions of thousands of tiny fish demanded patience and precision. Gaypalani would help him out, grinding ochre pigments and working with him on designs from their clan's saltwater Country.

"After that I began to paint honey from the freshwater Country, I showed these designs to my father, that is when he told me - 'great, you will take designs now as your own and you will paint this when I am no more'.

"That's what he told me."

Her father passed away suddenly in 2022.

Gaypalani had begun producing work in her own right and under her name with his blessing.

Before his passing he had broadened his practice to include innovative digital work through the Mulka Project and was a member of the Found group of artists who engraved



Yolŋu artist Gaypalani Wanambi has transformed discarded road signs collected from the side of the Arnhem Highway into a spectacular large-scale artwork, taking out the top gong in this years Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAA). It's a stunning work that contains almost hidden shimmering detail, some visible close up, others visible by standing back.

recycled road signs.

After her father's passing, cultural protocol required her to avoid using his designs.

Gaypalani's work is held in the collections of Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Parliament House in Canberra, Sydney's Powerhouse and numerous private collections. She was a 2023 NATSIAA finalist and in 2024 won the Ravenswood Women's Art Prize.

As well as the overall winner, the NATSIAAs have six categories, with each category winner taking home \$15,000.

Pitjantjatjara artist Iluwanti Ken from Amata in the APY Lands of South Australia won the General Painting Award for *Walawuru Tjukurpa (Eagle story)*.

The 81-year-old is well known for her large-scale detailed ink drawings of mother eagles hunting.

"I paint the stories of my father's Country - Walawuru Tjukurpa - the story of the eagles. This is my Tjukurpa and all of my children's Tjukurpa too."

Tjukurpa translates to 'Anangu cultural heritage, encompassing past, present and future'.

Iluwanti says birds like the walawuru (eagles) and patupiri (swallows) have lessons for Anangu women caring for children.

"The bird is like a person, like us, we look after our kids, provide them with food and keep them safe.

"I hold onto my story for the future generations to carry on.

"I think all the children feel happy and proud when they hear this beautiful story."

Originally from Watarru, Iluwanti is also a highly respected ngangkari (traditional healer) and tjampi (grass) sculptor, a director of Tjala Arts and APY Art Centre Collective, and a second time NATSIAA winner, taking out the works on paper in 2000.

The Bark Painting Award went to Gurr-goni artist Lucy Yarawanga from Maningrida for *Bawáliba & Ngalyod*, a depiction of her mother's dreaming about ancient protective spirits and the Rainbow Serpent.

Lucy said out camping on her mother's Country sometimes they heard Bawáliba who would throw sticks and stones to them.

"I said don't hit us, do not come and scare us, this is my home.

"Bawáliba are good spirits, they protect us," she said.

"They are really tall - just like us. They dance late at night and have a lot of hair. In olden times, a long, long, long time ago, Bawáliba were here, before people were on the land. One time, the Bawáliba were really, deep asleep. They didn't hear the noise of Ngalyod, the Rainbow Serpent, coming. When they heard it, they hid in their cave. Ngalyod came in, but it was too late to run. He ate the Bawáliba. They all died. He ate their legs and arms into pieces. Only one survived," she said.

"I didn't get these things from nowhere. I had them in my mind from when I was eight or nine years old. My mother was telling me that story. She passed away in 2019."

Yarawanga is a woman of many talents - print maker, textile artist, bark painter and painter, mainly working through Bábbarra Women's Centre. She speaks nine Maningrida languages including Gurr-goni, which is only spoken by her very close family.

Lucy said the grandchildren will be happy to go shopping with the prize money.

Kuninjku artist Owen Yalandja Maningrida took out the Wandjuk Marika 3D Memorial Award with his two-and-a-half-metre-tall *Ngalkodjek Yawkyawk*.



Iluwanti Ken working on her award-winning piece.



The Bark Painting Award went to Gurr-goni artist Lucy Yarawanga.

● Continued next page

celebrated in Darwin



Kuninjku artist Owen Yalandja Maningrida took out the Wandjuk Marika 3D Memorial Award with his two-and-a-half-metre-tall Ngalkodjek Yawkyawk.

The towering wooden yawkyawk (mermaid) spirit woman Ngalkodjek carved from a hollow log has tiny intricate detail inside and out, including ear canals, long hair, intestines, scales and ceremonial ochre face paint.

Owen, a senior member of the Dankorlo, learnt about the Ngalkodjek, and how to carve from his father Crusoe Kuningbal.

Owen carves to remind children of the ancient story, and so they will pass it onto their children.

"He told us how they call out loudly, how they call out as they walk along. When they walk down from the bush, they follow a set path that belongs to them, and they walk along calling out. That is their path, which they take. It is an old traditional route," he said.

Ngalkodjek lives in a sacred billabong on his Country. He said she is cheeky and although she uses it as a toilet the water is fine to drink.

He said yawkyawk will call out and cause people to get lost.

Owen is now working on a mother yawkyawk breast feeding her daughter.

A two-time NATSIAA winner, taking out the Bark Painting Award in 2023, his works are in major collections in Australia and overseas.

Southern Kaantju and Umpila multidisciplinary artist Naomi Hobson from Coen, Cape York, won the Work on Paper Award for Present & Beyond, a photograph of her clan cousin 16-year-old Dallas Peter.

Naomi lives on her mother's traditional Country, just 50 metres from Wukaanta, the section of the pristine river that she has photographed Dallas gazing into, during his break home from boarding school. Six clan groups live beside the river which runs through the town of Coen.

She produced the image in large scale to invite the viewer into the environment. She also wants it to remind young people in her community that go away for boarding school, as she did, to stay true to themselves and be



Southern Kaantju and Umpila multidisciplinary artist Naomi Hobson won the Work on Paper Award.

proud of who they are.

"Country is only healthy if there is traditional people there, we have always looked after the river and maintained it.

"Everything that we are is because of our environment, I want the audience to feel that, take them into community, to feel that water, smell the palm trees and the grass," she said.

"He is confident within himself and secure in the knowledge that his present and his future are intertwined in the deep past where others before him walked and rested in safety.

"I am fixated on the reflections that our Ancestors occupied this very space, and am amazed at how far we have come in sharing space over time. I am capturing time and a history where images begin to travel between the past, the present, and beyond."

Naomi has been inspired to take photographs in her arts practice as a response to how her community has been photographed by the outside community without permission, context, love or care.

"Our families were turned into objects, made to stand still for someone else's story," she said.

"My people are so full of love, humour, wisdom and strength and I wanted to capture that and honour it and to make sure that the next generation and their kids can see themselves in these images, with pride and with confidence to achieve their dreams."

Her work is exhibited and is in private collections across the world, her winning NATSIAA entry is part of her Life on the River series.

The Multimedia Award went to Pitta Pitta woman Jahkarli Felicitas Romanis for a duo of manipulated photographs in light boxes Pitta Pitta

(Extracted) and Pitta Pitta (Google's Gaze).

The artist and academic based in Naarm/Melbourne aims to disrupt colonial approaches to image making and photography. Like Naomi she is inspired to respond to colonial images of her people, in particular the Norman Tindale genealogical collection. She is also inspired by her father Glenn Romanis who is an artist and her mother, who she regularly visits Country with.

She grew up with a photo of her great grandmother Dolly in the house, not realising it was captured by Tindale.

She has since researched the Tindale archives.

Her winning NATSIAA entry was inspired by being unable to visit her ancestral Country in central west Queensland during covid lockdowns, instead making virtual visits via Google Earth.

"They are freeze frames that show the transition from aerial view to street view," Jahkarli writes in her artist statement.

"The visual distortions in the images embody a rupture in the supposed neutrality and authority of Google Earth, exposing cracks in its colonial framework. These fractures symbolise the limitations and biases of Western cartographic practices, which fail to grasp the complexity of Country as a living, relational entity with agency. By revealing these flaws, the works challenge the false narrative of 'terra nullius', asserting the enduring presence and sovereignty of Indigenous knowledges and connections to Country."

Jahkarli's work has been exhibited in various galleries and arts festivals locally and internationally.

Sonia Gurrupulan Guyula, a Djambarrpuyngu woman who lives in Dhondji Homeland,

North East Arnhem Land, received the Emerging Artist Award for a large circular pandanus mat she had entered in the Wandjuk Marika 3D Memorial category.

The emerging artist award is selected from finalists from any category that have been practicing for professionally for no more than five years.

The large mat is a traditional weave that Djambarrpuyngu woman grow up learning.

The mat took Sonia over eight months to make, for each of the twenty sections is a different colour.

Many of the natural dyes made from ashes, barks, tubers and all kinds of other plant parts, have been experimental.

"Artists from all over come here for their pandanus and colours," Sonia says in her artist statement.

"We like to play around with bush dyes to get new colours. We mix some of this with some of that and keep experimenting to keep us interested and inspired. The circle pattern is like our grandmothers and great-grandmothers used to make. They called it Njanmara, a little bit different but mostly the same."

The winners were chosen from a pool of 71 finalists, which were selected from 216 entries.

The finalists-selection panel was Keith Munro, Karen Mills and Kate ten Buuren, the final winners were chosen by judges Stephen Gilchrist, Brian Martin and Gail Mabo.

Of the finalists 38 were from the Northern Territory, 8 from South Australia, 5 from Queensland, 10 from Western Australia, 3 from New South Wales, 1 from the ACT and 6 from Victoria. There were no finalists from Tasmania this year

● Continued next page.



The Multimedia Award went to Pitta Pitta woman Jahkarli Felicitas Romanis.



Joanne Gurrpulan Guyula with her sister Sonia's woven mat which won the Emerging Artist Award. Sonia was unable to be at the awards.

● From previous page

In its 42nd year the NATSIAA, presented by the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) and Principal Partner Telstra, is the longest running and most prestigious art awards of its kind.

Being a finalists or award winner has been a career-changer for many artists.

All finalist works are part of a stunning exhibition, curated by the NATSIAA's first guest curator Taungurung artist Kate ten Buuren.

The exhibition is as extensive as the continent is wide.

There is a desert flower fashioned from feathers, seeds and raffia, glass pillows filled with empty pill packets, and shells and fish scales threaded onto a giant necklace. There are depictions of ancestral spirits from across the lands and seas, and stories of stolen generations to stories of sea creatures, the deserts, mermaids and shooting stars.

There are works you could fit in

your pocket to Gaypalani's enormous winning entry, and everything in between.

The incredible works reflect continuation and maintenance of cultures, respond to current affairs and unerring connections to Country. There are collaborations, experimental and innovative mediums and technologies and traditional arts practice, sharing stories of contemporary life and issues, and stories passed on since time immemorial.

Exhibition visitors can vote on the People's Choice Award, a non-monetary award, which will be announced after the exhibition closes.

Entry into the 2026 awards will open before the end of the year, artworks need to have been created in the past twelve months and not have been exhibited before.

The 2025 NATSIAA exhibition at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory on Larrakia Country (Darwin) and online until 26 January 2026.

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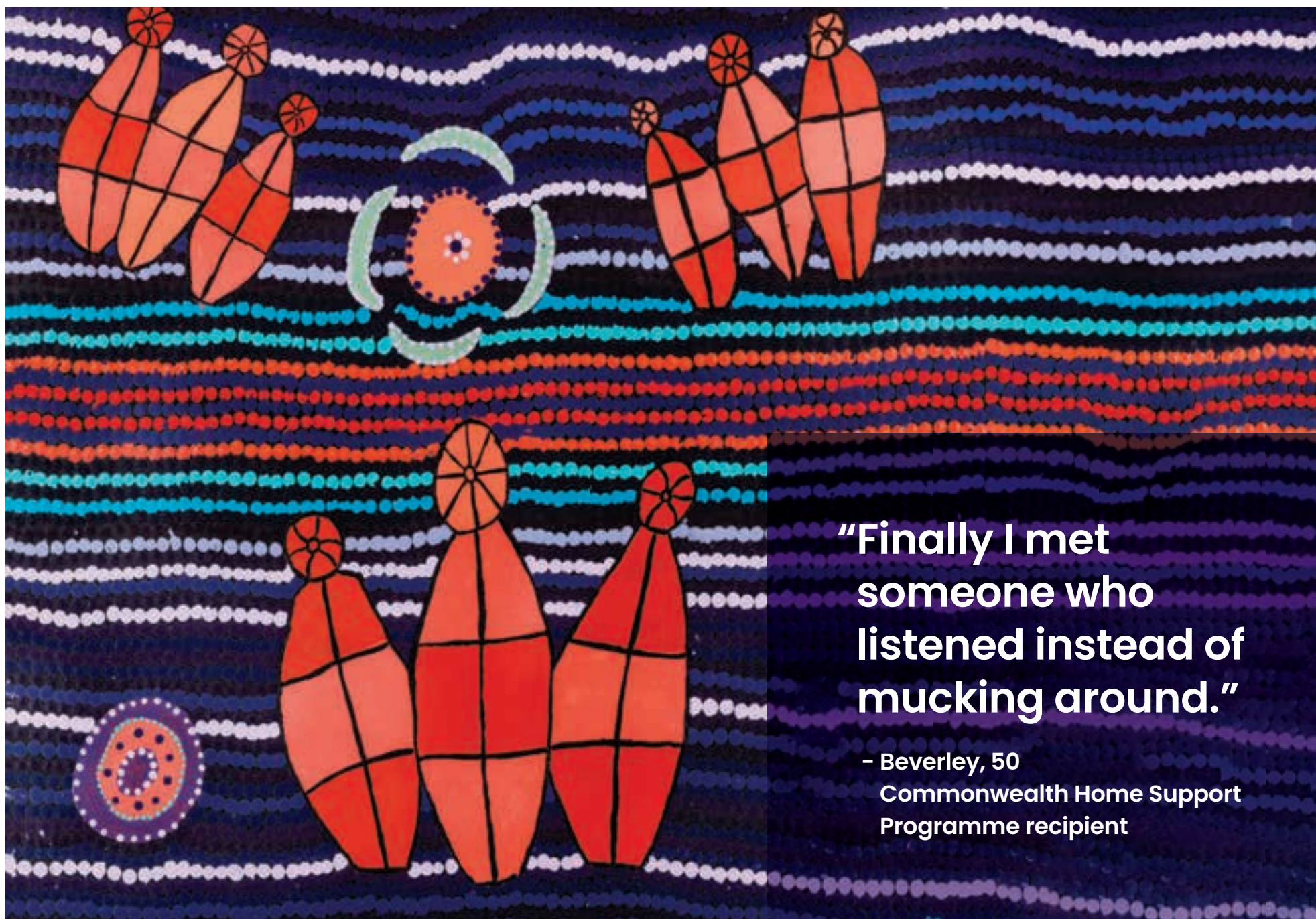
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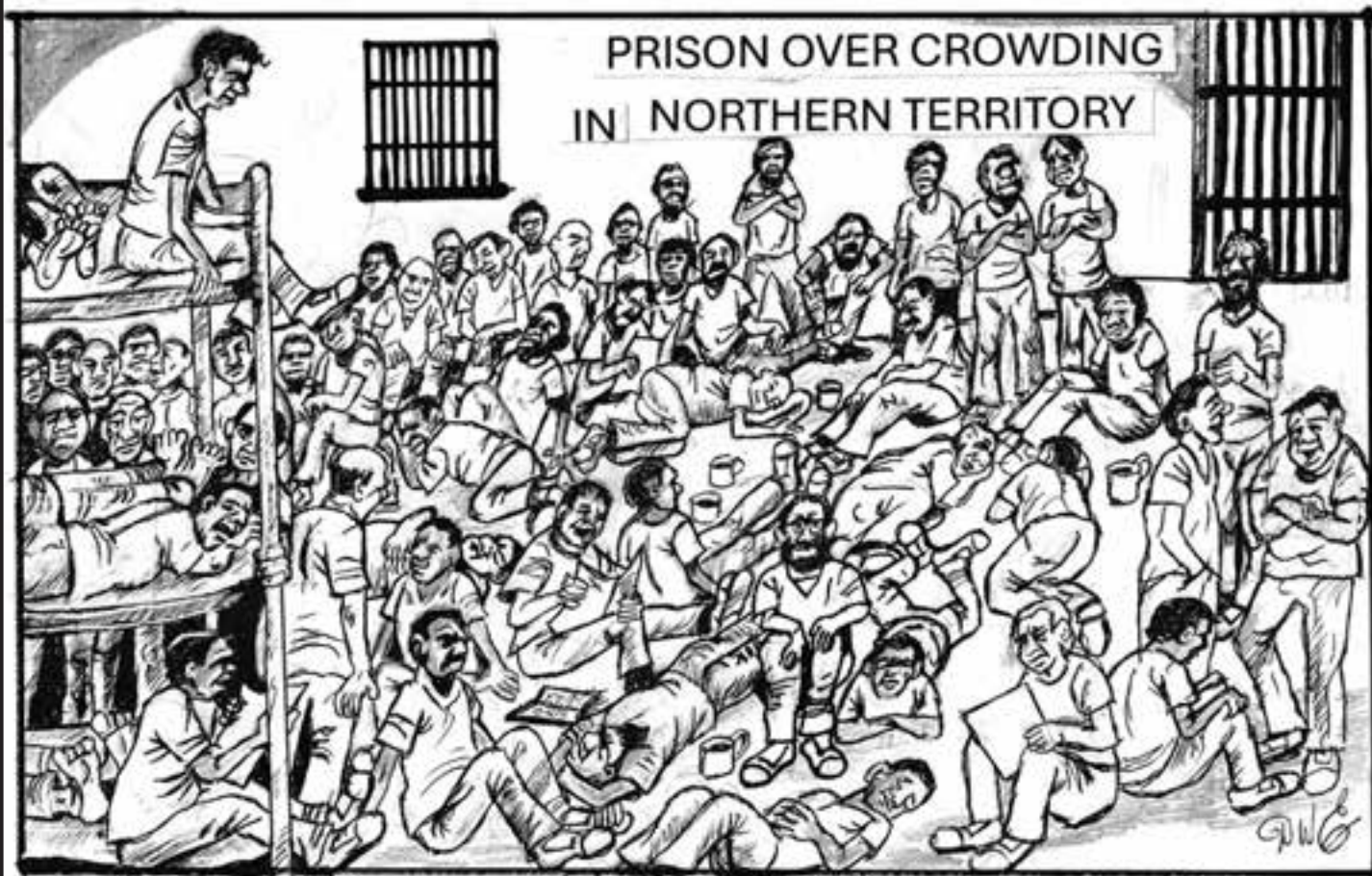
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Danny Eastwood's view



Jody Broun steps down



The CEO of the National Indigenous Australians Agency, Jody Broun, above, has announced she will be stepping down from her role on Friday 29 August 2025.

I would like to thank Ms Broun, a proud Yijbarndi woman from Western Australia's Pilbara region, for her leadership of the National Indigenous Australians Agency and for helping to guide this important organisation through a period of positive change.

On behalf of the Australian government and First Nations Australians, I thank Ms Broun for her contribution to the National Indigenous Australians Agency and dedication to improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

During her term, Ms Broun has championed reforming the way government does business with Indigenous Australians, advocating for genuine partnership approaches, community led co-design and self determination to bring about better outcomes for First Nations people.

She has been instrumental in developing national policy reforms including replacing the Community Development Program, establishing the Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme and expanding the Indigenous Rangers Program. Ms Broun's leadership included negotiations with state and territory governments on the National Strategy for Food Security in Remote First Nations communities and the Central Australia Plan.

Ms Broun has focused on strengthening the integrity of our investments through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy, establishing the Integrity Group of the NIAA in 2023. She has shifted the balance of a third of her staff being outside Canberra to now more than half, with a greater focus on remote Australia.

Ms Broun leaves with my deepest respect and gratitude.

The Government will begin a process to fill the position in the coming weeks.

Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians, Malarndirri McCarthy.

Quote



"There has to be a treaty on equal terms with Indigenous people – Voice, Truth Telling, Treaty – none of these things are exclusive to each other."

– Thomas Mayo is an Australian Human Rights activist and author

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Unquote

Treatment of prisoners wrong

You'd think a nation birthed with the convict 'scum' of England, would show a bit more empathy towards the Indigenous people of this country.

In the early days of the invasion, criminals from the old country would be packed like sardines into ageing hulks and sent across the world in conditions that must be regarded as barbaric.

Convicts were fed putrid food, had no privacy, and were left to rot in their own filth.

And this treatment was from a so-called civilised country.

Today in the Northern Territory, not much has changed.

Reports indicate that Aboriginal prisoners are being held in NT prisons and watch houses in what has been described as third-world conditions.

Legal advocates say that Aboriginal children as young as 11 have been held at Palmerston Watch House, south of Darwin, and that up to 17 people have been jammed into the one cell.

It's not surprising then that there are frequent cases of self harm occurring.

Even the police are concerned, with the NT police union saying the conditions are unsafe for both prisoners and officers tasked with their supervision.

Families are forced to bring prisoners fresh clothes and supplies, and the prisoners are being denied basic human rights. They cannot brush



their teeth, use a toilet with any privacy, and are forced to sleep under filthy blankets.

And yet the Country Liberal Party government remains unapologetic, pushing through harsher bail conditions designed to send even more Aboriginal people to the cells to await a court date.

The situation must be considered nothing less than a national shame.

Territory barrister Lyma Nguyen is correct when she says that the overcrowding and treatment of prisoners in the NT should be scrutinised by the United Nations.

Maybe the eyes of the outside world will shame this country's governments into doing the right thing.

And the right thing is to stop locking up First Nations people at the current rates. Instead, government should be investing heavily in First Nations-led community-based programs designed to improve the social and economic conditions of its people.

But based on history, sadly this is unlikely to happen anytime soon.

It's an ongoing shame that stains Australia's claim to be the lucky country.

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

Rodeo rip-off warning



Patrick Cooke accepts an award at the Queensland Reconciliation Awards in 2024.

After co-creating the Indigenous Rodeo Championships, providing the cultural authenticity that made it award-winning and commercially successful, Mona Aboriginal Corporation was excluded from a new governance structure and will receive nothing for their intellectual property rights going forward. Founder and managing director PATRICK COOKE explains – and provides a warning to other organisations.

Mona Aboriginal Corporation was named in honour of our late mother Mona Ah-One, who passed when my siblings and I were young, Patrick writes. Born in Mount Isa and raised in Mackay, I was fostered into a non-Indigenous family, facing challenges that shaped our understanding of the struggles many young people experience.

We established the corporation to provide meaningful support and opportunities for children and youth.

At the time, we also set up a community-led and driven on-Country program and cultural horsemanship program to support young juvenile offenders in the region.

The rodeo was another pathway into something positive and culturally grounded.

Our relationship with the Mount Isa Rodeo began in 2021.

Initially, I called them to ask if some of the kids could come down behind the scenes and do some work during the shoots.

From there, we built on the idea of running an Indigenous Rodeo Championship, the first of which went ahead in 2022, which was a very short timeframe.

In our first year, we had 85 riders and we brought the community back to the rodeo by setting a \$10 entry fee.

We also brought community businesses into the rodeo for the first time in 60 years.

So it wasn't just about the rodeo itself, the community was participating, which was what it was all about for us – to create pathways and bring the community along for the ride, as you might say.

We were always about supporting the community, and we were learning, adapting and trying to move forward.

Intellectual property

When Isa Rodeo Limited partnered with Mona Aboriginal Corporation in 2022, they weren't just creating an event, they were creating valuable intellectual property.

The Indigenous Rodeo Championships were conceived with Indigenous decision-makers having "ownership of shaping the event." So it wasn't just about participation, it was about control, cultural authenticity

and economic empowerment.

The partnership explicitly aimed to allow "Indigenous Australians to reclaim heritage, increase economic independence and preserve Indigenous culture".

From the outset, multiple intellectual property assets were being developed:

- Event branding and naming rights
- Cultural programming and ceremonial elements
- Training and development methodologies
- Economic models for Indigenous employment
- Marketing and promotional materials
- Relationships with Indigenous artists and performers

The success was immediate and remarkable.

But, crucially, the legal ownership of these IP assets remained with Isa Rodeo Limited, the corporate partner.

As the event grew, Isa Rodeo Limited registered multiple business names without Mona Aboriginal Corporation's knowledge, which captured different aspects of the Indigenous rodeo concept.

Mona Aboriginal Corporation was the "delivery partner," but Isa Rodeo Limited owned the intellectual property rights by registering those multiple names.

While the Indigenous community provided the cultural foundation, expertise and authenticity that made the IP valuable, the legal ownership remained with the corporate entity.

Corporate crisis

Despite the Indigenous Rodeo Championships' success, that corporate entity – Isa Rodeo Limited – allegedly financially mismanaged the main rodeo event, creating a crisis for all IP assets.

When voluntary administrators were appointed in October last year, they controlled all of Isa Rodeo's limited assets, including all registered business names, event methodologies and operational knowledge.

Mona Aboriginal Corporation faced the reality that the intellectual property they had helped create and authenticate, representing their cultural vision and community needs, was now controlled by corporate administrators whose primary duty was to creditors, not cultural preservation.

It got worse.

In 2023, after 60 years of copper mining,

Glencore announced closure due to "low ore grades" and areas where "safe extraction can't be achieved using current technology", coupled with aging infrastructure.

Last year, the state government allocated \$2 million to the Mount Isa Council specifically for the rodeo, almost half of which was used to purchase the Indigenous Rodeo Championships' intellectual property.

In what can only be described as 'irony', the funding mechanism meant Indigenous cultural IP was purchased using crisis funds generated by corporate environmental and economic damage to the very region where Indigenous communities have traditional connections.

The transfer of ownership fundamentally altered the Indigenous Rodeo's governance structure.

Control

The Mount Isa City Council now had complete control over branding and naming, and there was no longer any guarantee of Indigenous decision-makers playing any role in the event's governance.

The IP, now owned by the city council, represented not just commercial assets, but cultural heritage and family history.

When a new community committee was being formed through an expression of interest process, Mona Aboriginal Corporation, the organisation that had co-created the Indigenous Rodeo Championships and delivered its cultural authenticity, submitted our interest to continue our role.

We received no written response and were excluded from the new structure entirely.

Our attempts to remain involved were met with silence.

The rejection occurred despite our proven track record of success and our foundational role in making the Indigenous Rodeo Championships a celebrated, award-winning event.

Losses and impact

Any guarantee of cultural control and authenticity, heritage preservation or partnership recognition was lost, despite our foundational role and proven success in delivering the event.

Mona's rejection, delivered through silence rather than a written response, demonstrated how Indigenous IP creators could be completely disconnected from their cultural innovations.

This case created a precedent where

Indigenous communities could provide the cultural foundation, expertise and authenticity that made their IP valuable, but lose control when corporate partners fail and are entirely excluded from subsequent arrangements.

The new committee speaks of returning control to the community, yet those who were pivotal to the rodeo's existence have no representation on the new board.

Meanwhile, the Indigenous Rodeo Championships IP, which was specifically designed for Indigenous community ownership, now belongs to a municipal government.

Most tellingly, Mona Aboriginal Corporation, the Indigenous organisation that co-created the IP and delivered its cultural authenticity, was excluded from the new structure, demonstrating how Indigenous IP creators can be silently erased from arrangements involving their own cultural innovations.

There is no moving forward

This isn't about cancelling the event, it's about right from wrong.

Mona Aboriginal Corporation remains committed to empowering Indigenous youth and preserving cultural heritage, but the IP transfer represents a fundamental injustice that echoes historical patterns of Indigenous communities creating value that is then controlled and monetised by non-Indigenous institutions.

The success of the Indigenous Rodeo Championships proved what Indigenous communities can achieve when they have genuine partnership and cultural control.

Its current ownership structure is nothing less than cultural theft, a brazen appropriation where non-Indigenous institutions strip Indigenous communities of the intellectual property born from their cultural knowledge, heritage and hard work, then exclude those same communities from any future benefit while profiting from their stolen legacy.

Let this case serve as a wake-up call to every Indigenous community, organisation and cultural leader entering partnerships with non-Indigenous entities: protect your intellectual property rights from day one.

Do not trust that good intentions, successful outcomes, or moral obligations will protect your cultural innovations.

Register your trademarks, secure your business names, demand joint ownership structures and establish legal safeguards before you share your knowledge, culture or expertise.

The Mount Isa Indigenous Rodeo Championships prove that even the most successful partnerships can be stripped away through corporate failures and government decisions, leaving Indigenous communities with nothing but the bitter knowledge that others are profiting from their stolen cultural heritage.

Act now because once your IP is gone, getting it back may be impossible.

They already stole your land, your children and your languages; don't let them steal your ideas too.

Queensland great Sam Backo dies

Queensland State of Origin legend Sam Backo has been hailed as wonderful player and loveable team-mate, after his death at age 64.

One of the heroes of the Maroons' domination of Origin in the late 1980s, Backo died surrounded by family in his home town of Cairns on Sunday.

The former Canberra and Brisbane forward had been battling a melioidosis infection in recent months, and suffered a heart attack two years ago.

Backo played seven Origins for the Maroons between 1988 and 1990, but his impact was immense.

The front-rower became the first front-rower to be named man of the match in two straight Origins, as Queensland romped to a 3-0 sweep in Backo's rookie series.

Dry humour

"Sam was a wonderful player for Australia and Queensland, where he was always entertaining in our team bus with his dry humour," Broncos and Maroons teammate Gene Miles said.

"He was an old-fashioned front-rower but very quick for his



Sam Backo celebrates with Peter Jackson (right), Mark Coyne (left) and Martin Bella during State of Origin 1990. (NRL Photos)

size too. He always made plenty of yards every time he took the ball up.

"He made his debut for Queensland in 1988 and made an immediate mark with two man-of-the-match awards in a row in that series.

"You just knew he would outplay the opposition and from those fantastic Origin displays he got picked to play for Australia."

Backo played six Tests for Australia in 1988 and 1989, and was in 2008 named in the Indigenous team of the century.

"There was not a guy in Queensland camp that didn't like Sam. He was such a loveable big unit," Miles said.

"We had a lot of fun with him. He had a special spot at the back of the team bus with all the big forwards.

"I'd sit up front with Wally

(Lewis) and with all the windows shut we would whack the back heaters on high heat and Sam and Martin Bella would blow up.

"All we could hear from the back was, 'Turn that off'."

Away from rugby league, Backo continued to work in the Indigenous space after his 1990 retirement, engaged in a community development program assisting people on their release from jail.

Born in Ingham, Backo's mother Dr Evelyn Scott was an Aboriginal rights activist who played a key role in the 1967 referendum which gained citizenship for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"I am proud to be a north Queensland rainforest Murri," Backo told the *Former Origin Greats* magazine in 2022.

"I was playing for my Mob and for all the blackfellas. We came through the struggle and we stood up and were counted."

ARL Commission chairman Peter V'landys also paid tribute to Backo – the man and the footballer.

"Sam was as tough as they come, a larger-than-life character who was as recognisable as he was resilient," V'landys said in a statement.

"Through a successful career with Canberra Raiders, Brisbane Broncos, not to mention Queensland and Australia, he was a one-of-a-kind footballer.

"A member of the Indigenous Team of the Century, Sam was also a generous and selfless man who was passionate about Indigenous health and advocacy away from the field."

Family remembers Sam as a fighter for his people

Sam Neale Backo was more than just a great footballer, more than a Former Origin Great (FOG) and more than a recipient of the Australian Sports Medal.

He was of course all those things, but he was also a strong fighter for his people, the Warrgamay people and the South Sea Islander community, descended from Ni-Vanuatu and Solomon Islander people kidnapped as slave labour for the Queensland and NSW sugar industry.

He loved his people and his culture and took his cultural obligations very seriously.

In August of 2021 he was part of the native title determination of Warrgamay People's successful Native Title victory, winning recognition of long-standing rights to more than 185,000 hectares of land and water in the Federal Court.

Sam was enormously proud of this victory. "This always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land," he said at the time. "This determination will give us the opportunity to hopefully benefit not only traditionally and culturally but also economically from our Country."

Our beloved brother Sam Backo was a family man, immensely proud of our



Sam Backo.

mother, the late Dr Evelyn Scott AO, and his extended North Queensland family.

He often reflected on what an inspiration our mother was to family and many others and how she was our role model. He likes to quote a passage that our mother had on the wall; 'We all belong to one race, the human race'.

Sam talked about being raised by his loving grandparents Melba and Ishmael Backo and the close bond he enjoyed with his thirteen aunts and uncles. He

called them his aunts and uncles but in fact they were his mums and dads too, as they all had a hand in raising him. Each one had a special place in his heart and when they called on him, he was there. They were proud of him and let him know as much.

He often reflected on the old-fashioned discipline that we experienced growing up into adulthood. He believed that this discipline was character building and helped him, and us, become better adults.

Among the many things that Sam admired in our mother was how she instilled in her children a strong belief in the critical importance of a good education and her core belief that knowledge is power.

Sam's commitment to the struggles of First Nations peoples and South Sea Islander justice was developed at a young age and he reflected on the times we spent at Townsville meetings of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, in the early days of the modern Aboriginal struggle. He often recalled these truly remarkable memories as our family helped make Australian history.

He was a man with a huge generosity

of spirit and was always thinking of others. Even as he lay in the Cairns Hospital's Intensive Care Unit, he made sure he sent a message of condolence to the family of a friend who had just passed. Just one example of the measure of the man.

Sam spent his childhood days in the Herbert River district of North Queensland in Halifax, Cordelia and Ingham. He loved these times enveloped by his large family and these were extremely happy days for him.

He was fiercely proud of his four sisters and loved them dearly.

Despite his immense success as an athlete his proudest achievements were always his six children – Elaine, Jacob, Daniel, Luke, Sarah and Peter – and his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Sam's family would like to sincerely thank all the amazing doctors and nurses who cared for Sam in Cairns Hospital, including Dr Symon Smith, ID Specialist, Dr Alison, the ICU Specialist and the wonderful Cardiac Care Team. Also, the Cardiac and Heart surgeons who took such good care of him at Prince Charles Hospital in Brisbane.

Statement from the sisters of Samson Neale Backo.

ALS acknowledges the legacy of fearless leader, activist, lawyer and ALS co-founder Paul Coe

It is with a heavy heart that the ALS acknowledges the passing of Wiradjuri man and towering figure in the fight for Aboriginal justice, Paul Coe. On behalf of all at the Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS) we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and to all those who knew him.

"Paul was a life-long campaigner for Aboriginal justice who played a pivotal role in establishing the ALS, and was a well-respected Aboriginal peer who people looked

up to," ALS Chairperson Keith Morgan said.

In the 1960s and 70s a band of Redfern activists, inspired by the American Black Power movement, committed themselves to fighting back through protest, advocacy, and legal support to defend racist actions by police.

This group of staunch leaders-in-the-making included Paul Coe.

Paul and others started monitoring and recording the everyday experience of police brutality and harassment, building a

database that could be used to demonstrate the problem and lobby for justice.

Out of this movement the ALS was born, and Paul continued to play an important role in the ALS until the late 1990s.

"An inspiration and a fearless leader, Paul was a well-respected Aboriginal man that people looked up to as an uncompromising advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights.

"He leaves a legacy at the ALS that is unquantifiable," Mr Morgan said.



Paul Coe.

The festival that started from a broken promise

By KEIRA JENKINS



WHEN two brothers stood on an escarpment in remote northeast Arnhem Land, they looked into the future, and the Garma Festival was born.

Those brothers, M Yunupingu, the lead singer of Yothu Yindi, and Dr Yunupingu, a land-rights pioneer, were standing on the Gumatj ceremonial grounds of Gulkula, where the annual festival is held.

But the story of Garma starts well before its first festival in 1999, dating back to a different gathering and the words of a prime minister a decade before.

Yothu Yindi Foundation chair and senior Gumatj man Djawa Yunupingu said when his brothers had come to stand at the escarpment at Gulkula, there was a pain in his family.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke had travelled to Barunga Festival in 1988, promising a treaty would be made with Aboriginal people.

That promise was never realised.

"When we thought about Barunga we thought about promises of a treaty that had been washed down by the politics of the day," Mr Yunupingu said.

"We thought about a prime minister who made a promise to powerful leaders and clans and tribes of the Northern Territory only to leave us high and dry."

It is something the Yunupingu brothers never forgot, and as Djawa Yunupingu said, the words are "carved into our hearts and minds".

Addressing the crowd at the 25th Garma Festival, Mr Yunupingu quoted the iconic Yothu Yindi song 'Treaty', which his brother penned while sitting around a campfire, bringing etching promise into the memories of wider Australia.

"Well I heard it on the radio, and I saw it on the television, back in 1988 all those talking politicians," he said.

"You all know the song and you should remember the words."

Garma has become an important event in Australia's cultural and political landscape,



Members from the Gumatj clan of the Yolngu people from north-eastern Arnhem Land prepare for the Bunggul traditional dance during the 25th annual Garma Festival in Gulkula, Northern Territory. (AAP)



Denise Bowden, CEO of the Yothu Yindi Foundation.

with policy discussion and announcements sitting on the agenda next to talks about education, land rights and arts.

One of the major policy announcements of the festival in recent times came in 2022, when Prime Minister Anthony Albanese promised to pursue a referendum on an Indigenous voice to parliament.

Following the failed referendum Mr Yunupingu said he and Mr Albanese shared their disappointment, but knew they had to move on.

"Even though we live with shattered dreams we must keep looking to the future," he said.

But what does that future look like?

Yothu Yindi Foundation chief executive Denise Bowden said



Senior Gumatj leader of the Yolngu people, Djawa Yunupingu (left), shakes hands with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

to improve outcomes for people in Arnhem Land and other remote regions of the country, structural change was required.

Pointing to the over-representation of First Nations people in the justice system, particularly in the Northern Territory, and the disproportionate rates of rheumatic heart disease in remote Indigenous communities, Ms Bowden said the status quo was not good enough.

"If we do not stem this tide of history, it will do its work and wash away the ancient knowledge and the ceremonies and traditions that keep the world in balance and give us hope," she said.

"This is truly a terrible thought

and would be the greatest of tragedies for all those concerned."

Aboriginal people suffered because of the failures of systems imposed on them, Ms Bowden said, calling on the prime minister to work with communities to solve issues.

Northern Territory independent politician Yingiya Mark Guyula said Aboriginal people had the answers, but their voices were not being heard.

"We are fed up with being told we know what is best for you... I've heard this so many times in my time in the parliament," he said. Gumatj Corporation operations coordinator Michael

Yunupingu used the analogy of a tree to outline a vision for the future of his people and Country.

The roots of the tree were the vision, growing as the tree grows; the trunk was the plan, the branches were the areas of focus, and the leaves were the actions and outcomes, which grew as the tree came to fruition.

The Gumatj vision was to lead the way in sustainable development, balancing culture, traditional knowledge and economic self-sufficiency for the region.

"Our next generation of leaders must step up now and carry on the legacy into a world that is transitioning towards a new future, a new era," Mr Yunupingu said.

Just as it was time for the next generation to take the reins, Mr Guyula said this work must also be informed by those who started the journey.

"We need to honour our ancestors, our Yolngu lore and the original Garma ceremonies that happen all around Yolngu Country," he said.

"This must exist in all our decisions today and it is the way we will move forward to genuine truth-telling and treaty."

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 connected with NSW Treaty



THE NSW Treaty Commission has officially launched its social media platforms alongside a powerful new visual identity created

by internationally acclaimed Wiradjuri artist Brook Andrew, giving Aboriginal people and communities across the state a direct and culturally resonant way to stay informed, stay connected, and share their voices in the lead-up to the 12-month statewide listening process beginning this month.

The process will be led by three independent Aboriginal Commissioners:

Aden Ridgeway
(Gumbaynggirr)
Naomi Moran
(Bundjalung/Dunghutti)
Dr Todd Fernando
(Wiradjuri)

Appointed in November 2024, the commissioners are not government employees. They have been independently tasked with leading this process with integrity, humility, cultural responsibility, and a strong commitment to community voices.

Launching the commission's official Instagram and other social platforms marks a significant step in ensuring the process is accessible, transparent, and Mob-driven.

Followers will be able to:

Track upcoming regional visits and events.

Learn more about the Treaty conversation and why it matters.

Hear directly from the commissioners on their travels.

Share information within their own communities.

A new Treaty NSW website will be launched in the coming weeks, providing a central online space



Dr Todd Fernando, Naomi Moran and Aden Ridgeway.

for community members to find information, share resources, make online submissions, and follow the progress of the listening process. The website will work alongside our social media channels to ensure all Aboriginal people in NSW, wherever they live, can access the process and contribute their voice.

"This process belongs to Aboriginal people in NSW, and so platforms across social media is a way that our people and communities can walk with the commissioners in truth, reckoning and possibility," Commissioner Ridgeway said.

"We're here to listen deeply, not just in person, but in every space our people gather, including online. Our social media is a space where Mob can stay connected, wherever they are," Commissioner Moran said.

The commission's new visual identity, developed by Brook Andrew, is deeply inspired by the waterways and cultural landscapes of New South Wales – from the high-country creeks to the saltwater surf, where rivers like the Clarence (Buurai) and Richmond meet the Tasman Sea,

to the tea-tree-lined lakes and paperbark swamps of the north. Inland, the Barwon River's Baiame's Ngunnhu (Brewarrina Fish Traps) – one of the oldest known human-made structures in the world – reflects the ingenuity and enduring connection of First Peoples to water as life and teacher.

Andrew's design layers imagery from salt and freshwater systems, star constellations such as the Emu in the Sky, and traditional carving and pathway markings found across New South Wales. Hard-edge patterns in blue and black reference the waterways, the Blue Quandong fruit, and shield and dendroglyph designs of this Country. Yellow represents the sun, while red speaks to the blood in our veins – the living pulse of our people.

"The Treaty NSW branding carries the heartbeat of our ancestors and the strength of our waterways, a reminder that we are connected by Country, culture and kin. Everyone who has their say on Treaty adds to the story we are writing together. This is our time. This is our future," Commissioner Fernando said.



The new Treaty logo.

The Treaty yarns begin this month in Far West NSW, starting on Country in Broken Hill.

Aboriginal community members are invited to share their thoughts, whether they support a treaty, oppose it, or are still unsure. No prior knowledge is required. All that matters is honesty, because every Aboriginal person in NSW and what they have to say counts.

Over recent months, the commissioners have engaged with Aboriginal peak bodies, Native Title holders, Aboriginal workers across multiple sectors, Stolen Generations organisations, and community leaders. These early yarns have been vital in grounding the process in trust, transparency and cultural integrity.

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study.uq.edu.au/join-our-community

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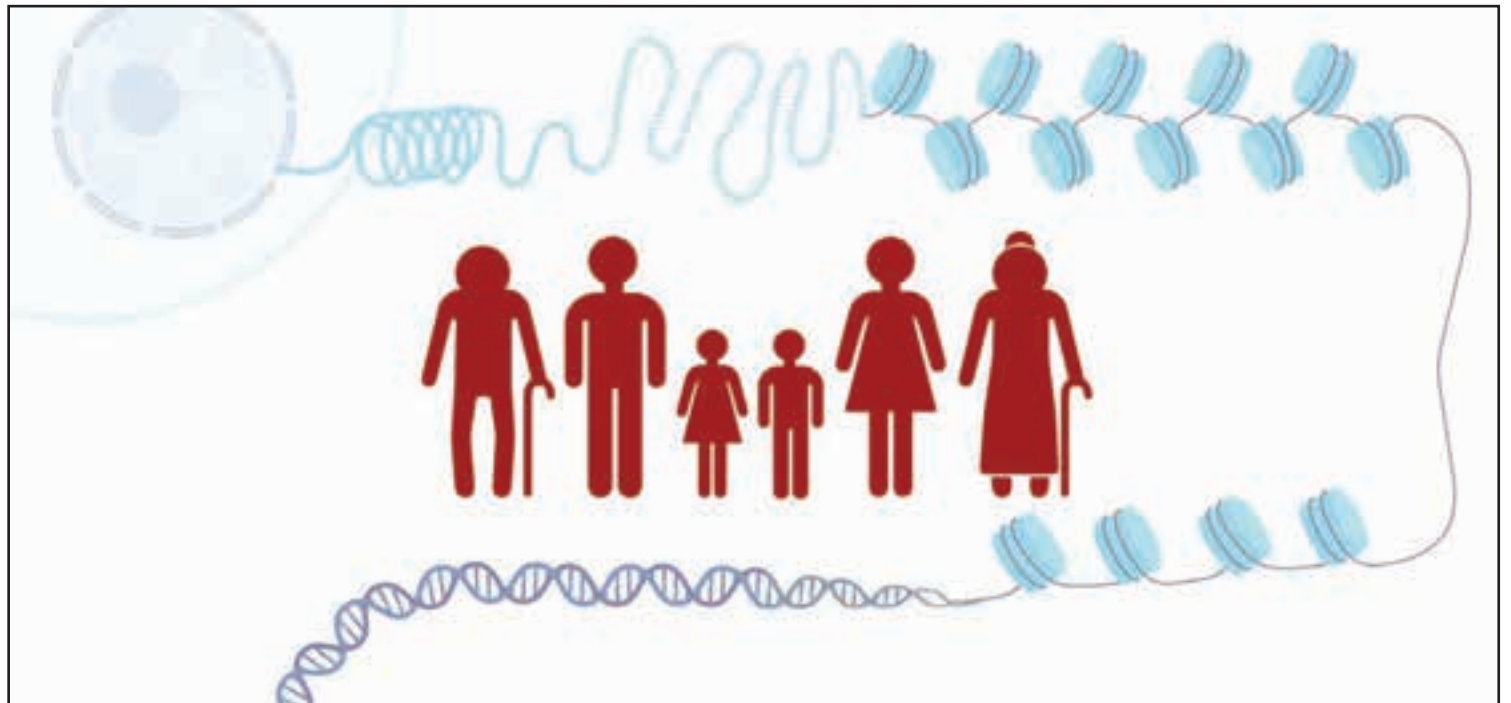
Helen Milroy

We often hear Elders say that we carry the pain of our ancestors. As part of our work on Indigenous mental health, we have seen how the trauma from yesterday can still affect the lives of our young ones today. In our recent review published in the *International Journal of Molecular Sciences* (<https://www.mdpi.com/1422-0067/26/7/3075>), we set out to understand why this happens and more importantly, how we can help Aboriginal people heal while honouring our stories of suffering and resilience. Our work is about nurturing hope and using both culture and science to break the cycles of trauma, creating a path towards a healthier, stronger future for generations to come.

The science of trauma

In our research team, one of the big questions we explored is how the experiences of one generation might affect the next. In science, this is called “epigenetics” – the idea that our environment and life experiences can change how our genes work. Several studies have explored the possibility that traumatic experiences could leave an epigenetic footprint on the next generation. For example, research has found that children of people who survived great traumas, like the Holocaust, show changes in stress-related genes. It’s as if the original trauma “taught” the body to stay alert for danger, and that lesson was carried on to the next generation.

In our review, we consider the ways this could be happening. We found that, while the idea of trauma being ‘written into our genes’ often grabs media attention, the actual scientific evidence for this in humans is lacking. What is clear, and what the research shows again and again, is that ongoing social conditions, family connections, and community support play the biggest role in whether trauma is passed down, or whether healing can take its



An image created by the Empowering Service Systems team to represent the relationship between epigenetics and trauma across generations.

place. This means trauma is not destiny and knowing that is powerful.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, we cannot talk about intergenerational trauma without talking about the true causes – the long history of colonisation, the suppression of culture, forced removal of children, systemic racism, loss of land, language, family, and life. These deep wounds created the social and emotional pain we still see today: poverty, discrimination, and disconnection that keep the trauma ‘alive’. Given this reality, it is essential to ground our understanding of intergenerational trauma in these historical and ongoing injustices. Therefore, the mainstream concept of “trauma in our genes” is not only unsupported by scientific evidence but could also inadvertently promote deterministic or fatalistic narratives that stigmatise already marginalised communities. The results of this work reiterate the importance of considering social, political, and cultural contexts when thinking about ways of healing from trauma – and highlight the need for policies and services to acknowledge and address these powerful influences.

Culture as medicine

Our review found that healing must happen on the same pathways that trauma travelled – through our relationships, our environments, and our culture. Western science is catching up with what our Elders have always known: culture is medicine. Strong family systems, rich cultural traditions, community solidarity, a sense of belonging and communal ways of healing buffer against the

transmission of trauma by changing the narrative from one of loss and suppression to one of pride and resilience. Research shows that Indigenous communities around the world who have actively revived cultural practices and strengthened cultural identity, have lower youth suicide rates than those that have not. In other words, when young people walk proudly with a strong sense of who they are and where they come from, the narrative changes. They move from a place of loss to one of belonging, from disconnection to strength – and this has a profound effect on their well-being.

Creating an environment of healing involves many pieces. It starts with family – nurturing our kids in safe, loving homes. It extends to community – having spaces where people feel they belong and are supported. Community-led healing programs, such as cultural camps, yarning circles, or Indigenous-run trauma programs, weave cultural knowledge with emotional support.

Our team also looked at some existing and emerging therapies making an impact in mental health. Approaches like physical activity and mindfulness practices have proven effective in treating conditions such as PTSD, depression, and alcohol use disorder among others. Research also suggests that these treatments are linked to changes in the way our genes work, making it easier for people to recover from trauma and stress. Practices like mindfulness and meditation, which are closely aligned with Indigenous ways of being present and connected, are showing promise in helping

people manage stress, while increased physical activity supports recovery and reflects traditional ways of living on Country that have long supported First Nations health and resilience. In addition, emerging research suggests that, when practised safely and respectfully, therapies involving traditional spiritual medicines may help people heal from deep emotional pain.

These approaches highlight that true recovery is physical, psychological, and spiritual. Ultimately, this reminds us that by combining new therapies with cultural traditions, there is great potential for healing in our communities.

Above all, any approach to healing our communities must be culturally safe and holistic. This means Indigenous people guiding the journey. Research and interventions should involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge holders – Elders, healers, Indigenous mental-health workers. Our review calls for culturally grounded methods, where we as researchers work with community, not on community. We know that one-size-fits-all solutions don’t work in isolation. Healing has to happen on community terms, reflecting the holistic view of wellbeing that includes spirit, body, mind, and Country of Aboriginal people.

Resilience

In talking about intergenerational trauma, we also celebrate intergenerational resilience – the strength passed down to resist and recover. Our ancestors endured so much and yet ensured the survival of our cultures and families. That resilience lives in us. We have seen families where the cycle was broken – where a parent’s

determination that “my kids will have a better life” can change everything. We have seen communities come together to revive language and ceremony. Every positive change – be it a supportive uncle, a strong mother, a cultural program, or a government policy – is like a thread of healing woven into the fabric of Aboriginal peoples’ stories, strengthening them for the future.

Our team’s findings ultimately affirm what Aboriginal people have been saying: healing must be holistic, and it must be hopeful. Each generation, armed with greater knowledge and better support, can move further from the shadows of the past toward a healthier, more hopeful future. We share this message in the spirit of unity and strength. Although the echoes of trauma can still be felt today, it’s through compassion, culture, and community that we can raise even stronger echoes – those of strength, love, and healing – to guide us forward. Together, we can ensure that our children and grandchildren inherit not the pain of our history, but the pride and resilience of our people.

The Empowering Service Systems team led by Professor Helen Milroy at the Transforming Indigenous Mental Health and Wellbeing project

Transforming Indigenous Mental Health and Wellbeing is a ground-breaking research program at the University of Western Australia transforming Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health care through Aboriginal leadership and authentic partnerships with Aboriginal organisations.

A decade of decolonising care



Uncle Phillip Mills, Shanna Mosby and Ed Mosby.

By TOM HEARN



THE Sager (south-east) winds sweep across the turquoise waters of Thursday Island, carrying stories of resilience and strength from generations past.

From their humble office on TI, the team at Wakai Waian Healing is writing a new chapter in mental-health care – one that is entirely grounded in Torres Strait cultural sovereignty.

For over a decade, Wakai Waian Healing has led the way in decolonising mental health services, ensuring programs are not simply imported Western models, but culturally informed frameworks shaped by Torres Strait Islander values, language, and ways of knowing. This journey has been guided by the vision of cultural leaders like Uncle Phillip Mills, who has been instrumental in shaping the Torres Model of Care – a model that prioritises culture, kinship, and connection as protective factors for social and emotional wellbeing.

“Culture itself is a protective factor,” says Shanna Mosby, Co-Chair of the Community and Cultural Mentor Group (CCMG) at Wakai Waian Healing. “Our ceremonies, stories, and traditions hold the wisdom that keeps our communities strong. When we celebrate culture, we are not just preserving identity – we are actively building resilience and healing.”

From its earliest days, Wakai Waian Healing recognised that healing must begin with culture. “Our ten-year journey has been about creating programs where culture and clinical practice sit side by side, not one above the other,” says CEO and Torres Strait Islander Senior psychologist Ed Mosby. “The Four Anchors program is an example of how we blend cultural authority with trauma-informed, evidence-based care – with results that resonate deeply with our people.”

Now, Wakai Waian is extending this approach with the creation of a men’s group program, led clinically by Ed Mosby and Rob Trevallion and TSI male mental-health workers. This program goes beyond therapy; it will create lived experience employment pathways for Torres Strait Islander men, empowering them to lead cultural healing from within.

“This is about breaking down colonial barriers,” Shanna explains. “We’re saying that lived experience, cultural authority, and deep community knowledge are just as important – if not more – than Western qualifications. Our men will lead because they know our people, our ways, and our challenges.”

Winds of Zenadh Kes

Just as the Sager winds mark a seasonal shift, Wakai Waian Healing is ushering in a shift in how mental health is understood and delivered in the Torres Strait. The organisation is proud to be actively involved in the Winds of Zenadh Kes Festival, which celebrates music, dance, and storytelling – cultural strengths that are proven protective factors against mental distress and suicide.

“Celebrating culture is not just about pride – it’s about survival,” says Shanna. “When our people are connected to culture, we are stronger, more resilient, and better equipped to face challenges. Festivals like Winds of Zenadh Kes are part of the healing process.”

Ed Mosby agrees: “Our clinical leadership means embedding culture at every level. By working with leaders like Uncle Phillip Mills and

others who shaped the Torres Model of Care, we’re proving that true healing happens when culture and evidence-based practice work together. The protective factors that culture offers – belonging, identity, and connection – cannot be replicated by Western models alone.”

In speaking with the team at Wakai Waian Healing, one message becomes clear: Torres Strait services must work together, not compete. “Our people’s mental health is too important to be caught up in a system that often pits organisations against each other for funding and recognition,” says Shanna Mosby. This competitive mindset, shaped by colonial structures and funding models, is at odds with Torres Strait values of collective responsibility and community care.

Wakai Waian is calling for a shift – one where genuine and authentic collaborations, not competition, drive health outcomes. “When we share knowledge, resources, and cultural authority, we create services that are stronger, safer, and truly reflective of who we are as Torres Strait Islanders,” Mosby adds. It’s both an aspirational vision and a practical necessity: the well-being of the community depends on unity.

Much of the progress in Torres Strait mental health and wellbeing has been built on the vision and dedication of leaders like Uncle Philip Mills, whose tireless work has been instrumental in shaping the Torres Model of Care. This model, grounded in Torres Strait cultural values and community leadership, has become a blueprint for culturally safe and responsive health services across Zenadh Kes. “Uncle Philip’s contributions have created pathways for services like ours to stand on strong cultural foundations,” says Shanna Mosby. “His work and many other Elders, reminds us that care must be led by culture and that our health systems must reflect the stories, strengths, and priorities of our people.” Wakai Waian Healing also acknowledges the efforts of other Torres Strait Elders, clinicians, and community leaders who have worked alongside Uncle Philip to build a framework that honours cultural integrity while addressing the unique mental health challenges faced by Torres Strait Islanders.

One of the most striking insights from Wakai Waian Healing’s work is how cultural ways of being and knowing are often overlooked in colonial consultation models. Too often, mainstream systems reduce mental health to clinical checklists and statistical outcomes, ignoring the social determinants that shape the everyday realities of Torres Strait Islanders – connection to land and sea, cultural obligations, spirituality, and community roles.

“Colonial consultations tend to speak about our people, rather than with them,” says Ed Mosby. “They often miss the deeper layers of what wellbeing truly means for Torres Strait communities. For us, health is not just the absence of illness – it’s about cultural identity, belonging, and the strength of our collective story.” Wakai Waian Healing is working to change this narrative by ensuring that consultations and program design start with culture, not as an afterthought, but as the foundation.

From their humble office on the front beach on Waiben, Wakai Waian Healing continues to look to the horizon – combining ten years of experience, cultural authority, and clinical innovation to build the future of mental health in Zenadh Kes.

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- Community Group of the Year
- Sustainability Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Elder Community Leader of the Year
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Emerging Community Leader of the Year

Nominations close on Tuesday 30 September.

To place a nomination or learn more: visit darebin.vic.gov.au/communityawards or call 03 8470 8551



Darebin Arts



‘Kalyakoorl’, always and forever



By COLE BAXTER



ONE of the main forces behind the Nyoongar language movement that’s been making waves in Boorloo (Perth) this past half a decade is ‘Kalyakoorl’. Meaning “always” or “forever”, referring to the language itself that has existed on the land here in Boorloo for more than 40,000 years.

Behind Kalyakoorl is Wadjak and Balardong Nyoongar man, Dylan Collard. Dylan’s background is in law but it’s his passion for language that led him to etching his name onto Nyoongar Country through teaching in school classrooms, community centres with adults and on Country.



“Learning our mother tongue is integral to our identity as Nyoongar people. It is exercising our sovereignty and connecting to our Boodjar (Country) and demangka (ancestors).

Dylan has his fingerprints on many resources at many levels. He held year-round all-ages family classes for the past few years out of a Vic Park community centre for Nyoongar and Non-Nyoongar participants. More recently he collaborated with RTRFM and long-term partner Kelsi Forrest to champion language through the airwaves; underlining First

Nations resilience and strength. This is in the form of a podcast ‘Kalyakoorl Waangkaniny’.

“Launching the podcast was something I was excited about... Just ensuring more people can access and listen to our beautiful language. Currently four episodes are out and the feedback has been so positive.

To carve out the icing on top of Dylan’s very immersive cultural teachings, he has just commenced a PHD focusing on Nyoongar language, where he sees this as another opportunity to reinforce the strength behind supporting Mob to reconnect



Wadjak and Balardong Nyoongar man, Dylan Collard.
Pictures Cole Baxter

with and assert meaningful ownership over their mother tongue.

Embracing the language from the land is a sentiment far stretching across the continent

and in the southwest of WA the torch is being held by Noongar Mob. Kalyakoorl is about ensuring that traditional language continues and thrives always and forever.

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Trek tackles heart disease



MEDICAL specialists, cultural guides and local medicos are teaming up for a

Top End trek to tackle a disease affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people the most.

Indigenous Australians are 64 times more likely to have rheumatic heart disease than non-Indigenous, with women and young people most affected.

The disease begins with a common strep A infection – a sore throat or skin sore that can lead to lifelong complications, invasive treatments and premature death if left untreated.

A team of paediatric cardiologists, nurses, sonographers, Aboriginal cultural guides and local health professionals have embarked on a trek across the Big Rivers region of the NT.

The Deadly Heart Trek focuses on education, early diagnosis and treatment of the disease and its precursor acute rheumatic fever, with echocardiographic heart checks and skin checks performed by health professionals.

"It's a national shame that this disease has been eradicated in every developed country except Australia," the trek's cultural lead Auntie Vicki Wade said.

Now in its fifth year, the trek



Georgina Byron (left) and Vicki Wade (centre) teach kids about 'cheeky', the name they've given Strep A bacteria, at Yipirinya School in Alice Springs, NT. (AAP)

will visit nine communities before finishing on August 15.

While it is philanthropically funded, the trek's founder and pediatric cardiologist Bo Remenyi says more government is needed to eradicate the disease.

One in five Aboriginal controlled health organisations are funded for rheumatic heart disease, according to Dr Remenyi.

"Medically, technically we know what to do – we need to address housing ... we need to ensure medical centres are funded and staffed appropriately to address really basic sore throats, school sores, because that's what prevents rheumatic fever," she said.

Ms Wade, a senior Noongar woman, said it is also important to invest in Aboriginal

communities, who know what is best in the places they live.

"Aboriginal leadership is really important. Aboriginal people in community know if they can do things, what needs to be done and how to do it," she said.

More than 3,900 children have been screened and 107 new cases of rheumatic heart disease treated in visits to 37 communities across Queensland and the NT, according to the Snow Foundation which funds and supports the trek.

The trek was created in response to the voices of those with lived experience of the ailments and the urgent need for better access to services, education and specialist medical care and equipment, foundation chief executive Georgina Byron said.

– AAP

Cultural-health program by Mob for Mob

By MARION WILLIAMS



THERE is 250 years of evidence of the disastrous consequences of disconnecting Aboriginal people from their culture and Country.

What hasn't been documented is the impact of reconnecting.

A groundbreaking research project will do exactly that. Knowledge holder and traditional custodian Uncle Warren Foster is leading the clinical trial of a cultural health program with the University of NSW (UNSW).

The program will be run twice on Djirringanj Country while Yuwaalaraay/ Gamilaraay knowledge holders Ted and Shelly Fields will conduct their program on Gamilaraay Country in Tamworth next year.

The collaboration between Gamilaraay, Yuwaalaraay and Yuin knowledge holders and an interdisciplinary group of researchers based mostly at UNSW is called *Gaawaadhi Gadudha* meaning from the freshwater to the saltwater.

Designed by Mob for Mob

Each program round will run for eight weeks. It will start with seven weekly sessions of two to three hours and finish with a four-day camp in the last week. There will be yarning circles at the start and end of each program. The programs will be held in culturally safe settings and participants will visit culturally significant sites.

South Coast participants will learn Djirringanj language and their northern NSW counterparts will learn Gamilaraay language. Cultural medicine workshops will explore traditional medicines and their uses. The third component is cultural food gathering that will teach participants how to prepare and share cultural foods.

Uncle Warren and Mr Fields are responsible for the program's cultural governance.

"All the programs are being designed by Mob for Mob, just as the questions in the survey were designed by us as well," Uncle Warren said.

Each program is open to 15 men and 15 women. Participants must be at least 18 years of age and

Indigenous. For more information and to apply contact www.tjuringal.org and www.burruguu.org

The value of reconnection

Uncle Warren said they have done a lot of research with UNSW over the last four years, examining how practising culture and being on Country can improve health and wellbeing. The results of an earlier program were published in renowned medical journal *The Lancet*.

"We see that disconnection from culture and Country has had a big impact on the cultural health and wellbeing of a lot of our people all around Australia," Uncle Warren said. "It is very important for us to reconnect to culture and Country."

During the eight-week program, UNSW researchers will collect data on how learning language and being taught about traditional medicine and cultural foods benefit the participants' health and cultural wellbeing.

Uncle Warren said there are physical, mental and spiritual aspects to health.

"If one of them is out of balance, everything is out of balance, so we have to come back to Country and culture to rebalance and get that sense of belonging again."

He said that disconnection from culture and Country often causes self-medication with harmful substances which leads to other problems.

"We feel it is important that the benefits of practicing culture and being on Country are recognised in the medical sector and that our traditional medicines and healing techniques are included," Uncle Warren said.

Given many Aboriginal people don't like going to hospitals or doctors due to racism, the clinical trial will demonstrate there are alternative paths to the healing needed due to colonisation disrupting their traditional ways.

"Back in the old days when our people lived off the land and hunted animals like the kangaroo, the kangaroos ate all the grasses and medicines, so when we ate the kangaroo meat, we were ingesting that medicine too," Uncle Warren said. "So, being disconnected from the land has had a big impact on our cultural health and wellbeing."



Knowledge holder and traditional custodian Uncle Warren Foster at Wallaga Lake. Picture: Marion Williams.



RELEVANT PERSONS CONSULTATION ON ENVIRONMENT PLANS PETROLEUM ACTIVITIES OFFSHORE PETERBOROUGH VICTORIA

CONSULTATION IS CLOSING

Amplitude Energy* plans to conduct gas development drilling and gas field development work near our existing subsea infrastructure and within our existing offshore Otway Basin licence areas, offshore Peterborough, Victoria. We call this the East Coast Supply Project (ECSP).

The Otway Basin has been producing gas for decades - we are planning to provide gas supply exclusively to the domestic market to help alleviate forecasted shortages. As part of the ECSP we are preparing two environment plans (EPs):

- ECSP: Annie-2 Development Drilling EP – covering the safe drilling and well construction of the Annie-2 development well.
- ECSP: Wells Connection EP – for the connection of wells to our existing subsea pipeline.

All activities under these two EPs will be carried out in Commonwealth waters, over 9kms offshore from the coast.

This phase of relevant persons consultation is closing

We initially advertised the opportunity to consult on these two EPs in late April 2025, and are now finalising consultation for the purpose of preparing these EPs. If you haven't been in touch, please do so within the next week.

For more information about our proposed projects, please see our consultation page via the QR code, or at <https://amplitudeenergy.com.au/consultation>.

The consultation process

For information about our offshore environment plans and the consultation process, including our obligations, please visit: <https://amplitudeenergy.com.au/consultation/why-we-consult>

Please contact us at stakeholder@amplitudeenergy.com.au or call 61 8 8100 4900 if you would like further information on these EPs.

*Amplitude Energy is the name of the parent company of Cooper Energy (CH) Pty Ltd.



First Nations media Mob challenged to right history

By **DARREN COYNE**



SURROUNDED by floodwater, Ngarralinyi radio listener 'Wally' had obstinately refused all offers of help from police and emergency service personnel.

But when he was told that Miranda from the local Aboriginal radio station demanded he get on a boat ... he got on.

That's the value of Mob media. It's trusted.

"For a week we were told to prepare for flooding then on the 20th of May we got lots of rain. I decided to go into Taree at 9pm to get the outside broadcasting kit. Because of how heavy the rain was I knew the roads could close at any time," she told the *Koori Mail* during a break from workshops at the annual gathering of First Nations Media Australia, held in Darwin recently.

When Miranda woke the next morning the road was indeed

closed, so she switched on her makeshift radio set and began broadcasting to her Mob throughout the district.

"I was broadcasting from my kitchen from 7am in the morning until 10 at night. We have regular listeners and I knew that one listener, a regular caller and volunteer, was stuck at his house.

"He could hear me talking but couldn't call up because Wingham had lost power so the only updates he was getting was through his battery-powered radio.

"One of our listeners went out in a boat to get him and the only reason he got in that boat was because he was told "Miranda has told me to come and get you".

"He had declined police, fireys and the SES five times and they had told him 'we're not coming back for you'.

In the end, Wally got rescued.

Across Australia, First Nations media Mob like Miranda have their own similar stories of looking out for each other, and amid the workshops and keynote



Miranda Saunders.

speeches, plenty of those got shared last week at the annual gathering of First Nations media from around Australia.

But perhaps one of the best story-tellers among them – Professor Richard Frankland (whose band apparently once opened for Prince despite him not knowing what a flute looked like when he first joined the military

many years before) gave a stirring assessment of their worth.

"I want you to know that you are changing a nation," he told the gathering.

"You might not see the effects for a few years, maybe a generation, but you are changing a nation," he said.

"You will save the lives of people you will never meet. You will contribute to the growth and wellbeing of communities and families.

"You'll be frightened. You'll jump when the phone rings, and you'll get up. You will stand up again. You'll step out that door, you will pick up that camera, you'll pick up that pen, you'll pick up that computer, and you will tell another story.

"Because you are storytellers. "You are the foundation of not just who we were, but who we are.

"You are very much the seed-planters for our tomorrow Australia. For our home."

He also reminded the gathering of past struggles for a voice.

He spoke of the Frontier Wars, and questioned why the 'massacres' were not remembered as battles. Why the guerilla fighters were not heralded, or studied, but were instead relegated as footnotes in history.

"Who owns that terminology? Why don't we reclaim that voice?"

"Put it in our art, our songs, our poetry, our music, our podcasts."

It was stirring stuff, and quite rightly received a standing ovation.

Meanwhile, having a smoke outside with John from Normanton, Queensland, another pearl of knowledge was shared.

Talking about nights spent under a starry sky droving cattle and cooking for a crew, John mentioned that sometimes all those years ago he had caught long-necked turtles and cooked them up for his mates.

So what did they taste like?

He took a drag on his cigarette, and after a long pause replied ...

"They taste a bit like sand goanna."

'Seed-planters' converge



John Paul Janke kept the conference moving.



First Nations Media Australia chief executive Wally Tallis.



Professor Richard Frankland delivered a keynote speech that had the audience laughing, crying, and determined to carry on the fight to be heard.



Che Cockatoo Collins and Dot West OAM plotting the future of First Nations media.



Lisa Fitzpatrick held weaving classes.



Martin Corben, Tobias Paulson, Savahanna Jackson, Wyah Roberts, Miranda Saunders and Rhianna Lee Saint.



Lance Jangala Turner of Yeundemu, NT, asks a question.



Uncle Ned Jampijinpa Hargraves asks a question.



The crowd gives a standing ovation.

and the winners are....



Teabba – Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association – wins Organisational Excellence Award.



Lifetime Achievement Award goes to Auntie Rhoda Roberts AO.



Ngaarda Media won the Best Digital Product Award for the 20th Anniversary Documentary.



Umeewarra Aboriginal Media Association wins Best Promo or campaign TV, Print, or Online Award.



Most valuable contributor to an organisation. *Koori Mail* correspondent, Jillian Mundy.



Umeewarra Aboriginal Media Association wins Best Promo or campaign TV, Print, or Online Award.



Best Language Culture Award goes to Danggularra Language program Wangki Yupurnanupurru Radio.



Best News and Current Affairs Program goes to National Talkback at Bumma Bipperra Media.



Ngaarda Media was created by the Yindjibarndi community for all Aboriginal people of the Pilbara region. Ngaarda Media is the only licensed Aboriginal broadcaster in this 500,000-square-kilometre region and the collective voice of more than 30 language groups of Traditional Owners.





Indigenous range helps families out

By KRIS FLANDERS



A TRUSTED business, HART Sports has been delivering the goods to the Australian public for over 30 years now and was a labour of love for founder Greg Harten.

From footballs, cricket bats to tackling bags and everything a sporting club could possibly need, marketing manager Jayden Hocking believes HART Sports puts the scores on the board.

"We produce over 700 of the products in-house in Brisbane, we have a manufacturing team that do an amazing job with our foam products, they're your big tackle bags, the hit shields, the gym mats and anything foam or vinyl related. Across the board we have over 4,000 pieces of sporting equipment and the range is huge, we don't say it lightly when we say we are Australia's biggest sports equipment provider," Hocking explained.

"We pride ourselves on the quality of products and at a reasonable price. You'll see HART Sports in early-learning centres and kindergartens all the way up to tertiary education, disability organisations also sporting clubs both at the elite and the grassroots levels. Government organisations as well as the private consumer looking to fit out a home gym."

Recently HART Sports combined forces with talented artist Emma Bamblett to come up with the sporting giant's first Indigenous range. They include Aussie Rules footballs, league balls, netballs and mats. For the last three years she's also designed the Indigenous Round guernsey for North Melbourne in the AFL.

Bamblett loves her sports and she says it's surreal to think that Indigenous and non-Indigenous sporting clubs and individuals are using goods with her designs on them.

But she also adds that balls being kicked, passed and mats being used in yoga classes or for stretching exercises is totally satisfying.

"I go back to the experiences that I had at school and they weren't always positive, I was always shamed, didn't really get picked for sports teams and racist experiences. I was really proud to do these designs and things have changed since I was at school and they're acknowledging Aboriginal people today. I hope I can make Aboriginal kids feel strong and have that belief when they use this range, but even if they can make a positive change for anyone too at the end of the day," Bamblett said.

Bamblett is a proud Wemba Wemba woman with connections to the Ngadjonji, Gunditjmara and Taungurung people. She's been painting for nearly 20 years and say it has rescued her and is

healing her from past traumatic experiences.

"I've always loved painting and always watched my aunty paint, it was my main inspiration, a calming and relaxing experience. I grew up with family violence and often we had to leave the house and stay with her. There were some really bad times and painting then became a really therapeutic thing for me," Bamblett explained.

With that lived experience, it's why Bamblett and HART Sports have agreed that 5% of sales goes towards Djirra, an organisation in Melbourne that supports women and families going through domestic violence.

"They offer a range of services, legal support and advice. I'm part of their Koori Women's Space and I facilitate sessions where I speak about my own experiences too and also do some arts and crafts activities with them. It's a safe



Emma Bamblett.

space to come and talk and listen with no judgement and connect with cultural practices. I'm happy that I can help put something towards the important work they do for the community," Bamblett said.

Jayden Hocking says the Indigenous range has proven more popular than anyone imagined and that HART Sports have worked hard to keep up with the demand.

"We are stoked with what Emma came up with, amazing work, so striking. It's taken a lot of people by surprise, we ordered stock thinking

there might be an uptaking and we had a forecast in mind but we basically sold out within the first month. Which shows you that the demand's there and they're really good quality balls and mats," Hocking said.

"Each ball and each piece has a unique angle which we are super happy about and we want to get those stories across. The impact that we can have for people to stay fit and healthy is not lost on us, we take great pride in being able to do that."



HART Sports, first Indigenous range.

Julimar-Brunello Plug & Abandonment (P&A) Environment Plan

Woodside has led the development of the LNG industry in Australia and today aims to thrive through the global energy transition. Woodside consults with relevant persons to gather feedback to inform its Commonwealth Environment Plans.

Julimar-Brunello Plug & Abandonment (P&A) Environment Plan

Woodside proposes to undertake activities to permanently plug and abandon (P&A) a number of subsea exploration wells in permit area WA-49-L, including:

- Permanent P&A of three wells using a Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU).
- Remediation (i.e. removal or isolation) of Non-Water-Based-Mud (NWBM) in the annulus of one additional well.
- Vessel-based preparation and support activities (e.g. wellhead cleaning and inspections, pre-laying of moorings and blowout preventer (BOP) tethering equipment, recovery of moorings and tethering equipment).
- Cutting and recovery of wellhead infrastructure at or below the mudline following P&A or recovery by vessel at a later date.

Environment that May Be Affected (EMBA)

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

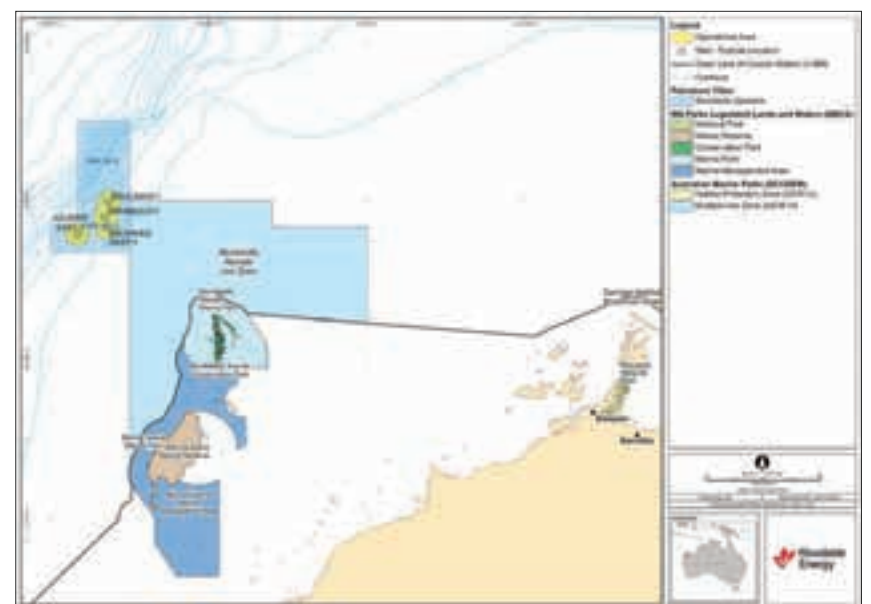
We would like to hear from you

If you are an individual, organisation or community group and believe your functions, interests or activities may be impacted by the activities under this Environment Plan, we want to hear from you by **8 September 2025**.

To find out more go to:

www.woodside.com/what-we-do/consultation-activities

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



consultation@feedback.woodside.com
Toll free: 1800 442 977
woodside.com



Jimmy's payback



Aunt Loretta Parsley unwraps a fence post split by Jimmy Governor, her great-grandfather.

By MARION WILLIAMS



JIMMY Governor's story has been told many times over the last 125 years, notably in Thomas Kenneally's 1972 novel *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith*. Until now, his story has not been told by his descendants or put into the context of the eve of Australian Federation.

Walbunja knowledge holder and traditional custodian Aunt Loretta Parsley started researching the story of her great-grandfather in 1987-88, around the time of the Bicentenary. Years later her research led to a stage play by Clare Britton, and an award-winning podcast *The Last Outlaws*, by Katherine Biber, distinguished professor of law at UTS. Ms Biber's subsequent book *The Last Outlaws: The crimes of Jimmy and Joe Governor and the birth of modern Australia* was published in July 2025. It is dedicated to Aunt Loretta.

Wiradjuri/Wonnarua man Jimmy Governor married white woman Ethel Page in 1898. They had a son Sidney.

In 1900 Jimmy was working for homesteaders, the Mawbey family, cutting trees to make fence posts for the property. His brother Joe was helping him. Whenever Jimmy's wife went to the homestead, she was taunted for marrying an Aboriginal man and having a mixed-race child.

John Mawbey rejected some of Jimmy and Joe's posts as not good enough and refused to pay them their wages. What with his wife being taunted and being unable to feed his family, Jimmy lost his cool and murdered some members of the family in July 1900 while the father was away.

"Jimmy went on the rampage and the police organised a posse," Aunt Loretta said. "This



Aunt Loretta Parsley (right) shows her painting of Jimmy Governor's life, journey and family, with podcast producer Kaitlyn Sawrey (left). Pictures: Supplied.

was in the lead up to the federation when they were trying to establish the colonies and people were arguing in parliament about who should do the legislation."

The authorities outlawed Jimmy and Joe. They eluded their captors for a long time using their bush skills.

Jimmy protected his wife and child by sending them to her family who took her in. Sidney's surname was changed, and he was sent to live with another family to protect him given Jimmy was an outlaw.

"When Jimmy was captured, Ethel was six months pregnant and she visited him in Darlinghurst Gaol," Aunt Loretta said. "Because there were two races it gained notoriety in history."

Jimmy was tried and hung in Darlinghurst Gaol. Ethel went to stay with her mother in Wollongong. Three months after Jimmy had been hung, Ethel gave birth to Thelma, Aunt Loretta's grandmother.

Aunt Loretta's father Cyril was 15 when he learnt that Jimmy Governor was his

grandfather.

Wanting to know more about Jimmy's story, Aunt Loretta and her non-Koori husband took her parents to Gulgong where Jimmy had worked as a black tracker.

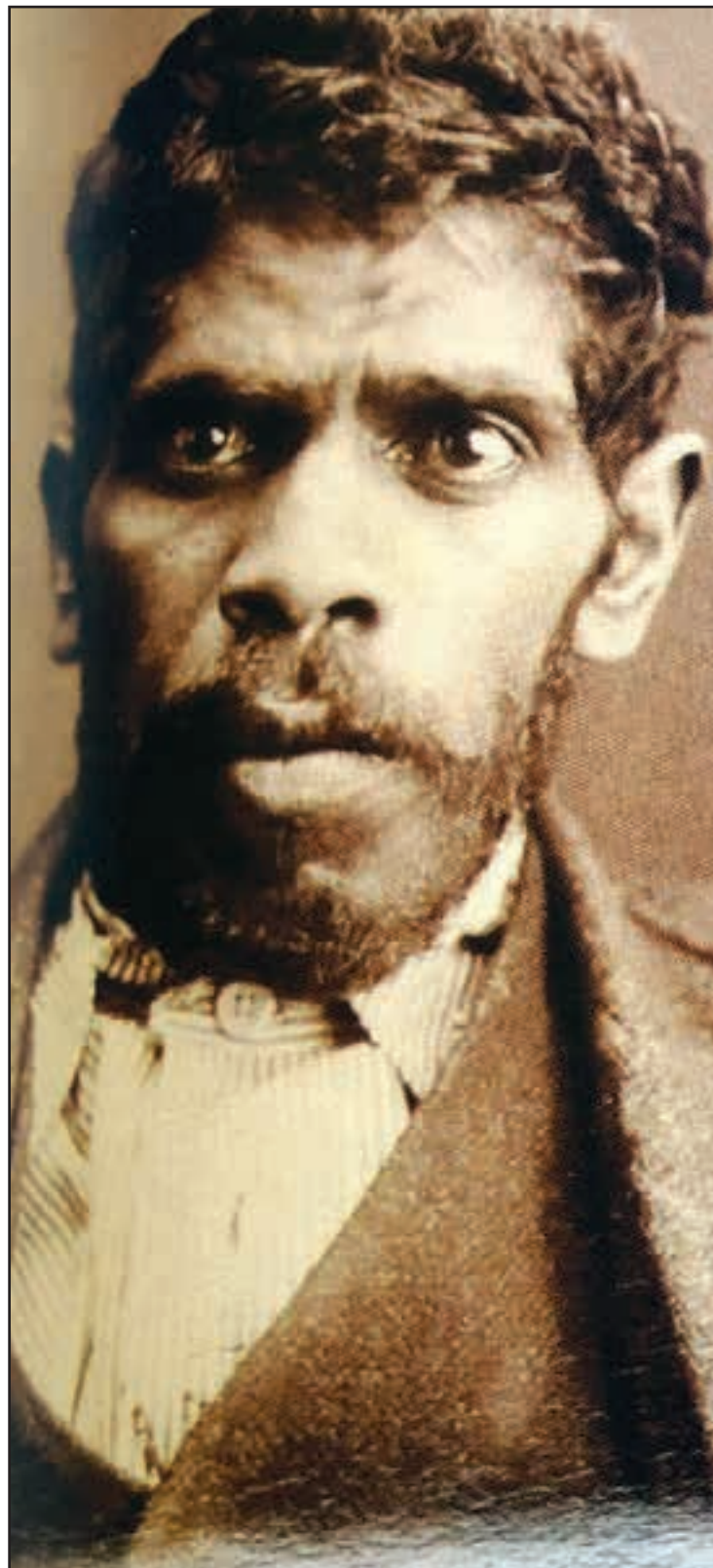
"We put adverts in the newspaper appealing to people who knew anything of Jimmy," she said. "People would reply saying they knew my great-grandfather to be a good person. They were telling a good news story as opposed to him killing those people."

"I was inquisitive and went on that journey, taking in everything, writing it down, reflecting on why this happened and that happened and was he a good person."

Jimmy's story was gaining wider interest and was the subject of theses at universities. Aunt Loretta helped the academics while protecting her family's privacy.

Ms Britton, an artist/academic with a production company, approached Aunt Loretta.

"With mum and dad, we stopped at places significant to Jimmy and the production



Jimmy Governor, photographed for his prison admission record.

company presented it in Sydney's Carriageway Theatre as a stage play, *Posts in the Paddock*."

It got good reviews.

Next Ms Biber's team came wanting to do a podcast.

"That podcast put us up there in terms of awards and then Katherine wanted to write the book, but in context and with the family," Aunt Loretta said.

Having been on that journey for so many years, Aunt Loretta said that family history influences relationships, meaning there will be conflicts and cross-cultural interactions.

"For example, in the western world, the father is the head, so that would be Jimmy, but in our world the matriarch would be Ethel Page, but she is white," Aunt Loretta said. "I have married a non-Koori man so in

the western world he is the head, but I am Aboriginal and so am the matriarch."

She said it is a big problem-solving process. She is living in the white man's world now so must navigate that while holding on to her culture and beliefs as opposed to beliefs brought over from England.

Aunt Loretta has concluded that Jimmy was a good person who did a bad thing. She calls it Jimmy's payback because the Mawbey family wouldn't pay him so he couldn't feed his family.

The timing of the book is right because "it is now truth-telling time in our history".

"It is also about the political agenda and people climbing the ladder of power. You had Jimmy and Joe on the run, police hunting them down like savages, and politicians calling the shots."

Up and comers shine at music summit



Filipino/Murrawurri musician, producer and composer, DOBBY's seamlessly blends rap with expansive and contemporary arrangements bringing him Australian and international acclaim.



Gamillaraay woman Loren Ryan, 2023 Toyota Star Maker winner and nominee at the Golden Guitar Award for New Talent, is known for incorporating her mother tongue into her original music.



AS PART of MusicNSW's Regional and Remote Music Summit that took place in Byron Bay last week, International Touring

Company Live Nation staged their First Nations Regional Showcase – *Ones To Watch* at The Northern Hotel.

Originally launched in the US in 2012, Live Nation's *Ones To Watch* was created to support emerging artists with this edition shining the spotlight on four emerging First Nation's artists: Dobby, Loren Ryan, Dem Mob and Rox Lavi.

Byron Shire Council Mayor Sarah Ndiaye attended the showcase along with *Koori Mail* Cultural Lead Rhoda

Roberts.

"This really celebrates and amplifies Indigenous Australian excellence," Mayor Ndiaye said. "It was a thrill for the Byron Shire to host the showcase especially Dem Mob from the APY lands, who are probably the most remotely based hip hop act in the world."

Ms Roberts said the summit and showcase were remarkable because of the dialogue that occurred around First Nations artists.

"Dem Mob wrote and performed the most phenomenal justice song about Kumanjayi Walker," she said. "But the showcase was also about visibility for our artists. It's not always about the deficit, this was about joy and celebration."



Hailing from the APY lands in the community of Pukatja, DEM MOB are hip-hop trailblazers in their own right. Not only the first hip-hop group from their 'region, but the first MCs to rap in Pitjantjatjara language.



ROX LAVI, 22-year-old Gomeroi man, was, in his own words "raised by rap music", and gravitated to wordplay and poetry at an early age with hip-hop remaining within the core of his music's DNA.

Koorie Art Show calls for entries



THE CALL is out to First Nations artists living in Victoria for entries in the thirteenth edition of The Koorie Heritage Trust's (KHT) annual *Koorie Art Show*.

The *Koorie Art Show* is an open-entry, non-acquisitive award exhibition open to all First Peoples artists, designers and crafts people whether emerging, mid-career or senior.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for all First Peoples to showcase their art in a central location at Fed Square in Narm," says Tom Mosby, CEO, KHT.

"We accept all artworks. All you need to do is submit an entry form by the due date for your work to be accepted. Each work will be professionally photographed and installed in our beautiful new galleries in the Birrarung Building at Fed Square."

Highlighting the cultural richness of First People the *Koorie Art Show* showcases

traditional and contemporary work in a variety of mediums, from digital illustrations to paintings, prints, textiles, ceramics and more, and provides a snapshot of what is happening now in First Peoples art from across Victoria.

All entries will be independently judged for a range of awards, with significant cash prizes. They include: the Creative Victoria Award for Excellence in any Media (\$10,000); Viva Energy 3D Award (\$5,000); RMIT University 2D Award (\$5,000); Josh Muir Digital Art Award (\$3,000); the People's Choice Award (\$1,000); and two Encouragement Awards (\$500 each). More awards will be announced shortly.

The *Koorie Art Show* for Young Mob now in its 8th year, is also open for entry, and showcases the diverse talent of Victoria's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists aged between 5 and 16 years.

All visual arts mediums are eligible and previous exhibitions have included

painting, drawing, photography, textiles, prints, sculpture, video and installation.

This year, the Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT) is celebrating the 40th anniversary of its founding in 1985, marking four decades of cultural growth, resilience, and deep connection to the First Peoples of Victoria. It will also mark 10 years of the KHT being located in the Birrarung Building at Fed Square.

For further information and application forms, visit www.kht.org.au

The *Koorie Art Show* is proudly supported by Creative Victoria, City of Melbourne, Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support Program, the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body, and ANZ Bank.

The *Koorie Art Show* opens Saturday 6 December 2025 until Sunday 22 February 2026 at the Koorie Heritage Trust, Birrarung Building, Fed Square.

For more information go to: www.kht.org.au



Before the storm that shut down the Byron Writers Festival on Friday are Auntie Donella Waters, Delta Kay and Debra Dank.

Flooded festival was awash with Indigenous story-tellers

By CHRISTIAN MORROW



BYRON Writers Festival 2025 was set to feature a strong lineup of Indigenous writers, thinkers and leaders including Arakwal Bumberbin Bundjalung

woman and Byron Shire Councillor Delta Kay and Gudanji Wakaja and Kalkadoon writer Dr Debra Dank.

Unfortunately the three-day festival had to be cancelled after just one day due to unprecedented bad weather. But before that the *Koori Mail* had the chance to meet with them to talk about Indigenous Knowledges.

Aside from her work in council Ms Kay also operates a business, Explore Byron Bay, which offers guided walking tours of Byron Bay and surrounds.

Dr Dank's newly released book, *Terraglossia* makes the case for expanding Australian language to encompass the multi-dimensional Indigenous knowledges of the land of so-called Australia.

Along with JM Field both were slated to be part of a Byron Writers Festival panel discussing Indigenous Knowledges to have been chaired by Bebe Oliver.

At the outset of our interview both women agreed it was important to have strong Indigenous voices at writers festivals.

"Growing up in Byron Bay, as part of the only Aboriginal family here, our voices were not heard or not valued," Ms Kay said.

"So today coming to Byron Writers Festival and having a suite of Aboriginal

authors here to share their vast knowledge and culture is incredible.

"And you know, white Australians are ready to hear these stories and want to hear these stories, they want to be connected to Aboriginal culture and learn how we can fit in together."

Inspired

Ms Kay said she was particularly inspired by Dr Dank, "talking about our languages, particularly our non-verbal sign languages."

Dr Dank agreed that writers festivals as a platform were particularly valuable for Indigenous knowledge holders.

"Being able to speak at a writer's festival means we get to speak our voice, with our voice, through our voice and not have somebody else tell us about us," she said.

"I'm always appreciative of being able to visit other people's Country, meet with Mob and I gather so much strength from meeting the local Elders."

In the course of her work speaking to school groups and taking walking groups onto Country around Byron Bay, Ms Kay said her focus was to "ensure people look at the land as part of themselves and not as something separate – so people can grow to become guardians of the land."

"It's important people come to see through an Indigenous lens, to see that the land is everything. She is our mother, she protects us, she brings us into the world, she is everything. Our stories are embedded in this landscape."

"The other thing I hear from Aboriginal

people from around the world and here in so-called Australia is that deep listening is so important.

"As Aboriginal people it is a way of being – listening, thinking, knowing and understanding are a way of being."

Dr Dank identified a similar way of knowing across Aboriginal languages.

"It's called synesthesia (usually a neurological condition where stimulation of one sense triggers experiences in a second, unrelated sense) which Dr Dank extended to mean that Indigenous people, "not only hear something but we also feel it, we hear it through the feeling of it and we know it through the living of it."

"For Aboriginal people, when we are on country all those different ways of knowing are existing simultaneously, we don't see through our eyes alone."

Comprehend

The importance of non-Indigenous Australians taking on and beginning to comprehend these Indigenous Knowledges and ways of being in the world were not to be underestimated. According to both women, this knowledge can advance so-called Australia forward in closing the gap, addressing the environmental crisis and social injustices that threaten in an increasingly fractured and authoritarian world.

"I think respect is so important," said Ms Kay. "To look after one another, to grow up respecting ourselves and the land."

"So-called Australia has many cultures here, we are a melting pot of food, languages and people and we can move

forward with respect.

"As First People we really need to lead, for too long we have been put in a corner but our voices are so important now.

"People are looking to our ways of being and knowing to mitigate against climate threats including fire and flood. We really need to lead in our country."

For Dr Dank, not only is it important to impart Indigenous knowledges, it is also about the way language works in Australia.

"Having just one language, Standard Australian English (SAE) as the dominant language is not working. We need to stretch SAE so it becomes more inclusive.

"My way of kinship as a Gudanji person is different to my Wakaja and different to my Kalkadoon but kinship governs what I know and how I know it but none of this can be articulated in the vocabulary of Standard Australian English," she said.

"So I formulated the word Terraglossia to encapsulate all of the voices First Peoples listen to and hear everything, including all our non-human kin, that exist across the landscape.

"They are critical voices and they contribute to our knowledge.

"Until SAE is stretched to include new pieces of vocabulary which Indigenous people define and create, the (true voice of this country) will be lost in translation.

"English arrived here 250 years ago but our (first people's way of knowing) is thousands of years older.

"So who would ever imagine that SAE would be enough to articulate what it is our elders have been teaching us for so long," Dr Dank said.

Writer on the storm

By CHRISTIAN MORROW



THOMAS Mayo, seen by many as the face of the 2023 Voice to Parliament referendum, remains

unbowed despite the defeat in the historic referendum. Instead he is ready to forge ahead with Truth Telling, Treaty and the Voice.

Promoting his latest book *Always Was Always Will Be*, Mayo was in Bangalow last week for the Byron Writers Festival and preparing to take part in a panel discussion, *The Voice: What's Next?*, moderated by Indigenous broadcaster and writer Daniel Browning alongside NSW Treaty Commission Naomi Moran and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner, Vanessa Turnbull-Roberts.

Drenching rains forced the shut down of the festival after just one day but the *Koori Mail* was there ahead of the deluge to speak with Mayo, one of this country's most important public figures.

In his latest book *Always Was Always Will Be*, Mayo writes that Indigenous Australian's are, "Always being asked to answer for the wrongs done against us."

"For a lot of (non Indigenous) Australians there is a lack of understanding when it comes to talking about incarceration rates, the life expectancy gaps and the social and health issues in communities. Non-Indigenous Australians often fail to understand that these things are not 'Indigenous problems' they are systemic problems. Problems that stem from colonisation, the brutality and the harms that have been wrought by colonisation and the impact of continuing failed policies," he said.

"So Indigenous people alone are blamed as if these are issues that we should just fix ourselves instead of Australia taking collective responsibility."

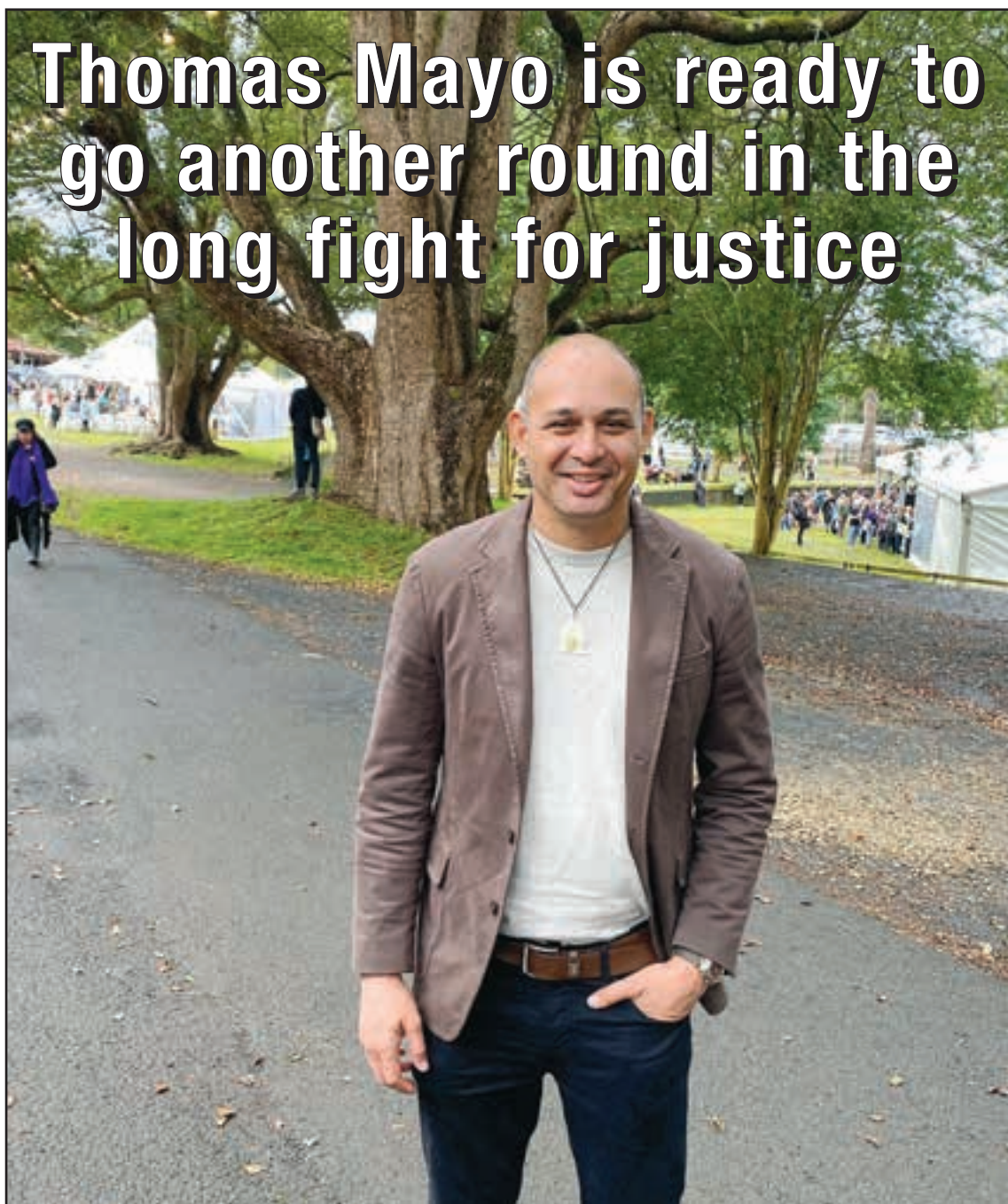
In looking at the Voice and what comes next, Mayo sees The Uluru Statement from the Heart as a document still relevant, still offering a chance for real advancement for Australia.

"There is so much Australian governments and democratic institutions could learn from Indigenous ways of being. A great example is how we have always been masters of dispute resolution – quite different to Europe where historically there has always been a resort to war, that led to so-called technical advancements that led to weapons of mass destruction.

"Instead, we had ways of making peace that were quite advanced. Makarrata is one such example. It's in the Uluru Statement from the Heart – it remains as one of the gifts we were offering Australia – a way to make peace in a better way."

Mayo said Indigenous Australians' ability to make and maintain peace is an enduring quality.

Thomas Mayo is ready to go another round in the long fight for justice



Thomas Mayo at the 2025 Byron Writers Festival. Photo Christian Morrow.

"One of the ways we can understand this is in the way hundreds of unique First Nations languages still exist today – these languages could not have evolved without long periods of peace – not conquering each other's lands. We also didn't have incarceration in the way Europeans did, or guillotines or hangings. And we didn't lock each other up on stinking disease infested prison ships and send each other to the other side of the world."

What next?

But returning to the question of *The Voice: Where to next?* Mayo said there was still so many possibilities for moving forward including re-visiting the Voice to Parliament as part of Truth Telling and Treaty.

"There has to be a treaty on equal terms with Indigenous people – Voice, Truth Telling, Treaty – none of these things are exclusive to each other. There was a forced sequencing of these things during the referendum debate and amongst our Mob as well. We need all three, you can't have one without the other."

Mayo is full of admiration for the work being done across the

country and by state based processes such as the Yoorrook Justice Commission in Victoria and the NSW Treaty Commission.

"All these things should be happening and all credit to the Mob that are making it happen. Victoria has the most advanced process underway but they have just reached a turning point on the journey.

"It is going to get much

rougher as negotiations begin about the terms of a treaty. We are going to face the same disinformation we faced in the referendum.

"We should not be naive enough to think it will be just a matter of making an agreement with the government, it's going to take lifted efforts in our activism and engagement to bring people along with us."

But despite the struggle Mayo

sees ahead, he did pause to take heart from the electoral wipeout suffered by the coalition and Peter Dutton in last May's federal election.

"It was heartening to see the utter rejection of Peter Dutton and his approach to many things," Mayo said with a rare smile.

"It wasn't just about the way he used the Voice referendum for the advancement of his own political ambitions, I think, people woke up to that. And they woke up to it because in the federal election they (the coalition) attacked every minority they thought they could play culture wars with, and it was Dutton's undoing."

As a Torres Strait Islander Mayo is deeply disappointed the Federal Court of Australia recently ruled the Commonwealth of Australia does not owe a duty of care to Torres Strait Islanders to protect them from the impacts of climate change.

"It says a lot about the powers that be and how disconnected they are regarding the existential threat that climate change represents to places like the Torres Strait, it was a demonstration of dis-empowerment," he said. "But I know that Torres Strait Islanders won't give up."

"There is also something important to be said for hope even though we are still feeling so hopeless in the wake of the referendum defeat. And given how world events and local events are unfolding, and how the Northern Territory government is absolutely scapegoating our people and locking them up at increased rates. I still know we are absolutely winning this fight.

"It doesn't feel like it but nothing we have ever achieved ever happened without the answer coming back 'No' several time before we got the answer 'Yes'.

"Look at the number of First Nations academics – experts in their fields, people packing out concerts halls, leading unions, representing us in parliament, and the number of Indigenous doctors – well over 800 by now.

"This is a sign that we can have hope and we should keep on doing what we are doing."



First came the crowds, then came the rain. (AAP)

From Many to the Next comes Darebin Fuse Festival



DAREBIN'S Arts' iconic FUSE Festival is back for 2025 with two-weeks of live music, cultural celebrations, exhibitions, hands-on workshops, film screenings, and immersive art experiences on offer.

The festival is excited to announce the appointment of Ethan Savage as Curator in Residence for *Ganbu Gulin*, the annual event that launches the festival, which will be held on Sunday 31 August, 1pm–5pm, at Darebin Arts Centre and the adjacent Ray Bramham Gardens.

Ethan is a Northern Kaantju, Girramay and Badu Islander who works as an academic, music producer and broadcaster with Triple R; hosting *Feel the Floor*, a celebration of electronic and rave music.

This year's event is titled *wudhanu yuwanguth* or "From Many to the Next" and represents a gathering of Voice, Culture and Ceremony.

"*Ganbu Gulin 2025* will reflect on how as one Mob, we are many – the outcome of our ancestors and the model for the next; from our Elders to the next generation, and to those who are new in our community. It reflects our shared movement – growth and evolution that honours ongoing cultural strength and resilience," Mr Savage.

Meaning "One Mob" in Woi-Wurrung language, *Ganbu Gulin* is co-presented in close collaboration with the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

Open to all, *Ganbu Gulin* will greet new citizens of Darebin with a Welcome to Country and

Smoking Ceremony, live music, cultural activities, and dance performances together with a stellar music lineup in downtown Preston.

Ganbu Gulin: wudhanu yuwanguth will be MC'd by FABoriginal drag artist 2joocee, and will feature live performances by Wurundjeri dancers; renowned singer-songwriter and Darebin local Emma Donovan; up-and-coming indie-rock band Doe Eyes, fronted by lead guitarist Jordan Clay and Indigenous vocalist Izzy Skye; and hip-hop artist Torres Green.

The day will also include a native planting workshop, plus kids' workshops with crowd favourite Aunty Brenda.

The curatorial team for *Ganbu Gulin 2025* also includes Cultural and Curatorial Adviser Stacie Piper.

Stacie is a Wurundjeri, Dja Dja Wurrung and Ngurai Illum Wurrung woman, and the former Chairperson of the Victorian NAIDOC Committee. She is a well-regarded curator, academic in the arts, dancer, and cultural adviser.

"*Ganbu Gulin 'One Mob'* is a unique and significant event, which welcomes new citizens and community members of all cultural backgrounds to participate in a Woiwurrung ceremony, fostering meaningful connections," Ms Piper said.

Other program highlights for Darebin FUSE Festival 2025 include:

FUSE @ Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre. For one special weekend, the Town Hall Arts Centre and Civic Square will be transformed into a vibrant festival hub, illuminated by works from

some of Australia's most celebrated puppet companies.

The opening night party will feature performances from glorious First Nations drag artists Cerulean and Stone Motherless Cold.

At the Civic Square audiences can experience *Tarutharu – The Kurna Skink* – a 27-metre luminous puppet. This collaborative artwork, representing the Kurna Peoples, is the creation of Elizabeth Close Arts (Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara) and Jack Buckskin (Kurna and Nurungga), developed with Darebin-based puppet company A Blanck Canvas.

Rock-A-Bye-Baby featuring *Wrong Way Up* – Co-presented by PBS 107.6FM, this kid-friendly music event will feature a live performance from Afro-disco-psychedelic-boogie duo *Wrong Way Up*.

A kid-friendly show that is as much for the parents as the kids.

A Night Under the Stars with Watty Thompson and Friends – the show sees the acclaimed storyteller embrace his extensive musical family to recreate a bush side campfire under the stars.

FUSE will also feature a film festival and *En Masse* – a life-sized projection installation featuring the award-winning Rawcus Ensemble and performance by Enki, a unique trio of electronic violin, saxophone and percussion that blends Iranian melody and rhythm, jazz harmony and improvisation and electronic field recordings.

For the full program go to: arts.darebin.vic.gov.au/Whats-on/Festivals/Fuse



Emma Donovan.

Desert Mob program out



DESART, the peak body for Central Australian Aboriginal Art Centres, is thrilled to announce the full program of events for

Desert Mob 2025, to be held on Arrernte Country in Mparntwe/ Alice Springs from Thursday 11 September to Sunday 26 October.

One of the nation's oldest and most extraordinary celebrations of Aboriginal art and culture, *Desert Mob* is a significant annual event on the Australian art calendar that sees thousands of people travel far and wide to share in the richness and diversity of desert art in the heart of Australia.

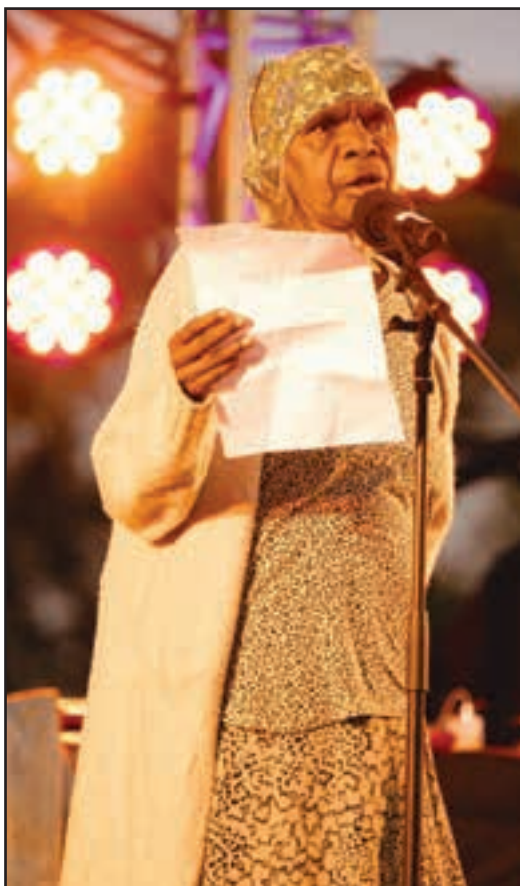
Co-curated by Hetti Perkins (Arrernte and Kalkadoon) and Aspen Beattie (Luritja, Warumungu and Yawuru), the

Desert Mob 2025 exhibition and accompanying program of events brings together hundreds of artists from 35 art centres located across the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia.

The program features the renowned *Desert Mob* opening night and exhibition, a captivating day of artist talks, and a vibrant art marketplace all to be held at the Araluen Arts Centre.

Artists will be in town to meet visitors and introduce their artworks at a range of free and ticketed public programs and satellite events including workshops, demonstrations, performances and more.

The *Desert Mob 2025* program is now live at desertmob.com with tickets for select events now on sale.



Rene Kulitja, of Maruku Arts, officially opening *Desert Mob 2024*. Photo by Sara Maiorino. Curtesy Desarts.



Desert Mob 2024 official opening. Photo by Sara Maiorino. Curtesy Desarts.



Alison Milyika Carroll, Ernabella Arts ceramics demonstration at Marketplace. Photo by Sara Maiorino. Curtesy Desarts.

Strong First Nations line up at this year's Brisbane Festival



BRISBANE Festival will feature a rich program of First Nations artists when it kicks off from 5-27

September at venues across Meanjin (Brisbane) with this year's program including 17 First Nations productions.

On the water's edge, *Baleen Moondjan*, will unfold as a contemporary ceremony from visionary First Nations artist Stephen Page, founder of Bangarra Dance Theatre and one of Australia's most influential cultural voices.

In returning to his hometown, Page transforms Brisbane's riverbank with a powerful large-scale performance staged on a floating barge beneath the night sky, where towering sculptural whale bones rise from the water.

Drawing on his Ngugi, Nunukul and Moondjan ancestry, the work honours the deep, totemic connection between baleen whales and Country, blending music, movement and storytelling in a powerful expression of culture, memory and place.

Preparing Ground, co-directed by leading First Nations choreographers Marilyn Miller, Jasmin Sheppard and Katina Olsen, will have its world premiere at this year's festival.

A powerful new dance work that moves with the weight of history and the fire of resistance *Preparing Ground* channels movement, language, sound and projection to evoke a landscape both sacred and stolen.

First Nations choreographer and ballroom innovator Josh Taliani, father of Australia's legendary *House of Alexander*, will make his solo debut with *Unveiling Shadows*, a fusion of vogue, street dance and fearless storytelling.

Bringing flair and heart to festival proceedings will be First Nations drag icon Miss Ellaneous (Ben Graetz). Their joyous tribute to the one and only Tina Turner, *TINA – A Tropical Love Story*, will brim with sequins, soul and sky-high heels.

There will also be a special opportunity to experience the continuing Culture of the Nughi, Nunukul, and Goenpul clans of the Quandamooka People first-hand.

Presented by Quandamooka Yoolooburabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC), in association with the Brisbane Festival, is the Quandamooka Festival set against the island-paradise backdrop of Minjerribah (North Stradbroke).

The festival begins with a Traditional Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country for participants and audiences to celebrate the yalingila (whale) migration season.

The gathering will then showcase a diverse lineup of cultural activities, including tours, Kunjil (corroborees), music performances, food, weaving, arts, crafts, panel discussions, First Nations' film, and more.

Four-hundred drones will take to the sky to tell the story of Brisbane's First Nations people in *Skylore – Nieergoo, Spirit of the Whale*, and *Brisbane Serenades* will feature an impressive lineup of First Nations artists, whilst beloved artist and cultural custodian Jungaji will share new work rooted in his Gugu Yalanji and Birri Gubba identity.

For full details go to: www.brisbanefestival.com.au



Skylore. Photo: JD Lin.



Baleen Moondjan. Photo: Roy VanDerVegt.



Preparing Ground.



TINA – A Tropical Love Story. Photo: Joseph Mayers.



The 2025 cohort of 'Bulaan Dalang Galii Naa Gan Ngaa Leen Duu' took part in a mural painting at the Bay Leaf cafe in Cavanbah (Byron Bay).

Emerging Bundjalung artists returning to Boomalli Gallery



ELEVEN emerging artists connected to Bundjalung Country on the north-coast of NSW who took part in the recent 'Bulaan Dalang Galii Naa Gan Ngaa Leen Duu' artists in residence program will be exhibiting works at Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative until 13 September in Leichhardt in Sydney.

The exhibition entitled *NYAA*, is curated by residency artist and mentor Kylie Caldwell, with exhibiting artists to include: Danielle Gorogo, Danza Deacon, Jo-Anne Driessens, Kyra Togo, Lai Duroux, Loren Del Signore, Oral Laurie, Penina Welch, Peter Faulkner, Taz Clay and Val Smith. The group recently took part in a mural painting project at the Bayleaf Cafe in Cavanbah (Byron Bay) ahead of the Sydney exhibition.

"In the Bundjalung language, 'Nyaa' translates to *look*", said Ms Caldwell.

"To *look* is to listen with one's eyes, transforming observation into an active process of learning

and understanding.

"By listening with one's eyes, individuals can draw on deeper insights and foster a greater understanding of cultural stories from artists living in Bundjalung. Observation is not merely a passive act but a powerful tool for gaining insight."

Ms Caldwell said the eleven participating artists have demonstrated their powers of observation to reveal their unique narratives, perspectives, and offerings deeply grounded in the rich visual landscape of regional culture.

"Their art reflects stories shaped by personal experiences, cultural heritage, and Country. *NYAA* celebrates the diversity of emerging Northern Rivers artists while inviting viewers to engage with these stories, which are born from observations leading to shared understanding and connections."

The 2025 Artist Residency program is supported by Create NSW, Creative Koori Projects, Byron Bay Council and Nagnata.

For more information go to: boomalli.com.au



Still from *The Djarn Djarns* film.

SongRites takes over the Opera House



SONGRITES, a new platform to celebrate the unique songlines of diverse First Nations communities

from across Australia will take over the Western Foyer and other venues of the Sydney Opera House from September 3 – 6.

Through broad program of contemporary storytelling, SongRites will continue the living history of Tubowgule (the site on which the Sydney Opera House sits) as a place of cultural exchange and creativity.

Anchored by artists committed to the retention of cultural practice and language, the program will offer Sydney audiences a rare opportunity to connect with regional and remote First Nations cultures.

Sydney Opera House's Head of First Nations Programming Michael Hutchings said SongRites was a celebration of the diverse and constantly evolving First Nations cultures that have thrived across the continent for millennia.

"The extraordinary artists we've assembled harness modern disciplines to share ancient traditions and languages in powerful ways using music, dance, screen and ceremony," he said.

The program includes a range of performances, conversations, film and digital storytelling including:

The Sydney premiere of *Song Spirals* on September 4

and 6 – a live interpretation of the groundbreaking book by the Gay'wu Group of Women, documenting the role of Yolngu women in crying the Songlines of North East Arnhem Land.

Created and choreographed by Rosealee Pearson, the evocative performance translates the ancient rhythms and songs of the Milkarri (song spirals) through dance, music and projection which will transport audiences to the heart of Yolngu country.

Also making its Sydney premiere on September 5 and 6 is *Arrkula Yinbayarra (Together We Sing)*.

Hailing from the remote Gulf of Carpentaria, this show is a passionate reclamation of the critically endangered Yanyuwa, Garwa, GudANJI and Marra languages.

A celebration of resilience through music, *Arrkula Yinbayarra* is created and performed by the Borroloola Songwomen with proud Yanyuwa and Wardaman woman Dr Shellie Morris AO, recently honoured by Creative Australia with the 2025 Red Ochre Award for Lifetime Achievement in Cultural Advocacy and Leadership.

'In conversation' events will play a big part in the SongRites program. On September 5, *Crying the Land to Life: A Journey into Yolngu Women's Song Spirals* will see Authors Merrkiyawuy Ganambarr – Stubbs and Djawandil Maymuru, and publisher Elizabeth Weiss, in conversation with Rosealee

Pearson about *Song Spirals*.

Through the lens of the award-winning book and the Gay'wu Group of Women – the collective of Yolngu and non-Aboriginal women who created it – this event will explore the passing down of women's wisdom and Songlines in North East Arnhem Land.

Singing Up Country: Stories, Songlines & Sisterhood on September 6 is an extension of *Arrkula Yinbayarra*.

This intimate panel presentation with the Borroloola women presents a personal glimpse inside their journey of creating their new album on Country and a rare behind-the-scenes look at life in the remote Gulf of Carpentaria.

Films and Digital Storytelling events will include:

SongRites Short Films on September 3 – an evening of short films by First Nations storytellers from regional communities including *Katele (Mudskipper)*, *The Djarn Djarns*, *Bala and Jarda Bura*, *Gurri Bura*, *Jarda Ngarli*, *Gurri Ngarli*.

And finally a screening of the iconic documentary-style drama *Wrong Side of the Road* on September 4 featuring Aboriginal bands No Fixed Address and Us Mob will remind audiences why this 1981 film remains so important.

For full program details go to: www.sydneyoperahouse.com/songrites



SongRites, Arrkula Yinbayarra. Photo: Matthew WF Wells.



SongRites, Brownsmart *Song Spirals*.

Prints inspired by rare Mabo maps on exhibit in Gurambilbarra



AN EXHIBITION that re-imagines the original boundary maps drawn by land rights champion Eddie Koiki Mabo by his daughter is currently showing until September 14 at Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts in Gurambilbarra (Townsville).

The exhibition, *Wer Wer (Boundaries)* by acclaimed Meriam (Mer/Murray Island – Zenadth Kes/Torres Strait) artist Gail Mabo were created during a residency in The Studio at Umbrella with master printmaker Dian Darmansjah.

The exhibition engages with personal, political and cultural histories through material investigations of memory, place and belonging.

The works mark a rare and moving intersection between generational storytelling and the visual language of sovereignty and cultural inheritance.

"These maps reflect the way our people understand and respect Country, lineage and ownership," Ms Mabo said. "*Wer Wer* honours my

father's fight and acknowledges the families who carry these boundaries forward."

"*Wer Wer* pays honour to my father, Edward Koiki Mabo, for the right of showing boundary markers between families and understanding the rightful owners of land on Mer / Murray Island, Ms Mabo said.

"These maps are my interpretation of my father's hand drawn maps which haven't been seen before except during his court case. My father's maps are now part of the National Library collection in the *Mabo Papers*."

This body of work combines new prints by Gail Mabo which translate repurposed archival mark-making by her father, Eddie Koiki Mabo.

In her collaboration with Mr Darmansjah, an artist, master printmaker and the Printmaking Coordinator at NorthSite Contemporary Arts in Gimuy/Cairns, Ms Mabo was introduced to carborundum collagraph and drypoint etching techniques, resulting in a highly textured, sophisticated new series which expands her practice into new territory.

Ms Mabo is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice spans sculpture, installation, printmaking and painting. Her work often weaves together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Knowledge systems with political histories, particularly those of her own family, to create powerful expressions of contemporary cultural advocacy.

Her practice continues to expand the visibility and influence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices, storytelling and Culture within contemporary Australian art.

In 2023, Mabo was a featured artist in *Weaving the Way* at QAGOMA and participated in *Know My Name: Making it Modern* at the National Gallery of Australia.

In recent years Mabo has also been commissioned to create major new works for Tarnanthi and Art Gallery of New South Wales. Her work is also held in other collections of national significance including the Queensland Art Gallery – Gallery of Modern Art, National Gallery of Australia and Artbank.

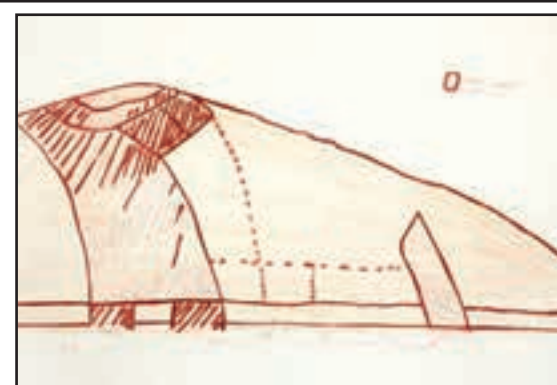
Also opening that night at



Gail Mabo.

Umbrella Studio is *Neural Architecture* by Geoffrey Schmidt, a conceptual mapping of memory, emotion and the elusive nature of consciousness. Rounding out the exhibition trio is *Scattered* by Barbara Pierce, a site-responsive installation composed of found materials, stitched canvas and painted fragments.

For more information go to <https://www.umbrella.org.au/>



Gail Mabo, *Wer Wer*.

Arts grants help men along well-being journey



JOURNEY Among Men, an arts mentoring program to support the mental health and well-being of male members

of First Nations communities has been awarded \$40,000 from the National Exhibitions Touring Support (NETS) Victoria 2025 Exhibition Development Fund.

Conceived by Koorie Heritage Trust (KHT) the project will support the mentoring of Victorian-based First Nations men by community Elders, passing on cultural knowledge through the design and production of carved cultural belongings.

KHT CEO, Tom Mosby said that importantly, the *Journey Among Men* program would take place on Country.

"This generous grant means we will be able to commence this important project, one that has long been in planning.

"It will see First Peoples cultural leaders mentoring and working alongside emerging artists including: Mick and Mitchil Harding (Taungurung), Kevin Williams (Waradjuri) and Earl Handy (Mutthi Mutthi), Brendan and Carl Kennedy (Tati Tati, Wadi Wadi and Mutthi Mutthi), Iluka Sax-Williams (Taungurung, Tibrean) and Lewis Wandin-Bursill (Wurundjeri)."

Journey Among Men is intended to build practical skills and share traditional knowledge of culture and Country through a series of First Peoples-led

workshops.

The project will culminate in an exhibition at KHT which will showcase works created during the mentored workshops.

Development of the exhibition's content, scope, themes and design, and that of the accompanying publication, will be characterised by collaboration, consultation and deep listening, guided by the cultural storytelling and creative approaches of the participating artists.

Chair of NETS Victoria's Board of Management, Bec Cole, said it was pleasing to name KHT as the exclusive recipient of NETS Victoria's Exhibition Development Fund.

"KHT's mentorship model to support early career First Peoples creatives won the hearts

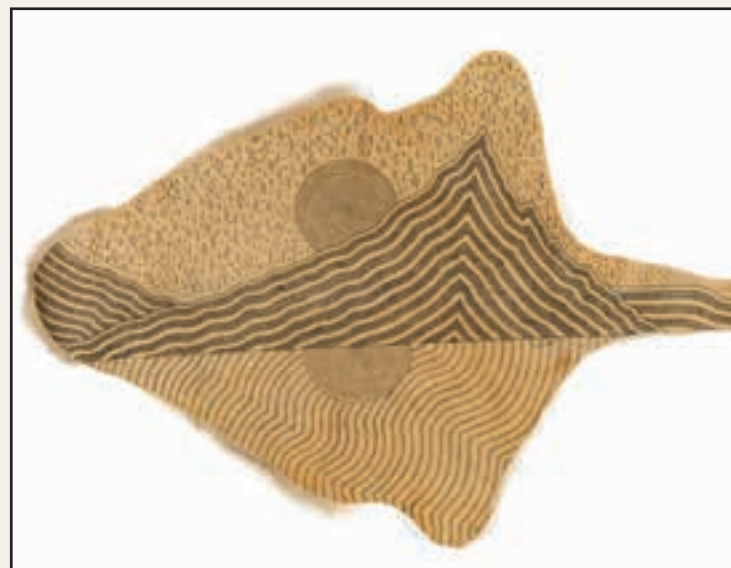
of our Artistic Program Advisory Committee, chaired by David Sequeira.

"We can't wait to see this important project come to fruition. This is the most significant investment NETS Victoria has ever made towards a project for the full available amount of \$40,000."

NETS Victoria Exhibition Development Fund is awarded biennially and is open to independent curators and incorporated not-for-profit arts organisations in Australia (including local councils, public galleries, festivals and other arts organisations). NETS Victoria Exhibition Development Fund is supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.



Iluka Sax-Williams 2023. Photo by Joshua Scott.



Iluka Sax-Williams, *Woorra Liwik*, 2022. Photo by Christian Capurro.

Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT

Bush-tucker project launch Employment grants are now available



Marcia Ropeyarn, Evelyn Billy, Titom Tamwoy and NHVR cadet, Kade Wallace.



THE National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) has helped Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to gain work through its diversity and inclusion policy and strategy.

Within this policy NHVR has made a clear commitment to improving its talent pipeline for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples through partnering with national apprentice employer networks and First Nations work experience agencies.

This policy and strategy has taken a step towards providing meaningful employment for First Nations peoples and assisting the NHVR in building working relationships with First Nations customers and clients.

The NHVR liaises with various First Nations local government areas at Aurukun, Doomadgee, Cherbourg, Hope Vale, Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Mapoon, Mornington

Island, Napranum, Northern Peninsula Area, Palm Island, Pormpuraaw, Torres Straits and Woorabinda.

As part of this ongoing strategy, Injinoo bush tucker man Titom Tamwoy was a special guest at the NHVR meeting in Townsville where he launched his Arpau Lag Bush Tucker project.

To coincide with Titom's launch, renowned TSI cook Evelyn Billy from Bina's Kitchen provided traditional food.

Inside the conference room where Titom spoke and Evelyn served her food were NHVR welcome signs.

"Titom is a horticulturalist and teacher from Bamaga region and this is his first official presentation on traditional Torres Strait botanical collection. NHVR sincerely welcomes Evelyn Billy and catering is her passion", the signs read.

Helping Evelyn was Marcia Ropeyarn who lives at Injinoo and has Mabuig and Cape York Ankamuti Aboriginal

connections.

"I provided coconut curry fish with vegetables, Simurr Pork and chicken, traditional scones, damper and a traditional saviour platters. Titom is my blood uncle and what we did was a good combination," Evelyn said.

Titom spoke about the benefits of bush tucker ingredients.

Titom said he used 11 bush tucker plants for a variety of medicinal and taste purposes. These included noni fruit, gum tree soap wood, goat's foots vine, sandpaper fig, paper bank, eucalyptus and SB Tristania.

"These are very good for medicine and also to flavour food at Kup Murris," Titom said.

Titom is a proud Torres Strait islander with ancestral roots on Badu from his father and Erub on his mother's side.

"As a First Nations person my connection to land and sea Country has shaped my knowledge and values from a young age. I was taught to understand and respect the

natural environment. Learning which plants thrive in different seasons, their traditional uses for medicine, food and hunting and how to walk with purpose and care on Country," he said.

To strengthen and formalise this knowledge Titom pursued qualifications in horticulture and environment health.

"These studies have expanded my understanding of the scientific and environmental, aspects of native fauna whilst reinforcing the value of Indigenous knowledge systems," he said.

Through his business Arpau Lag (Garden Places) Titom has shared this blend of cultural knowledge and formal training.

"I am passionate about teaching others the traditional use of plants, their scientific origins and the deeper cultural stories they hold. My goal is not only to preserve this vital knowledge but to inspire others to see the land as a living resource, rich in wisdom healing and history," he said.



THE NSW Government is leading its Closing the Gap commitments through a \$4 million targeted program delivering job and training opportunities for Aboriginal people across the state.

The Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Grant is named in honour of the first Aboriginal woman to secure a pilot's licence and one of the original founders of several critical Aboriginal institutions such as the Aboriginal Medical and Legal services.

Last year, the grant created more than 300 positions, with 219 of these being school-based apprenticeships and traineeships.

The grant gives employers the extra support needed to hire new staff, keep them in work, and help them build skills. It also helps cover wages and training costs for Aboriginal employees in government, local councils and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

Funding is available for a range of roles, including school-based traineeships, full-time jobs, and support for people finishing school or taking on adult apprenticeships. There's also funding to help upskill current Aboriginal staff or support part-time study.

The program is already changing lives. Korey Omeragic, who started a school-based traineeship in animal care, is now working as a Trainee Keeper at Taronga Zoo Sydney.

With support from the grant, Korey has gained practical skills and is working toward his goal of a long-term career in wildlife care.

As part of its ongoing commitment to Closing the Gap and strengthening Aboriginal employment outcomes, the Minns Labor government continues to invest in targeted initiatives such as the Barrangirra Mentoring Program.

This initiative provides culturally appropriate wraparound support to Aboriginal learners in vocational training, and Opportunity Hubs, connecting Aboriginal students with tailored education, training and employment pathways from school to work.

Applications are now open for the 2025-26 Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Grant. To find out more or apply by September 30 2025, go to <https://education.nsw.gov.au>

Your guide to employment

Welcome to the Koori Mail's Indigenous Job Opportunities section. Each edition we publish employment advertisements from around the nation. To be part of this section, simply contact advertising on (02) 66 222 666 or email advertising@koorimail.com 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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Onerwal Local Aboriginal Land Council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

(Attractive Remuneration Package Negotiable)

The Onerwal Local Aboriginal Land Council (OLALC) is seeking applications from experienced and motivated people interested in a rewarding career undertaking a new and challenging role of Chief Executive Officer.

This position has recently been established following amendments to the Aboriginal Land Rights Act, 1983 (ALRA) as amended, and provides an excellent opportunity for the successful applicant.

This position holder will provide an extensive range of assistance and support to the elected Board through the day-to-day management of the OLALC's affairs in accordance with delegated authorities; the provision of sound and accurate advice and the implementation of the Board's resolutions in a timely and appropriate manner.

The successful applicant will have demonstratable knowledge and understanding of the ALRA, the capacity to interpret and implement legislation and sound communication skills. Organisational and management experience is essential together with an understanding of accounting practices and principles. A sound knowledge and appreciation of Aboriginal issues would also be required.

All applicants must obtain a copy of the recruitment package containing the Position Description and selection criteria and address the selection criteria for their application to be considered. For a recruitment package contact the Contact OLALC Board, by email: onerwal@gmail.com or on (02) 6226 5349.

Applications can be forwarded to onerwal@gmail.com marked "Confidential" and posted to:

The Deputy Chairperson
Onerwal Local Aboriginal Land Council
PO Box 644
Yass NSW 2582

Applications close Friday 12 September 2025
Aboriginal people are encouraged to apply.



Chief Executive Officer

Full Time | Attractive Salary

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Join GLaWAC as Chief Executive Officer and guide the organisation through a period of transition and growth, strengthening economic opportunities and self-determination for the Gunaikurnai people.

In this role, you will:

- Guide strategic direction, strengthen financial sustainability, and ensure long-term organisational resilience.
- Lead high-level advocacy to influence policy and protect Gunaikurnai rights.
- Champion cultural stewardship, ensuring decisions are grounded in Gunaikurnai values.
- Expand economic development and enterprise opportunities for our people.
- Prepare the organisation to fully engage with Victoria's Treaty process and future First Nations governance opportunities.

We're looking for a leader to strengthen GLaWAC's role in protecting Country, advance self-determination, and deliver sustainable benefits for Gunaikurnai people, now and for future generations.

Applications close: Friday, 30 August 2025, 11:59PM

For further information about the position please contact BoardChair@glawac.com.au or visit gunaikurnai.org/jobs

Apply for a Community Road Safety Grant



Do you have an idea to improve road safety in your community?

The Community Road Safety Grants program provides funding to groups and organisations across NSW to deliver local projects that address specific road safety issues and promote safer road use.

Grants of up to \$5,000 and \$30,000 are available.

Applications close Monday 15 September 2025. Eligibility and selection criteria apply.

transport.nsw.gov.au/road-safety-grants





LT0614



Cadet Journalist

Applications NOW OPEN – Full time role | 2 year contract – Based in Lismore

As a cadet, you'll receive on-the-job training across all areas of editorial work.

You'll be involved in the full cycle of story development and publication, from pitching ideas to seeing your work in print and online. You'll also have opportunities to travel and report from different communities, attend events, and help bring Indigenous stories and voices to a wider audience. You'll be trained in interviewing, writing, sub-editing, page layout and design, and the editorial processes involved in producing a national publication.

This is an ideal opportunity for someone passionate about media, storytelling, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues. Whether you're fresh out of school, looking to switch careers, or just curious about how a newspaper works, this cadetship can be the start of a rewarding journey in news media.

Join us at the Koori Mail and build skills that last a lifetime.

All applications should be emailed to: editor@koorimail.com – Included should be a current resume/cv, a 1 page cover letter and an example of your writing, in the form of a short story. **Applications close COB Sunday 31st August.**

Are you our next Cadet Journalist?

Head to koorimail.com for more info – Identified position



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
80/4976	HORROCKS ENTERPRISES PTY LTD	735979	7.75HA	20.3km SE'ly of Halls Creek	Lat: 18° 19' S ; Long: 127° 49' E	HALLS CREEK SHIRE
80/4976	HORROCKS ENTERPRISES PTY LTD	735982	36.75HA	20.8km SE'ly of Halls Creek	Lat: 18° 19' S ; Long: 127° 49' E	HALLS CREEK SHIRE

Nature of the act : Grant of amalgamation applications which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals.

Notification day: 13 August 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 **13 November 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. 13 December 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_27433

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 34147 sought by AUDAX HOLDINGS PTY LTD, ACN 678 403 864 over an area of 5 Blocks (16 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the QUARTZ locality.



Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5951

Exploration Licence 34151 sought by BAUDIN RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 618 455 593 over an area of 250 Blocks (826 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the TAWALLAH RANGE locality.



Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 6066

Exploration Licence 34149 sought by GMG MINING (NT) PTY LTD, ACN 634 618 410 over an area of 2 Blocks (1 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the MCKINLAY RIVER locality.



Not To Scale NMIG Map Sheet No: 5271

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: 13 August 2025

www.koorimail.com

THE KOORI MAIL, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2025 | 45



Have your say on proposed changes to gas and pipeline regulations and guidelines for NSW

The NSW Government is inviting community feedback on proposed changes that will make it clearer and easier for landholders and private companies to negotiate land access for pipeline projects.

To support the legal powers under the *Pipelines Act 1967*, the NSW Government is creating new guidelines to:

- make the roles and responsibilities for seeking land access for surveys clearer so everyone understands what is involved
- provide greater clarity on what needs to be done to get agreements with landholders before compulsory acquisition can be considered by the Minister for Energy.

The NSW Government is also proposing to strengthen the requirements for operators under the *Pipelines Act 1967* and *Gas Supply Act 1996*, including penalties.

Consultation closes at 11.59 pm on Sunday 7 September 2025.

Scan the QR code to visit our website to learn more and provide your feedback.

If you have questions or need help to register for a session, contact DCCEEWConsultation@SECNewgate.com.au or call 1800 370 633.

www.energy.nsw.gov.au/public-consultations



Notice under Section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, Exploration Licence 6562, Exploration Licence 7194 and Exploration Licence 8817 (Act 1992)

This notice is given in accordance with the requirements of section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth).

Description of the nature of the act

Pursuant to the *Native Title (Right to Negotiate (Exclusion) — NSW Land) Determination No. 1 of 1996* (Cth), Exploration Licence 6562, Exploration Licence 7194 and Exploration Licence 8817 include a condition to the effect that the holder must not prospect on any land or waters covered by the licences in relation to which native title exists without the prior written consent of the Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992* (the 'Native Title Condition').

The Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992* intends to give consent to prospecting on land subject to native title in the licences in accordance with the *Native Title (Right to Negotiate (Inclusion) — NSW Land) Approval No. 1 of 1996* (Cth).

Should consent be granted, the licence holders may apply to renew or transfer the licences prior to them expiring (including partial renewals or partial transfers).

Note: If the consent is granted, it will apply to any renewal, re grant or re-making (including partial renewals or partial transfers) or extension of the term of the licences, which may be valid pursuant to section 24MD(1) of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) without a further notification under section 29.

Holder's details

Gum Ridge Mining Pty Ltd (ACN 108 530 650) is the holder of Exploration Licence 6562 for Group 1 minerals,

Gold and Copper Resources Pty Limited (ACN 124 534 863) is the holder of Exploration Licence 7194 for Group 1 minerals and

Gold and Copper Resources Pty Limited (ACN 124 534 863) is the holder of Exploration Licence 8817 for Group 1 minerals.

The licences contain a condition that the holder must not prospect on any land or waters on which native title exists without the prior consent of the Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*. The licence holders have sought the Minister's consent to conduct prospecting activities in the entire area of each licence.

Description of area that may be affected

The entire area of Exploration Licence 6562 which covers about 5 units and is situated approximately 16 kilometres southwest of Orange, in the State of NSW.

The entire area of Exploration Licence 7194 which covers about 1 unit and is situated approximately 16 kilometres south of Orange, in the State of NSW.

The entire area of Exploration Licence 8817 which covers about 11 units and is situated approximately 19 kilometres south southwest of Orange, in the State of NSW.

Name and postal address of person by whom the act would be done

The Minister administering the *Mining Act 1992*, PO Box 344, Hunter Region Mail Centre, NSW 2310.

How further information about the act and description of the area can be obtained

Further information may be obtained from: Assessments and Systems, NSW Resources within the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development on (02) 4063 6600 or titles@regional.nsw.gov.au.

Notification Day

For the purposes of section 29(4) of the *Native Title Act 1993* the notification day is 28 August 2025. 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.



Notice of a non-claimant application for determination of native title in Queensland

Notification day: 27 August 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 **26 November 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 26 November 2025**. Further information regarding how to file a Form 5 is available from www.fedcourt.gov.au. After **26 November 2025**, you will need to seek leave from the Federal Court to become a party.



Applicant's name: Mowburn Nominees Pty Limited (ACN 008 522 030)

Federal Court File No: QUD168/2025

Non-native title interest: The Applicant is the registered Lessee of Lot 3 on SP280701 (Tenure Reference TL 0/242153)

Order sought by Applicant: The applicant seeks a determination that native title does not exist in relation to the land and waters described as Lot 3 on SP280701 known as Glenore South excluding any land and waters within the external boundaries of QUD29/2019 *George on behalf of the Gkuthaarn and Kukatj People v State of Queensland* as determined by the Federal Court of Australia on 29 September 2020

Description of area: The application area covers about 35.5 sq km over part of Lot 3 on Survey Plan 280701 and is located approx. 90 km south of Normanton in Gulf Country

Relevant LGA: Carpentaria Shire Council

For assistance and any further information about this application, including the description of the area, call Jake Ellis on 07 3052 4189 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.



National
Native Title
Tribunal

CITY OF NEWCASTLE Carrington Boardwalk Construction

Contract No. 2026/022T

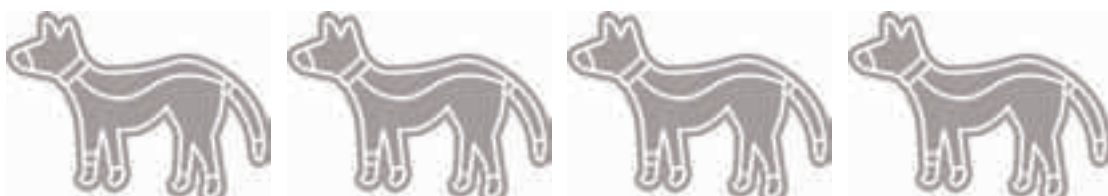
Tenders are invited and will be received up to **2pm Tuesday 2nd September 2025** for:

The City of Newcastle (CN) is seeking to appoint a main contractor to undertake the demolition and replacement of the Carrington Mangrove Boardwalk (North Section). The contractor will be required to work with Traditional Custodians to realise their Cultural Design on the boardwalk.

Documents are available electronically at <https://app.eprocure.com.au/ncc>. Responsibility for lodgement by the deadline lies solely with the tenderer. Lodgement information is provided in the tender document. Council is not bound to accept the lowest tender or any tender submitted.

Enquiries must be directed via the eProcure forum.

A non-mandatory pre-tender meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th August at 10am at Hargraves St end of the Carrington Mangrove Boardwalk.





NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO GRANT PETROLEUM SPECIAL PROSPECTING AUTHORITY

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 Petroleum Special Prospecting Authority application/s applied for under section 105 of the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967 (WA)*.

TITLE TYPE	APPLICATION NUMBER**	APPLICANT	CO-ORDINATES	AREA	SHIRE
Special Prospecting Authority	STP-SPA-0110	H2EX LTD	NE Corner: Lat: 26°24'55.21"S ; Long: 121°5'4.94"E SW Corner: Lat: 28°54'55.37"S ; Long: 119°45' 5.11"E	28135.19 km²	LEONORA SHIRE, SANDSTONE SHIRE, MENZIES SHIRE, WILUNA SHIRE

Nature of the act: The grant of a petroleum special prospecting authority will authorise the holder to explore for petroleum and to carry on such operations and execute such works as are necessary in accordance with the conditions to which the special prospecting authority is subject too, for a term of 6 months from the date of the grant.

Notification day: 13 August 2025

Native title parties: Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until three months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to applications. The three month period closes on **13 November 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 authority may be granted unless, within the period of 4 months after the notification day (i.e. **13 December 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 authority 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.

** - A technical description of the boundaries of the proposed petroleum special prospecting authority area can be provided on request

DMIRS_27435



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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*:

Mining No.	Renewal of Term No.	Applicant	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
M26/22	735709	HOLCIM (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD	22.85 Ha.	11km S'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 50' 35" S ; Long: 121° 25' 50" E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY

Nature of the act: The renewal of mining lease, which authorises the applicant to mine for minerals for a term of 21 years.

Notification day: 13 August 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 **13 November 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. 13 December 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 27434



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	15/2099	BLOKE RESOURCES PTY LTD	4BL	32.1km NW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 44' S ; Long: 120° 55' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	15/2124	DALLA-COSTA Melville Raymond	2BL	14.7km W'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 45' S ; Long: 121° 19' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE, KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	45/7098	GIULIA EXPLORATION PTY LTD	17BL	77.9km SW'ly of Marble Bar	Lat: 21° 29' S ; Long: 119° 4' E	EAST PILBARA SHIRE, PORT HEDLAND TOWN
Exploration Licence	47/4648	DE GREY MINING LTD	8BL	21km S'ly of Whim Creek	Lat: 21° 1' S ; Long: 117° 53' E	KARRATHA CITY
Exploration Licence	52/4415	CATALYST (PLUTONIC) PTY LTD	31BL	74km E'ly of Peak Hill	Lat: 25° 25' S ; Long: 119° 25' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3152	METALSGROVE MINING LTD	23BL	83.5km E'ly of Hyden	Lat: 32° 25' S ; Long: 119° 47' E	KONDININ SHIRE
Exploration Licence	80/6047	TECHGEN METALS LTD	21BL	50.6km E'ly of Halls Creek	Lat: 18° 6' S ; Long: 128° 7' E	HALLS CREEK SHIRE
Exploration Licence	80/6084	TECHGEN METALS LTD	36BL	43.5km E'ly of Halls Creek	Lat: 18° 4' S ; Long: 128° 2' E	HALLS CREEK SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6985-S	PELOW, Adyn Fletcher	9.86HA	17.7km NW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 48' S ; Long: 121° 5' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3538	MURTAGH, Jason Lee	196.83HA	12.1km S'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 28' S ; Long: 121° 4' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE, KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5750	ZULEIKA GOLD LIMITED	199.75HA	14.6km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 25' S ; Long: 120° 55' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5842	SPARGOVILLE MINERALS PTY LTD	156.98HA	15.3km NW'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 19' S ; Long: 121° 15' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5882	NUSKE, Geoffrey Bryon MAC, Vo Dinh ROSMALEN, Ben Karl	196.99HA	6.6km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 24' S ; Long: 121° 1' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5883	NUSKE, Geoffrey Bryon MAC, Vo Dinh ROSMALEN, Ben Karl	198.76HA	6.6km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 24' S ; Long: 121° 0' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4837	BELRES PTY LTD FLEMING, Sean David	191.43HA	8.7km S'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 49' S ; Long: 121° 27' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4843	SELF, Paul	28.67HA	28.2km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 2' S ; Long: 121° 54' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	38/4602-S	SALEMAN, Matthew Scot	9.87HA	37.2km N'ly of Laverton	Lat: 28° 17' S ; Long: 122° 27' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	53/1742	WAY, Jarvis Glen	93.44HA	94km SW'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 26° 59' 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: 13 August 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 **13 November 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.13 December 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

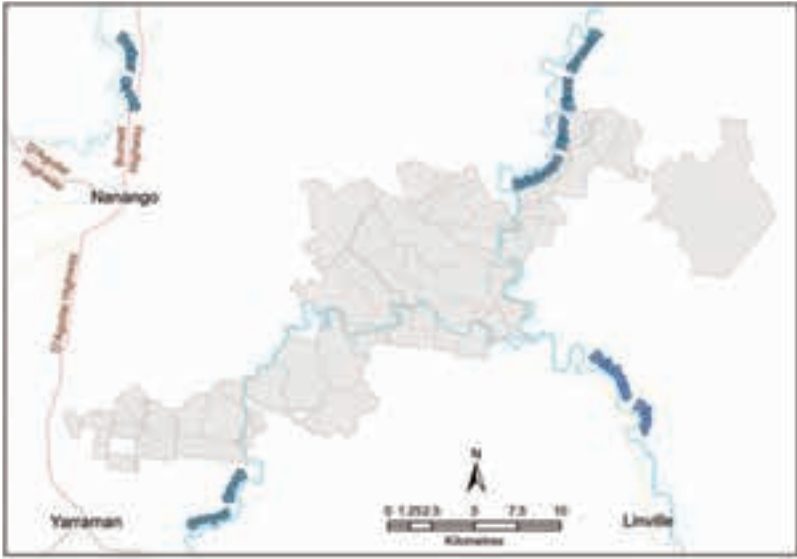
DMPE_27431



PUBLIC NOTICE (PROPOSED PLAN)
CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (Qld)
Section 96

Develop a CHMP	The Sponsor intends to develop a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) for the Project pursuant to Part 7 of the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (Qld)</i> (ACHA)
Project	Borumba Pumped Hydro Project – Transmission Connections
Sponsor	Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited
Contact	c/- Gavin Scott, Norton Rose Fulbright Telephone: +61 7 3414 2888 Email: gavin.scott@nortonrosefulbright.com
Address for service	Attention: Gavin Scott Norton Rose Fulbright Level 21, 111 Eagle Street Brisbane QLD 4000
Notice Day	15 August 2025
Plan Area	The CHMP will operate over the areas depicted on the enclosed map, which includes the following land parcels and easements: <div><div><div>• 1/SP299259</div><div>• 69/CSH715</div><div>• 2/RP105114</div><div>• 65/CSH715</div><div>• 75/CSH715</div><div>• 42/CA311494</div><div>• 66/CSH715</div><div>• 64/CSH715</div><div>• 1/CA31120</div><div>• 46/SP103180</div><div>• 39/CA311303</div><div>• 37/CA311342</div><div>• 40/CA311364</div><div>• R/AP4863</div><div>• A/AP4862</div><div>• 500/CSH1507</div><div>• 291/CSH346</div><div>• 444/CSH757</div><div>• K/AP4857</div><div>• L/AP4858</div><div>• 93/CSH720</div><div>• 94/SP187952</div><div>• 116/CSH1519</div><div>• 50/CSH84</div></div><div><div>• N/AP4860</div><div>• 438/CA311343</div><div>• 51/CSH1785</div><div>• 54/CA311300</div><div>• 52/CA311299</div><div>• 9/CA31541</div><div>• 56/CSH1868</div><div>• 91/CSH1837</div><div>• 71/RP859446</div><div>• 1/RL8830</div><div>• 2/SP299259</div><div>• A/SP299259</div><div>• B/SP299259</div><div>• 30/CSH776</div><div>• 22/CSH783</div><div>• 2/RP896531</div><div>• 1/RP896531</div><div>• 12/CSH1822</div><div>• 2/RP896538</div><div>• 68/CSH715</div><div>• 292/CSH346</div><div>• A/RP168639</div><div>• 556/CA311346</div><div>• P/AP4861</div></div><div><div>• 52/CSH647</div><div>• M/AP4859</div><div>• 57/CA311291</div><div>• 224/CA311292</div><div>• 37/AP6115</div><div>• 344/AP23882</div><div>• 316/FTY1545</div><div>• A/AP4695</div><div>• 77/CSH711</div><div>• 51/CSH1596</div><div>• 67/CSH715</div><div>• 72/CSH715</div><div>• 71/CSH715</div><div>• 73/CSH711</div><div>• 65/CA31901</div><div>• 66/CA31901</div><div>• 1/RP896538</div><div>• 67/CSH1711</div><div>• 7/RP49614</div><div>• 9/RP49614</div><div>• 13/RP49614</div><div>• 62/CSH715</div><div>• 70/CSH715</div><div>• 47/CSH1576</div></div></div>

If an Aboriginal Party for the Plan Area wishes to take part in developing the CHMP, written notice must be given to the Sponsor by **15 September 2025** (30 days after Notice Day). The Sponsor may elect not to endorse any Aboriginal Party if it is not advised in writing of an intention to take part in the development of the CHMP within the required time.



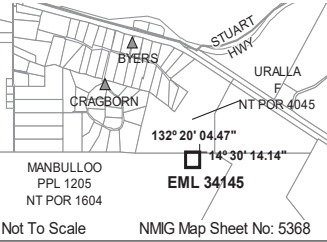
NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF AN
EXTRACTIVE MINERAL LEASE

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 her intent to do an act(s) namely to grant the following extractive mineral lease application.

The application to which this notice applies:

Extractive Mineral Lease 34145 sought by ADBRI CONCRETE AND QUARRIES NT PTY LTD, ACN 096 310 824 over an area of 10 Hectares depicted below for a term of 10 years, within the MANBULLOO locality.



the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries concerning becoming a native title party should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, GPO Box 9973, Brisbane QLD 4001, or telephone (07) 3307 5000.

Notification Day: 13 August 2025

Nature of act(s): The grant of an extractive mineral lease under the *Mineral Titles Act 2010* authorises the holder to extract or remove (whether by quarrying or other means) from, on or below the natural surface of the land, extractive mineral(s) for a term not exceeding 10 years and to seek renewal(s). The term for which it is intended to grant the extractive mineral lease/s 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 Centrepoint Building 48-50 Smith Street Darwin NT 0800, telephone (08) 8999 5213.

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



Central Darling Shire Council Local Government election
Saturday, 20 September 2025

Nominating as a candidate

Candidates are invited to nominate for the Central Darling Shire Council Local Government election.

A person must be enrolled in the Central Darling Council local government area by 6pm on Monday, 11 August 2025 to nominate as a candidate.

A person may be proposed for nomination by either a registered political party or by at least two electors enrolled in the ward the candidate is contesting, and who were enrolled in that ward no later than 6pm on Monday, 11 August 2025.

Nomination forms are available on the NSW Electoral Commission website. Candidates must also complete a candidate information sheet and statistical information sheet.

Nominations open on Monday, 11 August 2025 and close at 12 noon on Wednesday, 20 August 2025.

Nomination forms and the nomination deposit must be lodged by 12 noon on Wednesday, 20 August 2025. Late nominations or deposits cannot be accepted.

Nomination forms and the nomination deposit may be lodged in person at either:

- Returning Officer's Office, 35 Reid Street Wilcannia NSW 2836
- Menindee Council Office, 51 Yartla Steet Menindee NSW 2879
- Ivanhoe Council Office, 32 Columbus Street Ivanhoe NSW 2878

Nomination deposits must be paid in person by cash or by bank, building society or credit union cheque.

Nomination forms may also be sent by email to candidates@elections.nsw.gov.au but a nomination cannot be accepted until the nomination deposit is paid in person prior to the close of nominations at 12 noon on Wednesday, 20 August 2025.

Candidate information sheets

Each candidate must lodge a candidate information sheet, which is included in the nomination form. The candidate information sheet is in the form of a statutory declaration, so it must be signed and witnessed by an authorised witness for the nomination to be valid. Only certain people are authorised to witness a NSW statutory declaration. We recommend either a:

- Justice of the peace (a list of Justices of the peace can be found on the JP Public Register)
- Public notary
- Lawyer (with a current practising certificate).

The content of each candidate information sheet will be published on the NSW Electoral Commission website and made available for inspection at the Returning Officer's Office, the pre-poll (early voting) venue and all polling places.

Nomination of candidates and ballot paper draw

The Returning Officer will officially nominate the candidates whose nomination papers have been validly lodged and conduct the ballot paper draw at 10am on Thursday, 21 August 2025 at the Returning Officer's Office. The draw determines the order in which candidate names appear on the ballot paper.

Uncontested election

Should only one candidate be nominated for a ward, the election of that ward will be uncontested. If this occurs, a declaration of uncontested election for the ward will be made on Thursday, 21 August 2025 and will be published on the NSW Electoral Commission website.

Methods of voting

If any ward is contested the election will be held on Saturday, 20 September 2025 and will be conducted by attendance (that is, in-person) voting and postal voting.

Postal voting applications will open at 9am on Tuesday, 12 August 2025 and close at 5pm on Monday, 15 September 2025.

Postal votes and certificates must be completed by 6pm on the election day, Saturday, 20 September 2025 and received by the NSW Electoral Commission no later than 6pm on Friday, 10 October 2025.

Telephone assisted voting will be available for electors who are blind or have low vision. The telephone assisted voting service will be available from 9 am Monday, 15 September to 6 pm Friday, 19 September 2025.

The locations and times for pre-poll voting (attendance voting prior to election day) are published on our website.

Further information

- Visit elections.nsw.gov.au
- Email the candidate helpdesk at candidates@elections.nsw.gov.au
- Call the candidate helpdesk on 1300 022 011.
- If you are deaf, hard of hearing and/or have a speech impairment, please contact us through the National Relay Service (NRS). Choose your access option and ask for 1300 135 736.
- If you need an interpreter, please call TIS National on 131 450 and ask them to call the NSW Electoral Commission on 1300 135 736.

Rachel McCallum, Electoral Commissioner

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
– Invitation to Register Interest

Extent Heritage, on behalf of Brewarrina Shire Council and Projence (Contact details: Steve Young, stevey@projence.com.au), is undertaking an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report for proposed upgrades at Four Mile Reserve, Brewarrina.

Aboriginal people and organisations, who may hold relevant cultural knowledge for determining the significance of Aboriginal cultural heritage, objects and places in the area and who wish to be involved in the community consultation process are invited to register an interest.

The purpose of the consultation is to assist in the preparation of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application, if required, and to assist the Secretary of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water in their consideration and determination of the application.

To register an interest, please contact Sarah Janson (consultation@extent.com.au or by post to 3/73 Union Street, Pyrmont NSW 2009) **by 27 August 2025**.

Please note, we are required to provide your details to Heritage NSW and the relevant Local Aboriginal Land Council, unless you specify you do not want your details released.

Please call (02) 9555 4000 for enquires.



Australian Government
Australian Heritage Council

Australian Heritage Council – Expressions of Interest invited to fill vacancies

The Minister for the Environment and Water is seeking to appoint 2 members to the Australian Heritage Council (the Council) to fill anticipated vacancies.

The Council plays an important role in the Australian Government’s national system for recognising and protecting Indigenous, natural, and historic heritage. The Council provides independent advice on the assessment, listing, protection and promotion of National and Commonwealth Heritage places.

Candidates must have substantial experience or expertise concerning natural heritage, be highly collaborative and have significant standing in their relevant fields.

Appointments are part-time. Remuneration for members of the Council is determined by the Remuneration Tribunal and the current annual salary is \$39,580 p.a.

To Apply:

Submit an application via the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water recruitment system, dcceew.gov.au/about/jobs/apply, by **11:30 pm AEST Sunday 31 August 2025**.

For further information, email AHC.Secretariat@dcceew.gov.au

1320NS_5663



Aboriginal Health Council
of South Australia Ltd.

The Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia Ltd (AHCSA) honours the life and legacy of

Mr. Leslie ‘Les’ Kropinyeri

a proud Aboriginal leader, tireless advocate, and cherished member of our community.

Les devoted decades to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people, serving with strength, wisdom and heart. From his role as CEO and Chairperson at Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service to his longstanding service on the AHCSA Board, including as Chairperson and Treasurer, Les’s impact was deep and enduring.

In 2018, AHCSA proudly awarded Les with our Honorary Life Membership, a recognition of his lifetime of service, leadership, and commitment to Aboriginal health.

We extend our deepest condolences to Les’s family, friends, and the communities he served so passionately.



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	15/1924	OPHIR MINING RESOURCES PTY LTD	88.95HA	24.9km SW'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 18' S ; Long: 121° 26' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Mining Lease	16/599	HAYES MINING PTY LTD	7.68HA	32.4km N'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 40' S ; Long: 121° 3' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Mining Lease	39/1174	SELGA, Mark	99.32HA	51.3km E'ly of Leonora	Lat: 28° 44' S ; Long: 121° 49' E	LEONORA 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: 13 August 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 **13 November 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. 13 December 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 27432

NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF REPLACEMENT PETROLEUM LEASE

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* of the proposed grant of a replacement Petroleum Lease (PL) shown below, subject to the provision of the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 (Qld)*.

Nature of Act(s): The grant of a replacement Petroleum Leases under section 908 of the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 (Qld)*, to replace an existing lease originally granted under the *Petroleum Act 1923 (Qld)*. The replacement Petroleum Leases authorises the holder explore for, develop and produce commercial quantities of petroleum for a maximum term not exceeding twenty (20) years with the possibility of renewals for terms not exceeding twenty (20) years.

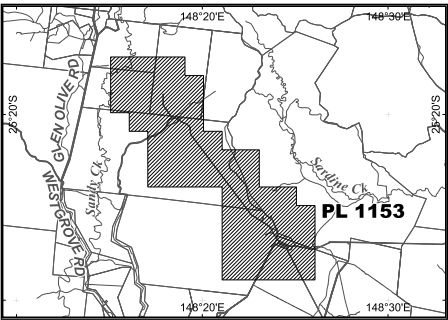
Name and Address of person doing Act(s): It is proposed that the replacement Petroleum Lease be granted subject to the provisions of the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 (Qld)* by the Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002.

Native Title Parties: Under the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* any person who is a “native title party” is entitled to certain rights in relation to the proposed grant of replacement Petroleum Leases. 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.

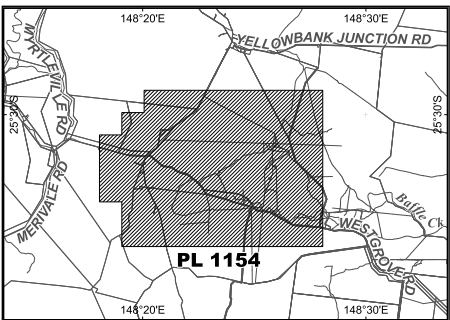
Further information: May be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development, Level 4, 1 William Street, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3199 8119 or Email: petroleumhub@resources.qld.gov.au.

Notification Day: 27 August 2025

PL 1153 applied for by Australia Pacific LNG Pty Limited ACN: 001 646 331 and Denison Gas (Queensland) Pty Ltd ACN: 616 105 643, over an area of 58 Sub-blocks (approx. 179.61 km²), centred approximately 53 km North-West of Injune, in the locality of Maranoa Regional Council.



PL 1154 applied for by Australia Pacific LNG Pty Limited ACN: 001 646 331 and Denison Gas (Queensland) Pty Ltd ACN: 616 105 643, over an area of 65 Sub-blocks (approx. 201.03 km²) centred approximately 36 km North-West of Injune, in the locality of Maranoa Regional Council.



M18069



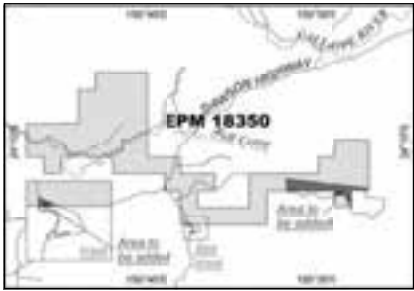
Queensland
Government

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ADDITION OF EXCLUDED LAND INTO AN EXPLORATION PERMIT FOR MINERALS AND PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION PERMIT FOR COAL AND EXPLORATION PERMIT FOR MINERALS

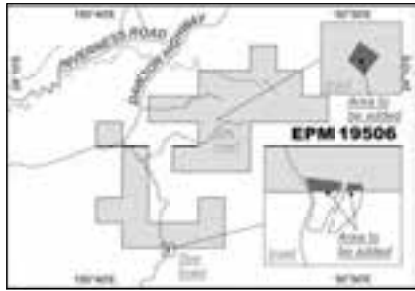
NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

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 addition of excluded land under section 176A of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) (Excluded Land) into Exploration Permit for Minerals (EPM) shown below and proposed grant of Exploration Permit for Coal (EPC) and Exploration Permit for Minerals (EPM) shown below, subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld).

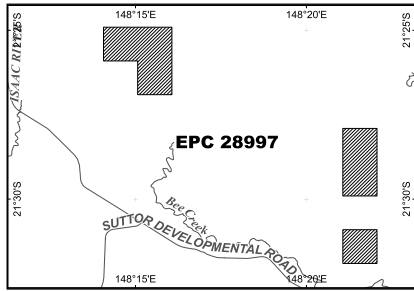
Proposed addition of Excluded Land into EPM 18350 applied for by Signature Gold Pty Ltd, ACN 142 902 985, over an area of 53 sub-blocks (166 km²), centred approximately 32 km North-Northeast of Biloela, in the locality of the Banana Shire Council and Gladstone Regional Council.



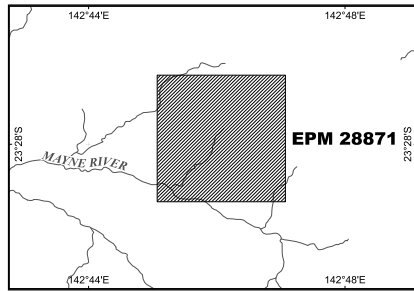
Proposed addition of Excluded Land into EPM 19506 applied for by Signature Gold Pty Ltd, ACN 142 902 985, over an area of 27 sub-blocks (84 km²), non-contiguous over two areas, centred approximately 30 km Northeast of Biloela, in the locality of the Banana Shire Council and Gladstone Regional Council.



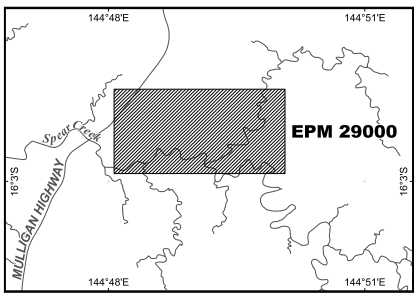
EPC 28997 applied for by Hail Creek Coal Holdings Pty Limited, ACN 625 050 722, Marubeni Resources Development Pty Ltd, ACN 009 932 236 and Sumisho Coal Development Queensland Pty Ltd, ACN 082 435 149, over an area of 6 sub-blocks (22 km²), non-contiguous over three areas, centred approximately 24 km Southeast of Glenden, in the locality of the Isaac Regional Council.



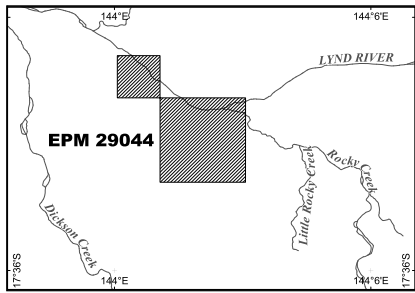
EPM 28871 applied for by Elizabeth Hay Walker, over an area of 4 sub-blocks (13 km²), centred approximately 125 km South-Southwest of Winton, in the locality of the Winton Shire Council.



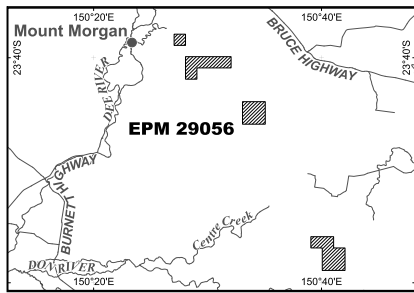
EPM 29000 applied for by Edmund Henry Jennings, over an area of 2 sub-blocks (7 km²), centred approximately 20 km South-Southwest of Lakeland, in the locality of the Cook Shire Council.



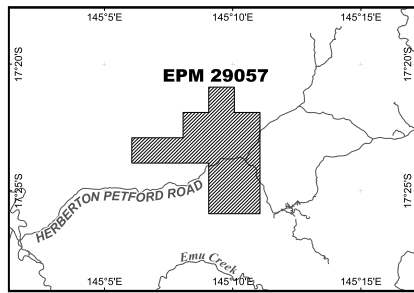
EPM 29044 applied for by Tate Operations Pty Ltd, ACN 143 929 579, over an area of 5 sub-blocks (16 km²), centred approximately 68 km Southwest of Chillagoe, in the locality of the Mareeba Shire Council.



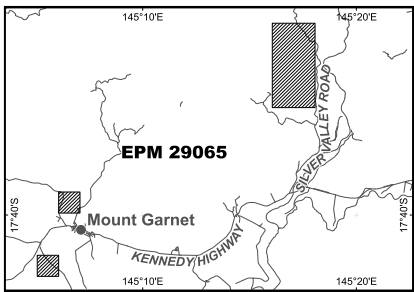
EPM 29056 applied for by PTR Resources Pty Ltd, ACN 153 851 702, over an area of 16 sub-blocks (50 km²), non-contiguous over four areas, centred approximately 36 km South of Rockhampton, in the locality of the Banana Shire Council, Gladstone Regional Council and Rockhampton Regional Council.



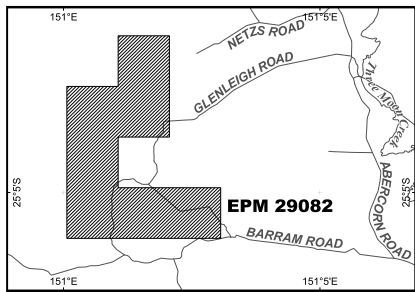
EPM 29057 applied for by Itani Resources Limited, ACN 649 345 308, over an area of 13 sub-blocks (42 km²), centred approximately 25 km West of Herberton, in the locality of the Mareeba Shire Council.



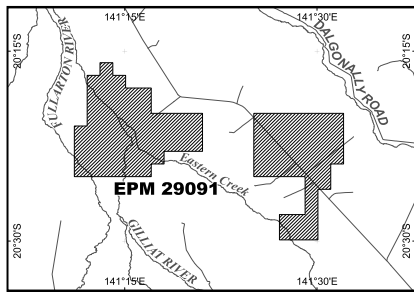
EPM 29065 applied for by Huntore Austin Pty Ltd, ACN 676 024 365, over an area of 10 sub-blocks (33 km²), non-contiguous over three areas, centred approximately 12 km Northeast of Mount Garnet, in the locality of the Tablelands Regional Council.



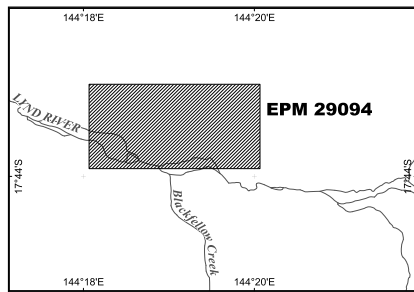
EPM 29082 applied for by Gallium Qld Pty Ltd, ACN 669 503 333, over an area of 7 sub-blocks (22 km²), centred approximately 24 km South-Southwest of Monto, in the locality of the North Burnett Shire Council.



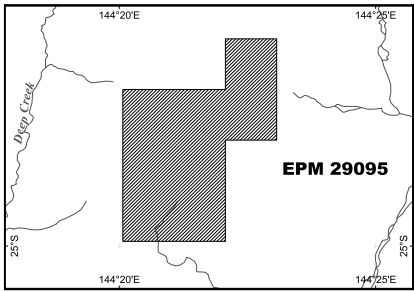
EPM 29091 applied for by Advanced Precision Agriculture Pty Ltd, ACN 612 798 080, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (321 km²), non-contiguous over two areas, centred approximately 50 km Northwest of Julia Creek, in the locality of the McKinlay Shire Council.



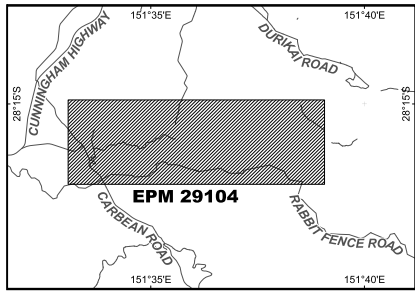
EPM 29094 applied for by Kathy Maree Roccella, over an area of 2 sub-blocks (7 km²), centred approximately 47 km North of Mount Surprise, in the locality of the Mareeba Shire Council.



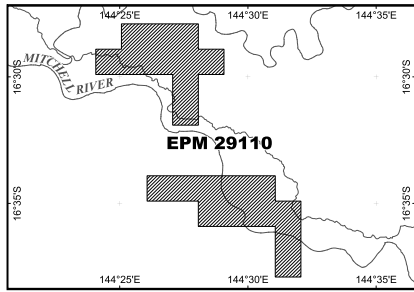
EPM 29095 applied for by Norma K Mining Pty Ltd, ACN 655 288 190, over an area of 8 sub-blocks (25 km²), centred approximately 127 km Southwest of Blackall, in the locality of the Longreach Regional Council.



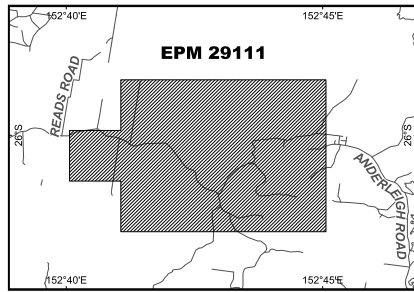
EPM 29104 applied for by Antoni Brinner and Daniel Mark Herlaar, over an area of 12 sub-blocks (36 km²), centred approximately 43 km West-Southwest of Warwick, in the locality of the Goondiwindi Regional Council and Southern Downs Regional Council.



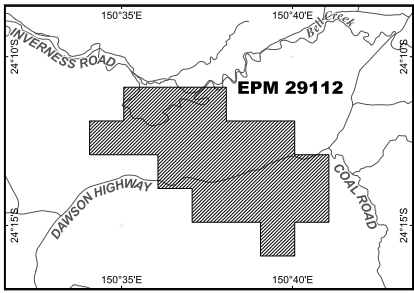
EPM 29110 applied for by Hardrock Mineral Exploration Pty Ltd, ACN 646 002 888, over an area of 21 sub-blocks (69 km²), non-contiguous over two areas, centred approximately 86 km South-Southwest of Lakeland, in the locality of the Mareeba Shire Council.



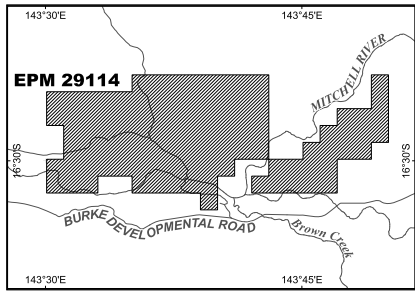
EPM 29111 applied for by 1205 Pty Ltd, ACN 669 387 562, over an area of 13 sub-blocks (40 km²), centred approximately 14 km East of Gunalda, in the locality of the Gympie Regional Council.



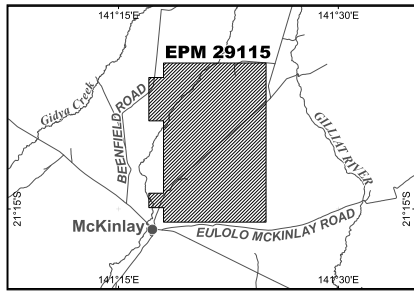
EPM 29112 applied for by Amerod Resources Pty Limited, ACN 121 526 083, over an area of 19 sub-blocks (59 km²), centred approximately 23 km Northeast of Biloela, in the locality of the Banana Shire Council.



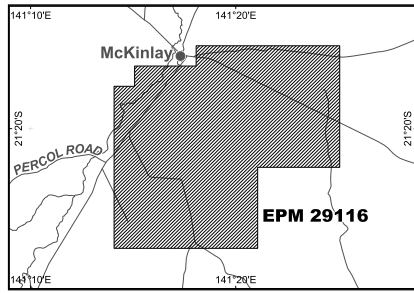
EPM 29114 applied for Aurum Vale Pty Ltd, ACN 608 719 955, Mayra Eugenia Foster and Stuart Valentine Foster, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (328 km²), centred approximately 119 km Northwest of Chillagoe, in the locality of the Mareeba Shire Council.



EPM 29115 applied for by Longreach No 1 Pty Ltd, ACN 146 922 394, over an area of 81 sub-blocks (259 km²), centred approximately 13 km Southeast of McKinlay, in the locality of the McKinlay Shire Council.



EPM 29116 applied for by Longreach No 1 Pty Ltd, ACN 146 922 394, over an area of 89 sub-blocks (284 km²), centred approximately 13 km Southeast of McKinlay, in the locality of the McKinlay Shire Council.



Nature of Act(s): The grant of an application to add Excluded Land into the Exploration Permit for Minerals and the grant of the Exploration Permit for Coal and Exploration Permit for Minerals under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld), authorises the holder to explore for coal and minerals for a term not exceeding five (5) years with the possibility of renewal for a term not exceeding five (5) years. It is proposed to grant the add Excluded Land into the Exploration Permit for Minerals and grant and renew the Exploration Permit for Coal and Exploration Permit for Minerals subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) and the Native Title Protection Conditions.

Name and Address of person doing Act(s): It is proposed that the addition of Excluded Land into the Exploration Permit for Minerals and the grant of the Exploration Permit for Coal and Exploration Permit for Minerals be 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 addition of Excluded Land into the Exploration Permit for Minerals and the grant of the Exploration Permit for Coal and Exploration Permit for Mineral. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), persons have until three (3) months after 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: (07) 3248 1100 or Email: qldreg@fedcourt.gov.au.

Further information: May be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development – For Exploration Permit for Minerals Mineral Assessment Hub, Level 9, Verde Tower, 445 Flinders Street, Townsville, Queensland, 4810. Telephone: (07) 4447 9230 or Email: MineralHub@resources.qld.gov.au. For Exploration Permit for Coal Assessment Hub, Corner of Bruce Highway and Yeppoon Road, Parkhurst, Queensland, 4701. Telephone: (07) 4936 0169 or Email: CoalHub@resources.qld.gov.au.

Expedited Procedure: The State of Queensland considers the addition of Excluded Land into the Exploration Permit for Minerals and the grant of the Exploration Permit for Coal and Exploration Permit for Mineral to which this notice applies, is an act attracting the Expedited Procedure. The addition of Excluded Land into the Exploration Permit for Minerals and the Exploration Permit for Coal and Exploration Permit for Mineral may be granted unless, within a period of four (4) months after the Notification Day a native title party lodges an objection in respect of the individual addition of Excluded Land into the Exploration Permit for Minerals and the grant of the Exploration Permit for Coal and Exploration Permit for Minerals with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grants are a future act attracting the Expedited Procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3052 4040.



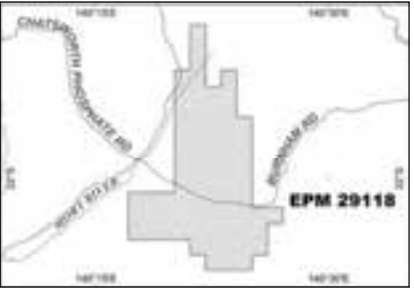

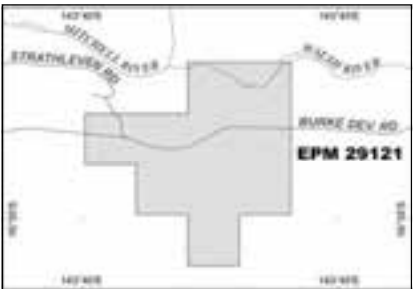
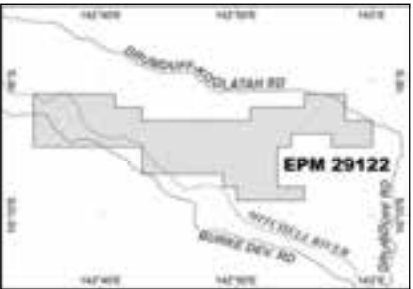



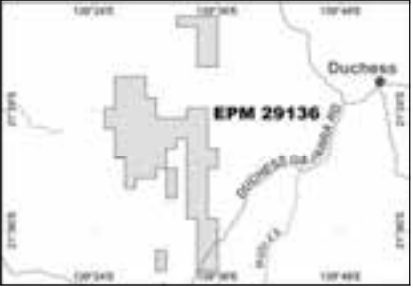


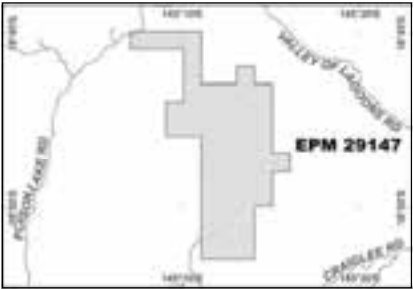
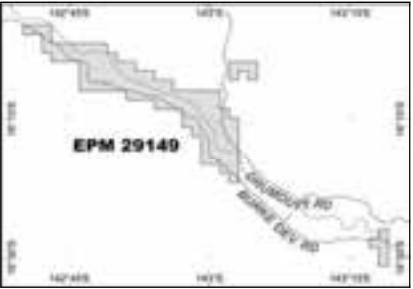
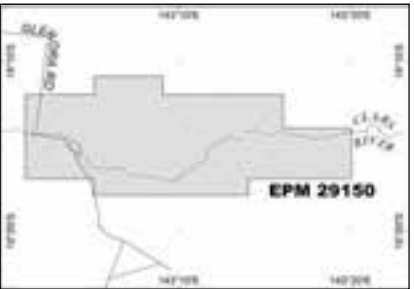
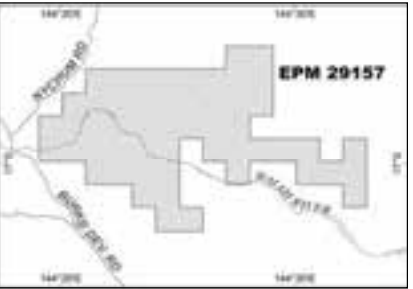
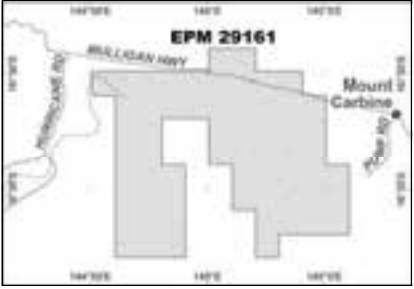


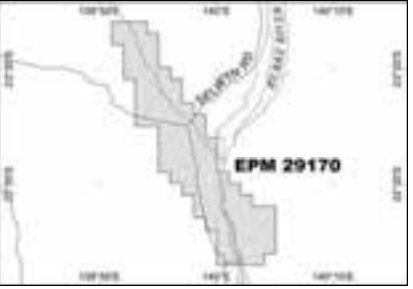
Notification Day: 27 August 2025



NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF MINERAL DEVELOPMENT LICENCE AND GRANT OF EXPLORATION PERMIT FOR MINERALS

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) of the proposed grant of the Mineral Development Licence (MDL) and grant of Exploration Permit for Minerals (EPM) shown below, subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld).

<p>MDL 3056 applied for by Square Eastern Pty Ltd, ACN 147 828 626, over an area of 1804.2400 hectares, centred approximately 50 km Southwest of Moura, in the locality of the Banana Shire Council and Central Highlands Regional Council.</p> 	<p>EPM 29117 applied for by Longreach No 1 Pty Ltd, ACN 146 922 394, over an area of 91 sub-blocks (290 km²), centred approximately 21 km Southwest of McKinlay, in the locality of the McKinlay Shire Council.</p> 	<p>EPM 29118 applied for by Renegade Exploration (QLD) Pty Ltd, ACN 645 510 078, over an area of 74 sub-blocks (235 km²), centred approximately 95 km Southeast of Dajarra, in the locality of the Cloncurry Shire Council.</p> 	<p>EPM 29119 applied for by Oldfield Resources Pty Limited, ACN 151 506 946, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (328 km²), centred approximately 30 km North of Chillagoe, in the locality of the Mareeba Shire Council.</p> 
<p>EPM 29121 applied for by Ian Earl Wallace, over an area of 10 sub-blocks (33 km²), centred approximately 160 km Northwest of Dimbulah, in the locality of the Mareeba Shire Council.</p> 	<p>EPM 29122 applied for by Aurum Vale Pty Ltd, ACN 608 719 955, Mayra Eugenia Foster and Stuart Valentine Foster, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (329 km²), centred approximately 132 km Southeast of Kowanyama, in the locality of the Carpentaria Shire Council, Cook Shire Council and Mareeba Shire Council.</p> 	<p>EPM 29123 applied for by Aurum Vale Pty Ltd, ACN 608 719 955, Mayra Eugenia Foster and Stuart Valentine Foster, over an area of 99 sub-blocks (325 km²), centred approximately 185 km Southeast of Kowanyama, in the locality of the Mareeba Shire Council.</p> 	<p>EPM 29125 applied for by Cheviot Hills Uranium Pty Ltd, ACN 681 029 274, over an area of 37 sub-blocks (119 km²), centred approximately 132 km North-Northwest of Hughenden, in the locality of the Etheridge Shire Council and Flinders Shire Council.</p> 
<p>EPM 29128 applied for by Justin Owen O'Reilly, over an area of 4 sub-blocks (13 km²), centred approximately 119 km South-Southwest of Winton, in the locality of the Winton Shire Council.</p> 	<p>EPM 29136 applied for by Nova Strategic Minerals Pty Ltd, ACN 604 969 673, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (319 km²), non-contiguous over three areas, centred approximately 82 km South of Mount Isa, in the locality of the Boulia Shire Council and Cloncurry Shire Council.</p> 	<p>EPM 29145 applied for by Texas Silver Pty Ltd, ACN 101 540 952, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (301 km²), centred approximately 26 km Southwest of Inglewood, in the locality of the Goondiwindi Regional Council.</p> 	<p>EPM 29146 applied for by Texas Silver Pty Ltd, ACN 101 540 952, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (302 km²), centred approximately 14 km East of Inglewood, in the locality of the Goondiwindi Regional Council.</p> 
<p>EPM 29147 applied for by Sturt Exploration and Mining Pty Ltd, ACN 609 157 119, over an area of 50 sub-blocks (162 km²), centred approximately 34 km North-Northeast of Greenvale, in the locality of the Charters Towers Regional Council.</p> 	<p>EPM 29149 applied for by Aurum Vale Pty Ltd, ACN 608 719 955, Mayra Eugenia Foster and Stuart Valentine Foster, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (329 km²), non-contiguous over three areas, centred approximately 146 km Southeast of Kowanyama, in the locality of the Carpentaria Shire Council and Mareeba Shire Council.</p> 	<p>EPM 29150 applied for by Batholith Resources Pty Ltd, ACN 605 495 501, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (323 km²), centred approximately 54 km Southwest of Gilberton, in the locality of the Croydon Shire Council.</p> 	<p>EPM 29157 applied for by Oldfield Resources Pty Limited, ACN 151 506 946, over an area of 53 sub-blocks (174 km²), centred approximately 23 km North-Northwest of Chillagoe, in the locality of the Mareeba Shire Council.</p> 
<p>EPM 29161 applied for by Robert Alexander Shephard, over an area of 61 sub-blocks (200 km²), centred approximately 14 km West-Northwest of Mount Carbine, in the locality of the Mareeba Shire Council.</p> 	<p>EPM 29162 applied for by Idemitsu Minerals Australia Pty Ltd, ACN 659 562 099, over an area of 94 sub-blocks (303 km²), centred approximately 80 km North-Northwest of Julia Creek, in the locality of the McKinlay Shire Council.</p> 	<p>EPM 29169 applied for by Hardrock Mineral Exploration Pty Ltd, ACN 646 002 888, over an area of 59 sub-blocks (194 km²), non-contiguous over two areas, centred approximately 48 km West-Southwest of Mount Carbine, in the locality of the Cook Shire Council and Mareeba Shire Council.</p> 	<p>EPM 29170 applied for by Hammer Bulk Commodities Pty Ltd, ACN 600 367 477, over an area of 97 sub-blocks (307 km²), centred approximately 54 km North of Boulia, in the locality of the Boulia Shire Council.</p> 

Nature of Act(s): The grant of the Mineral Development Licence under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld), authorises the holder to do all things that are authorised under the Mineral Development Licence over the area of the application and carry out activities leading to the evaluation and economic development of the ore body for a term not exceeding five (5) years with the possibility of renewal for a term not exceeding five (5) years. The grant of the Exploration Permit for Minerals under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld), authorises the holder to explore for minerals for a term not exceeding five (5) years with the possibility of renewal for a term not exceeding five (5) years. It is proposed to grant and renew the Mineral Development Licence and Exploration Permit for Minerals subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) and the Native Title Protection Conditions.

Name and Address of person doing Act(s): It is proposed that the Mineral Development Licence and the Exploration Permit for Minerals be 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 grant of the Mineral Development Licence and Exploration Permit for Minerals. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), persons have until three (3) months after 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: (07) 3248 1100 or Email: qldreg@fedcourt.gov.au.

Further information: May be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development – For Exploration Permit for Minerals Mineral Assessment Hub, Level 9, Verde Tower, 445 Flinders Street, Townsville, Queensland, 4810. Telephone: (07) 4447 9230 or Email: MineralHub@resources.qld.gov.au. For Exploration Permit for Coal Assessment Hub, Corner of Bruce Highway and Yeppoon Road, Parkhurst, Queensland, 4701. Telephone: (07) 4936 0169 or Email: CoalHub@resources.qld.gov.au.

Expedited Procedure: The State of Queensland considers the grant of the Mineral Development Licence and the Exploration Permit for Minerals to which this notice applies, is an act attracting the Expedited Procedure. The Mineral Development Licence and the Exploration Permit for Minerals may be granted unless, within a period of four (4) months after the Notification Day a native title party lodges an objection in respect of the individual Mineral Development Licence or Exploration Permit for Minerals with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of the future acts 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, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3052 4040.

Notification Day: 27 August 2025



MDL3056

NOTICE OF AN AUTHORISATION MEETING FOR A LAND ACCESS AGREEMENT AND SECTION 31 DEED—EL8888



When: Saturday 6 September 2025
10:00am – 5:00pm

Where: South Grafton Ex-Servicemen’s Club
2 Wharf Street South Grafton NSW 2460
With option to attend remotely (see below)

Who should attend: Western Bundjalung Native Title Holders being the descendants of the following apical ancestors:

- (a) Herbert 'Hunter' Avery (who was born in Grafton circa 1881);

(b) King Bobby (who was born circa 1840s);

(c) Queen Jinny Little (who was born in Yugalbar in 1840);

(d) Richard 'Old Dick' Donnelly (who was born in Timbarra circa 1870);

(e) Jane 'Jenny' 'Barbin Boatshed' Brown (who was born in Baryulgil circa 1855);

(f) Thomas 'Tom' Donnelly (who was born in Tenterfield circa 1877);

(g) Thomas Gordon (who was born in Copmanhurst in 1870);

(h) Ethel Bawden (who was born in Yugalbar in 1884);

(i) Grace Kelly also known as Grace Lardner (who was born on the Orara River circa 1876);

(j) Mariah Little (who was born in Baryulgil circa 1855);
- (k) William 'Billy' 'Charles' Charles (who was born circa 1860);

(l) Harry Joseph Mundine (who was born in Tabulam in 1868);

(m) Teresa Agnes 'Ponjam' Derry (who was born in Tabulam in 1872);

(n) Mick 'Bucky' Robinson (who was born in Timbarra/Tenterfield circa 1859);

(o) Kate Gatton (who was born circa 1870);

(p) Matilda 'Tilly' Gatton (who was born in Yugalbar in 1879);

(q) Harry Walker (who was born circa 1850);

(r) Jenny 'Ginny' Pearson (who was born circa 1860);

(s) Alice Tindal also known as Alice Brown (who was born in Lionsville circa 1870);

(t) William Pearson (who was born in Gordon Brook in 1872).

and persons adopted or incorporated into the families of those persons and who identify as and are accepted as Western Bundjalung People in accordance with Western Bundjalung traditional laws and customs (and the biological descendants of any such adopted or incorporated persons).

Background

To be consulted about and make decisions in relation to consenting to Ngullingah Jugun (Our Country) Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (ICN 8672) (NJ(OC)AC) entering into and executing an Ancillary Land Access Agreement with Newtech Exploration Pty Ltd and Lionsville Gold Pty Ltd and a Section 31 Deed with Newtech Exploration Pty Ltd and Lionsville Gold Pty Ltd and the Minister for Natural Resources for Exploration Licence EL8888.

Newtech Exploration Pty Ltd and Lionsville Gold Pty Ltd (together, ‘the Explorer’) have applied for the Minister’s Consent to prospect (explore) on any land or waters on which native title has not been extinguished within the area of Exploration Licence EL8888. Lionsville Gold Pty Ltd is the holder of EL8888. Lionsville Gold Pty Ltd is wholly owned by Newtech Exploration Pty Ltd.

EL8888 is approximately 32km south south east of Drake, and falls wholly within the external boundary of the Western Bundjalung Native Title Determination Area. Western Bundjalung Peoples’ native title rights and interests have been recognised over approximately 82% of the area subject of EL8888.

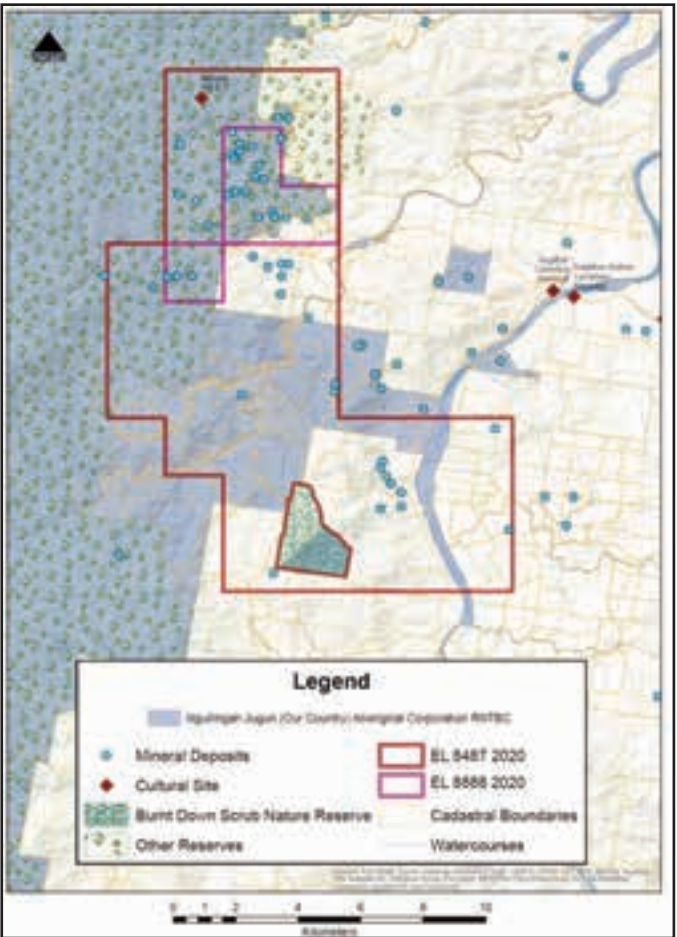
Under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth), the registered native title body corporate, Ngullingah Jugun (Our Country) Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (NJ(OC)AC), has a right to negotiate with the Explorer on behalf of Western Bundjalung People in relation to the grant of Minister’s Consent. NJ(OC)AC does not have a right to veto the grant of Minister’s Consent to prospect.

NJ(OC)AC has negotiated a draft Ancillary Land Access Agreement with the Explorer and a draft Section 31 Deed with the Explorer and the Minister for Natural Resources.

The draft Ancillary Land Access Agreement includes a package of benefits in exchange for NJ(OC)AC’s agreement to the grant of Minister’s Consent.

At this Western Bundjalung People Authorisation Meeting, Western Bundjalung People native title holders will be consulted about, and asked whether they give their consent to NJ(OC)AC to enter into and execute the draft Ancillary Land Access Agreement with the Explorer and the draft section 31 Deed with the Explorer and the Minister for Natural Resources.

The area proposed to be subject to the Ancillary Land Access Agreement and Section 31 Deed is the area subject to EL8888, where native title has been determined to exist and the Minister’s Consent to prospect is required, as shown in the map to the right.



Agenda for the Meeting

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

2. Confirm the decision-making process for any decisions made during the meeting, including any decisions in relation to consenting to NJ(OC)AC entering into and executing the Ancillary Land Access Agreement and Section 31 Deed for Exploration Licence EL8888;

3. To be consulted about and make decisions in relation to consenting to NJ(OC)AC entering into and executing the Ancillary Land Access Agreement and Section 31 Deed for Exploration Licence EL8888;

(a) Consultation and background on the negotiations between (NJ(OC)AC) and the Explorer in relation to EL8888;

(b) Advice and information regarding the draft Land Access Agreement between NJ(OC)AC and the Explorer and the draft section 31 Deed between NJ(OC)AC, the Explorer and the Minister for Natural Resources which has been negotiated; and

(c) Following this discussion, Western Bundjalung People native title holders will be consulted about and make a decision in relation to consenting to NJ(OC)AC entering into and executing the Ancillary Land Access Agreement between NJ(OC)AC and the Explorer and the Section 31 Deed between NJ(OC)AC, the Explorer and the Minister for Natural Resources.
4. Any other business.

Attending the Meeting

Attending in person

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided at the venue.

Mileage assistance and accommodation may be available in accordance with NTSCORP’s meeting assistance policies.

If you require accommodation **you will need to contact NTSCORP by telephone or email with confirmed details, by no later than 5:00pm on 29 August 2025.**

Please note if you do not contact NTSCORP by **5:00pm on 29 August 2025** to confirm your request for accommodation assistance, NTSCORP cannot guarantee we will be able to assist accommodation arrangements — although you would still be more than welcome to attend the meeting.

Attending remotely

If you wish to attend by videoconference, or telephone, please inform NTSCORP by **Friday 5 September 2025** to make arrangements for you to be able to attend this meeting by videoconference and/or by telephone.

NTSCORP’s contact details are: Freecall 1800 111 844 or (02) 9310 3188

Post: P.O. Box 2105, Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012

Email: CFC@ntscorp.com.au

Should you have any queries or simply require further information, please do not hesitate to contact NTSCORP Limited.

25 First Nations icons in '25

Kurtley Beale

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

They say Rugby Union is the game they play in heaven and if that is the case Kurtley Beale is headed that way. Born in Blacktown, New South Wales, and growing up in Western Sydney, Beale first played rugby league for the Western City Tigers before converting to union.

A 184cm (6'0"), 90kg talent born in 1989, Beale usually plays at full-back or centre but can also be used as a fly-half or winger.

A prodigious talent and electrifying player, he is a play maker and a game breaker, having plenty of attacking flair.

His other strengths include his speed and strong kicking skills.

His Indigenous heritage is with the Dharug nation.

Beale attended Saint Joseph's ('Joey's') College and played first XV Rugby Union in his three senior years and was destined for a career in the code. He was a member of the New South Wales and Australian Schoolboys Teams between 2004 and 2006, captaining these sides in the last of those years.

Beale was also involved in 'Joeys' hat-trick of GPS titles.

By the age of 17, he had already attended his first Wallabies national camp.

With the launch of the Australian Rugby Championships in 2007, Beale became the starting fly-half for the Rams.

At the end of that campaign, he was awarded the 2007 Player of the Tournament by the ARC, whilst still a teenager.

From 2007-11 Beale had his first stint with the New South Wales Waratahs, appearing in 58 games and scoring 141 points during this period.

He had two seasons with the Melbourne Rebels and returned to the Waratahs for three more stints.

In 2016 Beale agreed to play with the English club, Wasps RFC, but a patella tendon injury curtailed his time in Britain.

In '21 and '22 he played with the Northampton Saints in the European Rugby Championships Cup and in '24 signed with Perth-based super Rugby league team the Western Force on an injury replacement until the end of that season

At national level he represented the Wallabies on 95 occasions between 2009 and 2021 scoring 159 points.

He was Wallaby cap number 836 and made his test debut in the Rugby Union stronghold of Cardiff against Wales back in 2009.

Previously, as already mentioned, Beale played for the Australian



Kurtley Beale captained the inaugural First Nations and Pasifika XV side against the British and Irish Lions recently.

Schoolboys; he made three appearances for the Australian A-Team in 2007 and also played for the National Under 20s Australian team in 2009.

In 2011 Beale received the John Eales Medal, awarded to Australian rugby's Player of the Year.

In the 2013 season he played against the British and Irish Lions for the Wallabies.

He played a key role in the 2015 World Cup, making it to the final but losing to the powerful New Zealand side despite a brave comeback in the second half of the final

In a nice synergy, at the backend of his career, as recently as last month Beale captained the inaugural First Nations and Pasifika XV side against the British and Irish Lions, where the team was gallant against a powerful opponent.



Kurtley Beale sets up for a conversion. Pictures Peter Argent.

Australian Football League

By PETER ARGENT



As the AFLW 2025 season starts this week, 21 First Nations women's talents are spread across 15 of the 18 clubs, with one of the foundation clubs Brisbane leading the way with three Indigenous participants.

AFLW enters its 10th season across nine years and among this group of girls are a number of the stars of the competition.

Adelaide – Danielle Ponter (72 games, 82 goals)

Already in the sweet spot of her career, Darwin girl Danielle Ponter started back in 2019 and is a dual premiership player – in her first season and in 2022 season six.

Consistency and ability to impact games are among her strengths, along with her goal-kicking prowess.

There is AFL football royalty in her genes, as Ponter is the niece of former Essendon great Michael Long and the cousin of former Hawthorn premiership star, Cyril Rioli.

She was an All-Australian in 2023, and in the squad of 42 last winter.

Brisbane (3) – Ally Anderson (93 games, 11 goals)

Alexandria "Ally" Anderson is on the brink of immortality in the AFLW space. With a good early run, Anderson will become the inaugural 100-game AFL Women's footballer.

She has been there from the start, playing in the inaugural stand-alone game back in 2013 between Melbourne and the Western Bulldogs.

Her list of achievements includes a couple of flags – 2021 and 2023 – a trio of AFL Women's All-Australian team selections in 2019, 2023 and 2024; along with Brisbane best and fairest award four times – 2019, 2021, 2023 and 2024.

She was the AFLW best and fairest in season seven of the 2022 calendar year.

Dakota Davidson (63 games, 69 goals)

One of the key power-forwards in the AFLW, Dakota Davidson has played a big role in both the Lions 2021 and 2013 flags.

Her ability to have a marking presence and kick important goals has seen her deliver key performances when it matters most.

Along with her pair of AFLW premiership in 2021 and 2023 she was selected in the AFL Women's All-Australian team in the second of those two title-winning seasons.

She was a twice winning Brisbane leading goalkicker also in those premiership campaigns.

Courtney Hodder (63 games, 38 goals)

From the West and a key asset up forward for the Lions, Courtney Hodder is a cross-coder – formerly a Rugby Union Full Back – who has become one of the leading small forwards in the AFLW.

Lightning quick, Hodder has shown the ability to deliver a freakish act.

Her CV includes a "Goal of the Year" accolade, a couple of AFL premierships in 2021 and 2023, along a Rising Star nomination in her first season.

She played rugby for the Western Force and the Queensland Reds in the Super W and was the top try-scorer in the competition in 2018.

Collingwood (2) - Kalinda Howarth (35 games, 20 goals)

Crossing over from Gold Coast where she spent five seasons – as well as one with the Brisbane Lions – Kalinda Howarth will add both experience and class in attack for the Pies.

She will be as good as a new-recruit in 2025, having spent her first season with the Pies (2024) on the sidelines as she rehabilitated her ACL injury.

Originally from Coolangatta Tweed in the QAFLW, her debut season AFL Women's All-Australian team was back in 2020.

An AFL Women's Rising Star nominee last year, she was Gold Coast leading goal-kicker in her first two seasons.

Mattea Breed (20 games, 3 goals)

Originally from the Darwin Buffettes and with two stints in SANFL football, Mettea Breed was drafted to Hawthorn with Pick 4 in the AFLW Season Eight supplementary draft.

After two impressive seasons at the Hawks where Breed notched up 20 games, the midfielder moved across to the Magpies during the 2024 off-season.

Now 23, Breed is expected to provide a spark in the Pies' engine room and has signed until the end of 2026.

Essendon – Madison Prespakis (67 games, 29 goals)

Madison Prespakis is one of the league's most influential players.

The ball winning midfielder is one of the classiest in the competition.

Starting at Carlton, Prespakis won the AFLW best and fairest in the covid-ruined 2020 campaign.

There are three AFL Women's All-Australian team selections and four best and fairest awards – three at the Blues and one at the Bombers.

In her opening campaign, Prespakis was AFL Women's Rising Star and the AFLPA AFLW best first-year player.

Fremantle – Gabby Biedenweg-Webster (14 games, 4 goals)

Signing as a replacement player during pre-season in 2024, Gabby instantly impressed at the Dockers with her strong marking ability and dashing pace.

Making her Fremantle debut in round 3, 2024, Gabby slotted into the side's line-up seamlessly, playing every remaining game for the season, with the 27-year-old proving to be reliable and versatile.

She has been able to move between the back and forward line when required, and booting four goals for the season.

Previous to that, Biedenweg-Webster had been on the Gold Coast list for two seasons, playing just three games.



Ally Anderson breaks clear.



Dakota Davidson celebrates her second goal in the final term.



Mia King kicks out of defence.

Womens '25 season preview



Danielle Ponter.



Gemma Houghton celebrates with the spectators.



Nat Plaine.

Geelong – Georgie Prespakis (41 games, eight goals).

One of the competition's elite midfielders Georgie Prespakis thrives in the contest and drives the ball forward, while also applying pressure defensively to win the ball back off the opposition.

In a 2024 campaign interrupted at times by injury Prespakis, whose sister Madison plays for Essendon, still played nine matches, averaging 20.2 disposals, 5.7 tackles, and 5.6 clearances per game.

In her second AFLW season she was selected in the Women's All-Australian team (2022 Season 7) and was Geelong best and fairest in the 2023 campaign.

Gold Coast – Heidi Talbot (0 games, 0 goals)

The electric Cairns product talent, Heidi Talbot is a well-balanced, hard-running utility. She starred for the Suns Academy in 2024 after earning the opportunity to represent Queensland in 2023.

She averaged 20.8 disposals, seven tackles and three inside 50s in the Coates Talent League. This teenager is expected to receive her first AFLW opportunity this season.

Greater Western Sydney (2) – Aliasha Newman (63 games, 23 goals)

An exciting talent with 63 games of AFLW experience, Newman joined Greater Western Sydney ahead of the 2024 season following a trade with the Swans.

Born in Victoria, Newman, who will turn 30 during the season, is a well-travelled footballer, having previously been a part of Melbourne, Collingwood and the Swans programs after originally being recruited by the Demons as a free agent in 2016.

A speedy and elusive footballer who loves to run and carry, Newman can play as a permanent forward or on the wing.

Claire Ranson (12 games, 0 goals)

A Tassie recruit, who joined GWS via the Gold Coast Suns where she played two games in her debut season, Ranson was consistent, playing 10 games for the Giants in 2024.

A versatile midfielder whose skills are effective inside and outside, Ranson is noted for her decision-making and work rate.

Ranson was originally taken by the Suns after starring for the Tasmania Devils in the NAB League girls' competition.

She was drafted after being named in both the 2021 and 2022 NAB League Teams of the Year.

Hawthorn – Kaitlyn Ashmore (81 games, 28 goals)

Originally on the Brisbane Lions list in 2017 and 2018, Kaitlyn Ashmore played with the North Melbourne Kangaroos for

the following four campaigns, before becoming a part of the Hawks outfit as they moved onto the AFLW competition.

Her endurance and ability to run in both attack and defence is pivotal for the Hawks and she is not shy to put her body on the line in contests.

A pioneer, now 33, this will be Ashmore's 10 season across nine years in AFLW programs.

North Melbourne – Mia King (63 games, 5 goals)

From East Launceston in Tasmania, Mia King is one of the Kangaroos' cult heroes.

Her ability to contribute week-in, week-out at senior level has made her a key midfield leader.

A gutsy inside player, King often tops the tackle count for her side and helps set the tone.

In 2023 she put the competition on notice by finishing sixth across the AFLW for average tackles, including huge totals of 14 and 13 (on two occasions).

Her 13 clearances against the Lions were the most any player has ever recorded during an AFLW Grand Final.

She improved again in 2024, racking up the second-most tackles across the competition, while playing every game en-route to a prized premiership medal.

Port Adelaide (2) – Gemma Houghton (74 games, 77 goals)

Star forward Gemma Houghton is one of the most athletic and talented forwards in the competition. The two-time All-Australian sits in the top ten of AFLW's all-time leading goalscoring list, a testament to her accuracy in front of goal. Her pace and ability to turn games around makes Houghton a particularly dangerous asset.

Despite being born and raised in Western Australia, Houghton was a Port Adelaide supporter growing up. Houghton is affectionately nicknamed 'Aunty' – a nickname stemming from her maternal nature and First Nations roots.

Jasmin Stewart (37 games, 6 goals)

The other Power Indigenous player from the West, Jasmin Stewart played 22 games for Fremantle before stepping away from football in April 2022 to focus on life outside of football.

After leaving the AFLW, she returned to WAFLW club Claremont and was awarded the best on ground medal in her side's winning grand final.

The skilful left-footer returned to elite sport with fresh drive, evident in her impressive 2023 season with the Power.

Stewart played five games in 2024 and she will look to cement her spot in the lineup.

Richmond – MacKenzie Ford (11 games, 3 goals)

Ford is a dangerous player with explosive pace who can quickly move from stoppages,

being powerful and strong in a contest.

The 163cm Tasmanian missed round one with a hamstring complaint but featured in very other game of her debut AFLW season. Expect Ford to continue to grow as a player in 2025.

St Kilda (2) – Natalie Plane (50 games, 6 goals)

Blue-turned-Saint Nat Plane has proven time and again why she is such a valuable member of the St Kilda side both on and off the field.

Versatile in her on-field roles but primarily plying her trade as a defender, Plane joined in 2023 and has since produced two solid seasons.

Plane has strong pressure around the contest, nailing career-high tackle numbers in 2024.

The reliable half-back represented Carlton across 36 matches, making her debut in the inaugural AFLW match in 2017.

J'Noemi Anderson (19 games, 5 goals)

The inaugural First Nations AFLW player signed to St Kilda, becoming the fourth Anderson sibling after Joe, Jed and Jasmine to make it to the highest level.

When she first arrived at St Kilda, Anderson was presented the club's distinguished No. 7 guernsey made famous by Nicky Winmar, with the sporting great presenting her with the jumper when she first arrived.

A relentless forward/midfielder, Anderson was given a Rising Star nomination and was awarded the Saints Best Emerging Player award in 2024, noted for her ferocious tackling and talented natural skill-set.

Sydney – Zipporah Fish (0 games, 0 goals)

An 18-year-old raw talent Zipporah "Zippy" Fish joins the Swans from East Fremantle and was taken with pick five in the 2024 AFLW draft.

The explosive midfielder has turned heads in her draft year, known for her blistering pace after having only picked up the game just four years ago. Her journey has already been a remarkable one, having grown up in Newman in the Pilbara, approximately 13 hours northeast of Perth.

Western Bulldogs – Naomi Ferres (60 games, 2 goals)

Selected with the club's first selection in the 2017 AFL Women's Rookie Draft. Has solid skills, reads the ball well and is ultra-reliable. Was nominated for the 2018 AFLW Rising Star award in the Round 7 win over Melbourne.

Ferres took a memorable game-saving mark to secure the Bulldogs' 2018 flag and became the Bulldogs' fourth 50-gamer in 2022 season seven.

Carlton, Melbourne and the West Coast Eagles do not have a First Nations Australian Rules women's footballers on their lists.

Rumbalara club is all about family, respect and loyalty

By KRIS FLANDERS



FOR many regional and remote communities right across the country, their sporting clubs are the lifelines and heartbeats.

The team has a win and the whole town is happy for that week and then it starts again with the anticipation and the excitement of what the next round of action will bring.

That's what each week feels like for the Rumbalara Football and Netball club in Shepparton situated 184 kilometres north-west of Melbourne in Victoria.

The club officially started in 1997 after much hard work from the Aboriginal community there, but as one of the club founders Uncle Paul Briggs declared, the history goes much deeper than that.

"It's a symbolic club where we can chase our roots right back to the Cummeragunga mission days in the 1890s when they had football teams. When people walked off and protested against the treatment under the Aboriginal Protection Act in 1939, they set up another team here in Shepparton, called the All Blacks. They played one year, won the premiership and then got dumped the next year. The role of football in the lives of Aboriginal people here has always been present here and always been a celebration," Briggs explained.

The words loyalty, respect, determination, integrity and passion are emblazoned across the Rumbalara dressing sheds and other buildings that make up their home ground.

It's a code they live by and strive to uphold.

"Proud, strong family is another mantra here. It's amazing to know we are making a footprint here in Shepparton, it's a fantastic place to be, we have matured as a club and



Rumbalara seniors running out for a game.



Paul Briggs.

what we stand for," Briggs said.

John Murray is another who fought hard for the establishment of the club.

As he watches on from the sidelines and cheers on the young boys, men, girls and women playing football and netball for Rumbalara he knows that the fight was worth it all.

"It's fantastic, the amount of work that was put into it, being rejected from Leagues and the racism we faced. We had to break down a lot of walls to get here. Very proud sitting here and I've watched them from babies, you

know, to be out there now playing," Murray said.

"The Rumbalara social club building here is so important, it's where we all meet, we have all our history on the walls. The photos, trophies and flags so that we always remember where we come from, what we've done and what we can do in the future," Murray said.

Corey Walker is the Rumbalara club president and also played football in the red, yellow, black and blue colours.

He believes they're a family club through and through.

"The club has been part of my life since I was a teenager, my kids are here and my grandkids are running about. It's a culturally safe hub for the community to come together as a Mob. We love our sports here and it's an institution and a modern day ceremonial place for us," Walker said.

"It's not just about sport here, we also provide a 'Homework Club' where we help students with their education and provide opportunities outside of sport too. It's about that capacity building and building partnerships in the

community and getting sponsors that will help us grow."

The netballers have been an integral part of the family fabric at Rumbalara and they've been shooting goals ever since the inception.

In fact the Rumbalara netballers are flying the flag proudly for the club with the seniors team being undefeated since 2023. They went through all the way to the title without dropping a game last year and the Rumba women are on their way to defending that trophy in 2025.

Jess Bamblett is player/coach in that side and says it's an honour to play for the club and it's standing in Shepparton.

"A big part of my passion is about breaking down barriers, especially the idea that you have to be Aboriginal to be part of Rumbalara. While we are proud of our cultural identity, we are also a welcoming, inclusive and community driven club," Bamblett said.

"We want people from all walks of life to come here and feel the warmth, the support and the sense of pride that lives within our club. We are a successful club and we want to keep building something that people want to be part of, not just the Aboriginal community, but everyone who values connection, respect and opportunity."

Bamblett says the Rumba netball has provided many opportunities for the young girls and women of the area to be social and play sport.

From Under-11s to the Under-17s in the juniors and four seniors sides, there is a clear platform for females to play, stay and aim high at Rumbalara.

"We've created a full pathway for our girls to develop, compete and thrive. It's about building skills, confidence and leadership. Helping our girls reach their full potential both on and off the court," Bamblett said.

"We've already seen some of our girls achieve great things, being talent identified for Netball Victoria State teams, through both Aboriginal and mainstream pathways. That's something we're incredibly proud of. But our dream is bigger. We want to watch them on TV playing in the Super Netball League or even wearing the green and gold for the Australian Diamonds."

AFL clubs target star players for next season

IN the AFL world, trade talks and coach sackings are high on the agenda at the moment. Simon Goodwin is no longer coaching the Melbourne FC and Nasiah Wanganeen-Milera has people saying he will be the first ever \$2 million player.

It's so good to see a young Aboriginal footballer, at the start of his career under such demand, he is so talented and some say the best player in the league at the moment. He deserved the freedom to choose where he would like to play and to be paid the right price for it.

With his contract up at the Saints at the end of the year and returning home a big part of the decision, it seems it's a Port or Crows decision.

Port Adelaide CEO Matthew Richardson believes he can get a deal done for Nasiah Wanganeen-Milera. I would say brother boys Jase Burgoyne and Jason Horne-Francis will be a big part of the decision process for Nasiah Wanganeen-Milera.

What I hope is that Port Adelaide don't drop the ball and think that that is enough for Nasiah Wanganeen-Milera. He is clearly worth the money and his contract should reflect his worth, not relying on our people's connection, to be what gets him over the line.

Crows are keen on him too with former Adelaide captain Rory Sloane saying "he is the final piece of the club's premiership puzzle." The deals are being negotiated between both the Crows and Port with St Kilda said to be offering him, a potential \$1.4 million a season, over two years. It's big money but the kind of money he deserves.

Personally, I would love to see Nasiah go to Port Adelaide, the way he plays, the players that will be around him and culturally I think this club suits him. But that is just my opinion, ultimately it is up to him, we have to respect that he will be under a lot of pressure and will be second guessing himself. I know he has good people around him that he can trust for counsel and I hope it's his decision, based on what is right for him, his career and his wellbeing.

In AFLW news, they recently had their AFLW season launch and it looks like everyone is ready to get this season started and have some fun out there. The 10th AFLW season is set to kick off on Thursday August 14 at Ikon Park, with traditional rivals Carlton and Collingwood.

Captains have shared their predictions at the launch with a majority saying they think last year's premiers North Melbourne are set to go back-to-back. North Melbourne's Jasmine Garner still tipped to be the league's Best and Fairest, she is an absolute gun. Not long to go AFLW fans!



Shelley Ware



Rumbalara undefeated premiership winners 2024



Dogie Cochrane in his element. Picture Peter Argent.

Cochrane arrives in style

By PETER ARGENT



THIRD generation Central District Bulldog Dougie Cochrane, still just 17, made his SANFL league debut in round 16 of the 2025 season on Saturday, August 2... and he delivered in spades.

Cochrane, the Kevin Sheehan Medallist from the National Under 16s championships in 2024, was promoted despite being sidelined for eight weeks with a hamstring injury.

He went from SANFL Under 18s football, where he played two fixtures against Norwood and Sturt, bypassing the reserves directly into the league side for the clash with North Adelaide at the Ponderosa.

"He loved it, that was the most important part," Central District Football Manager Mark Ross said.

"Dougie suggested the speed of the game was a step up, but he suggested that in a way it was easier than colts footy, because of team-mates blocking and helped off the ball.

"He was very exciting, and he is in that special club that kicked a goal with his first kick in league footy – actually, he kicked goals with his first two kicks in league football.

"Dougie's ability to read the game is exceptional and he has the skill execution

to back that up."

Cochrane, after having his first league jumper presented to him by team-mate Brin Little, had an immediate impact on the game.

He kicked a goal at the seven-minute mark of the opening term kicking towards the Chris Gowans or Northern end of X-Convenience Stadium, Elizabeth and had a second on the board at the 10-minute mark.

He kicked another two majors in the second quarter, his fourth a brilliant crumb off the pack, after he was perfectly positioned front and centre at a marking contest.

Cochrane finished with 11 disposals, five marks and four goals and was chosen for the Round 16 SANFL Powerade Breakthrough Player award winner for his efforts as well.

Dogie is the second son of former North Melbourne and Port Adelaide AFL player Stuart, who also played in the 2004 and 2025 SANFL premierships at the Bulldogs.

Dogie's Uncle Richard Cochrane Junior is a six-time SANFL league premiership player through the golden era of the club in the 2000s, where the club won nine flags in 11 years.

Both Dougie's grandfather Richard Cochrane senior and great Uncle Bill played 172 and 174 games respectively a league level back in the 1970s.

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Photographed on Gadigal Country



Thanks for the memories Slammin' Sam!

EVERYBODY loves a big prop forward who rolls the opposition, strikes fear into defensive lines and makes opposing forwards think twice about running anywhere near them.

That was the way Sam Backo went about his rugby league. With news of his sad passing that's the way many rugby league fans will remember the big fella.

The robust prop forward certainly skittled many tough fellow forwards and scared the living daylights out of backs who had the unenviable job of trying to stop the colossus in defence.

Affectionately known as 'Big Slammin' Sam'. The 64-year-old giant lost his battle with melioidosis, which he had been diagnosed with earlier this year. Backo also had suffered from heart complications throughout the years.

Backo played for Canberra and Brisbane and was also a star in the representative arena for Queensland and Australia.

He was named in the Indigenous Team of the Century in 2001 in the starting line-up which also the great Arthur Beetson in the forwards, a recognition that was an honour to him. Overall he played 135 NRL games for Canberra and Brisbane.

One of the greatest Raiders, he debuted for the Green Machine in



Kris Flanders

1983 and played 115 games for the club and along the way became a fan favourite. He appeared in the 1987 Grand Final loss against Manly, which was the first decider the Raiders ever played in.

Backo also played overseas for English club, Leeds, before coming back home to play for Brisbane in 1989 and 1990. A chronic knee injury cut his career short at the age of 29. Who knows, had Big Sam not had to deal with those injuries, he could have been part of those famous Broncos sides that won the premierships in 1992 and 1993?

He was born in 1961 in the North Queensland town of Ingham.

His mother was Dr Evelyn Scott AO, a renowned activist who fought for Aboriginal rights and was a key figure in the 1967 referendum that achieved citizenship for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people. She was also a Chairperson of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation. The proud Warrgamayan man often reflected on how inspiring his mother was to him, his family and the Indigenous community.

His mother certainly had an effect on him with matters of cultural obligations. After her death in 2017, Backo negotiated with the Queensland government and Hinchinbrook Shire Council to have a memorial stone to honour Traditional Owners. He also played a key role in the Warrgamay people's successful native-title victory which won the rights to more than 185,000 hectares of land and water and into the Girringun National Park.

After his own heart complications and surgery in 2013, he urged fellow Aboriginal and TSI people to prioritise their own well-being and make sure that they had regular health screenings.

I'll always remember Backo and his marvellous standout performances for Queensland at the State of Origin level during the

late 1980s. Big Slammin' Sam was at his unstoppable best during the 1988 and 1989 Origin series where he tore NSW to shreds.

Backo helped the Maroons to win 3-0 for back-to-back series. I was a pre-teen in those Origin games and an avid NSW supporter, I was genuinely scared of Big Backo and angry at him. And as much as it hurt, when he was wearing a Maroon jersey, it was always a joy to watch a big front-rower dominate and score tries.

The larger-than-life character played seven Origins for his beloved Maroons between 1988 and 1990 in which he crashed over three tries. He played in one of the most dominant Queensland sides ever which featured legends like Wally Lewis, Allan Langer, Gene Miles, Paul Vautin and Dale Shearer.

The man-mountain also scored tries for Australia and was a powerhouse for the Kangaroos. He made history by becoming the first Australian forward to score tries in all three Tests against Great Britain in the Ashes series in 1988.

1988 was a big season with Backo also being named as the Dally M Front-Rower of the Year. A huge recognition considering there were also names like Steve

Roach, Peter Tunks, Peter Kelly and Martin Bella in the ranks.

He was a fan favourite. A cult hero. The big man with an even bigger moustache. He was instantly recognisable! Who didn't laugh when he let slip a certain four-letter word when describing how he felt to the media after a game? Big Sam looked genuinely shocked that it came out. It only added to his persona.

He was one of those players that you just loved to watch, even if he was destroying your side. He had the big physique and the big hair as well, which made him stand out with his aura and stature. Like I said, everyone loves a big hard-running forward who could also find the tryline.

That was big Sammy! A rough and tumble footballer who only knew one way of running and that was hard and straight with no sidesteps. A stop-me-if-you-can style of footballer. That's what made him a beloved figure.

When I first started playing rugby league, I was a big boy myself, I never had the talent and skill of Sam Backo, but I certainly looked up to the man of his stature in that era. A big, dominant prop, he inspired me to have a crack in footy and try to use my size back then.

Thanks for the memories Slammin' Sam!

Knockout countdown has begun



NRL premiership and five-time Knockout winner, George Rose.

By KRIS FLANDERS



LESS than two months away. It's hard to believe but that's how close we are to the NSW Aboriginal

Knockout, the biggest and best Indigenous rugby league tournament in the country.

All roads will lead to Tamworth in north-east NSW as over 170 teams will make the annual journey to crown the number-one footy side in the state.

Walgett Aboriginal Connection, as defending champions, will once again host the KO and Tournament Director Mark deWeerd said the Riverside Sporting Complex in Tamworth is shaping up to be a standout venue and is excited about the thousands of Mob expected.

"We have been working closely with Tamworth Regional Council to ensure that it is configured in a way that not only provides quality fields, but a great viewing experience for what we expect to be the biggest crowd ever to attend the Knockout," deWeerd said.

"There is ample parking adjacent to the fields and as players and spectators enter the venue they will be taken through one of the largest service provider precincts we've seen in terms of quantity but quality of services, before making their way to the ovals to witness some of the best football they will see all year."

NRL premiership and five-time Knockout winner, George Rose, knows Tamworth is a great regional city and will be



Tournament director, Mark deWeerd.

primed to host the event. With the record number of teams already committed to the KO, Rose says this year's tournament will create life-long memories for those playing and watching.

"I grew up on Knockout footy, travelling around NSW watching the best footy you will ever see, I slept in the car for my first knockout in Armidale. We've camped, slept on cousin's floors, and shared motels over the years, anything to get to the Knockout. There's a lot of Walgett fellas living in Tamworth now and I bet they all have full houses locked in for Knockout weekend already," Rose said.

"There is no weekend like Knockout weekend, walking around the grounds seeing the family, new faces, old faces and celebrities. It all goes down in Tamworth October long weekend."

For Rose, like many other veterans who've played KO footy throughout the years, comes the annual question of

will they lace up the boots for another run? The big man will get out there and help Walgett set up but the temptation is far too great not to wear the famous red and white again.

"It is hard to say no to playing in the biggest knockout ever, that's something I want to be a part of. I'll be playing, whether it's the WAC team or anyone who will throw me a jersey. I'm playing in the biggest knockout ever in Tamworth," Rose declared.

Teams from all over NSW are coming. Wilcannia from the far-west to Yuin Connections on the south coast to the Tweed on the north coast and from all around Sydney.

The 170 sides so far is the highest number ever of teams nominated and easily surpasses the 144 that participated in last year's edition. Nominations are still open for any communities wishing to enter teams until September 19 unless the competitions are already at capacity prior to that date.

Teams line up for Children's Day competition

By ALF WILSON



GILL Park in Townsville was the venue for the 11th Garbutt Magpies AFL carnival and is the ground where the initial games were played by the First Nations Club when it was formed 70 years ago.

A total of 27 primary school teams competed at the July 30 carnival held on 12 fields.

The carnival honoured National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day for which the theme was "Little Footsteps, Big Future".

Teams were divided into four groups named Guburu, Kuriagella, Banbari and Wungu.

For the finals it came down to the top two teams from two pools with the bigger schools playing for the Garbutt Magpies Cup and the smaller schools for the Shield.

St Anthony's College defeated Ryan Catholic School for the prestigious cup whilst a combined Bwgcolman State and St Michael's Catholic school from Palm Island beat the Willows State for the shield.

This event has grown in popularity since it started 11 years ago and winning was not the main focus.



The shield winners Palm island Bwgcolman/St Michael's players at Townsville airport with their trophy.

Participation of young Aboriginal, Torres Strait islander, and non-Indigenous boys and girls was a major reason for the event.

MC for the day Randall Ross said Garbutt Magpies was formed in 1955 and would celebrate its 70th birthday this year.

"The club played its first games here back then and I did

some years later as a junior," Randall said.

Another former player Kelvin Lampton from the Burdekin also played there as a boy in the sixties.

"This brings back many memories," Kelvin said.

Out of town teams included Bowen, Ayr, Bluewater, Magnetic island and the two Palm Island sides which competed

separately in qualifying matches.

Other teams were Shalom College Carinity Education, Aitkenvale, Bohlevale, Garbutt, Cranbrook, Rasmussen, Currajong, Heatley, Hermit Park, Good Shepherd, Kelso, North Shore, Vincent and Weir.

Some schools had several teams.

Garbutt State School is located in the suburb where the

Magpies Club was formed and where many of the early decades players and their families lived.

Shalom Carinity Education side had 20 primary school students competing in the comp under the guidance of Pastor Andrew Bollom.

"We also had 12 Shalom high school students volunteer and umpire at the amazing event," Pastor Bollom said.

Every team included First Nations players in their lineups.

MC Randall Ross said this year many sponsors were involved including Ausco and Kinetic.

The 30-minute-long opening ceremony included performances by the Widda Dance Group from Weir State School.

These dancers are members of the Weir School Didgeridoo and Dance Academy.

"We have 84 students in our academy and 45 in the performance team," one of the organisers said.

The Palm Island players had to catch a plane and could not attend the presentation and had their pic taken with the shield at the Hinterland Aviation terminal at Townsville airport.

"They were excited with the win and did their community proud," Randall said.

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Knockout countdown

LESS than two months away. It's hard to believe but that's how close we are to the NSW Aboriginal Knockout, the biggest and best Indigenous rugby league tournament in the country. All roads will lead to Tamworth in north-east NSW as more than 170 teams will make the annual journey to crown the number-one footy side in the state – **read Kris Flander's full report page 58.**



Doreena Hansen has attributes likened to AFLW star, Danielle Ponter. *Picture Peter Argent*

Doreena's hat-trick of titles

By PETER ARGENT



SOUTH Adelaide barnstormed to their second premiership in consecutive years at Glenelg Oval on Sunday July 27, with three First Nations talents – Doreena Hansen, Laquoyia Cockatoo-Motlap and Demi Lee-Braun – all playing key roles in the team's handsome SANFLW Grand Final victory.

South went on to defeat the Woodville West Torrens Eagles, 6.5 (41) to 2.6 (19), winning by

23 points.

Both Hansen and Braun are fly-in footballers from Alice Springs, doing the 3,000-kilometre round trip via plane each week.

Braun, still just 18 years of age and playing in her seventh SANFLW league game, enjoyed premiership glory for the first time at this level.

She has played for the Northern Territory in the Girls Coates Talent League and played with the Rovers in the Alice Springs women's competition.

Cockatoo-Motlap who was

on the Power AFLW list, was a part of the SANFLW success in 2024 as well when the Panthers defeated Norwood by five points.

She is originally from Cairns in North Queensland, where she played for the City Lions.

Hansen now 24, is now a triple SANFLW premiership player.

Uniquely she has played in flags for two clubs, the first with the North Adelaide Roosters in 2022.

Showing attributes to go to higher levels, Hansen played with a presence and composure

under the extra intensity and pressure of the Grand Final. She was cool and didn't panic with ball in hand, setting up a handful of first half scoring opportunities.

"She (Doreena) is a prodigious talent, who is on the AFLW radar," South flag winning coach Rick Watts told *Koori Mail*.

"An elite ground ball player, she has attributes likened to AFLW star, Danielle Ponter.

"As for Laquoyia, we call her 'QQ' is an exciting talent.

"She loves the contest and physicality of the game. She is

also dangerous around the goals.

"Demi is a diminutive, lively, fast and courageous player who punches out of her weight division "She makes up for this with her attack on the football and opposition."

South Adelaide have now won four of the nine SANFLW titles in the opening nine years of the competition.

A fourth Indigenous talent, Shakaila Gardiner-Dunn, would have played in the Grand Final for South, but was selected for the Allies in the National Under 18s Girls championships.