



Koori Mail

The Voice of Indigenous Australia

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

EDITION 723

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2020

PUBLISHED SINCE 1991

Phone: (02) 66 222 666

www.koorimail.com

Recommended price \$2.99 (GST-inclusive)

Mystery of what to watch is solved



LOOKING for something to watch while you're staying in at home?

Aaron Pedersen returns as Detective Jay Swan in the new series of *Mystery Road* this month.

The new series begins on ABC TV, on Sunday, April 19, at 8.30pm.

And, while you're waiting for the series to start, have a read of our special in-depth yarn with *Mystery Road* directors Warwick Thornton and Wayne Blair and cast members, on pages 9 to 11.

"Jay Swan is an incredibly empowering black character who's doing a balancing act between whitefella law and blackfella lore and the wrongdoings and repercussions of this from both cultures' perspectives," Thornton said. "It's all about story. The images might be stunning, but if it has no story in it it's worth nothing."



Aaron Pedersen stars as Detective Jay Swan in the new series of *Mystery Road*. Picture: David Dare Parker

Communities must be protected from virus



AS the efforts to stem the spread of COVID-19 across the country continued, strict travel restrictions have been implemented to many remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

But five men had already been arrested last week for breaching the travel ban to the remote North Queensland community of Palm Island.

Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt said it was up to everyone to respect the restrictions and keep community safe.

"That's irresponsible behaviour, going back to Palm Island," he told the *Koori Mail*. "One of them may have carried the virus, then inadvertently impacted Elders and senior people, anybody who is quite ill or on dialysis. People have to stop and think. We can't be selfish."

"This is about our communities

and our history and our continuity."

Meanwhile, across the country more than 10 cases of the coronavirus had been confirmed in the Kimberley, with Labor Senator Pat Dodson telling the *Koori Mail*, he believed the region wasn't well enough equipped.

"Infrastructure is a challenge up here at the best of times," he said.

"Everything is happening in a reactive manner. It should have been proactive from day one. Tough measures should have put in place."

- Full report, page 7
- Five arrested, page 6
- Travel restrictions, page 5
- Eastwood's view, page 20
- A mother's fears, page 8



We are all facing serious challenges – Shelley Ware, page 39

INSIDE



Sistergirls go on retreat

PAGE 22



Advocating for positive change

PAGE 21



From Borroloola to the Young Matildas

PAGE 37



The day Bernie hit Watto for six

PAGE 41

MY FAMILY

Dorothy Savage (Townsville)

FAMILY is so important to me and that was never more evident than when Sam Newie Savage and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. More than 200 guests celebrated this milestone including our beautiful grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I turned 70 last year and Sam was 70 two years before that. Our marriage is testament that people from two distinct different cultures can survive and there has been no secret remedy, just respect and trust and sharing within this relationship.

Sam's heritage is Torres Strait Islander and he has family connections from Mauar, Darnley, Stephen and Murray Islands. He is the second youngest of six siblings, while I am the eldest of 19 siblings from the Smallwood family.

My heritage is of the Bindal and Birriah clans from the Birrigubba Nation and South Sea Islander. This in itself shows the difference in the role of family expectations.

We have five biological children but have raised many of our siblings' children. We are affectionately known as Big Athe, Granma and Big Mum. I am also known as Aunt Dorrie and love nothing better than being with family and our many friends.

As you can see from our beautiful grandchildren and great-grandchildren, they too are from mixed marriages. I call them my '50 Shades of Black'. As there are so many to name I will give their surnames: Savage, Sarra, Cobbo, Tapim-Savage, Martin-Savage, Hellyer, Knott, Smith and Henaway.

Only one grandchild was unable to attend our



anniversary celebrations and that was Edward Savage from Mount Isa.

Members of my family are heavily involved in events such as NAIDOC where our wonderful culture is celebrated. We are very proud of our children's achievements in both cultural and professional areas.

Cultural knowledge and heritage is handed down in both cultures, from my husband and his brothers on the Torres Strait Islander side, involving hunting, cooking, dancing and ceremonial business. On my side, both brothers and sisters have handed down cultural business. These include being actively involved in cultural heritage and native title.

Education is relevant to the children's achievements. Some of the positions held by the family range from teachers, teacher aides,

lawyers, public servants, physiotherapist, managers and mine workers.

Both Sam and I came from working backgrounds. Sam was a ganger and foreman in the railways for over 30 years, while my background was in education for 30 years.

Our family is also very sports orientated and play in many carnivals across the state and even last year in New Zealand. These sports are rugby league and Oztag.

Over the past few years they have even represented the Cannonballs team at the Bindal All Blacks Carnival in Townsville. This team is named in honour of my late father Archie Smallwood. Families always have a reunion at the Indigenous All Stars games and proudly wear our 'WaddaMoolie' t-shirts.

Sam and I are truly blessed to have our family.

Dorothy Savage, front row, second from left, with husband Sam, front row, second from right, with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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



Youngster Declan Triffitt was one of more than 100 members of the Aboriginal community who gathered, ahead of the nationwide lockdown, for the annual Preminghana camp in Tasmania's North East last month. Story on pages 18-19.

Koori Mail

Postal Address
PO Box 117, Lismore, NSW, 2480

Street Address
11 Molesworth Street, Lismore, 2480
Telephone (02) 66 222 666
www.koorimail.com

STAFF

General Manager: Naomi Moran – manager@koorimail.com

Editor: Rudi Maxwell – editor@koorimail.com

Advertising: advertising@koorimail.com

Accounts: accounts@koorimail.com

Subscriptions: subs@koorimail.com

Advertising Rates

\$18.50 (+ GST) a column centimetre casual rate (discounts available for multiple bookings).
Spot and full colour available.

Advertising Format

Page Size: 38cm deep x 26cm wide
7 columns per page
Single column size 35mm • 2.5mm space between columns

Advertising Deadlines

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

Koori Mail on The Web: www.koorimail.com

Complete details of editorial and jobs advertised in the Koori Mail can be accessed through the State Library of NSW's INFOKOORI service.

INFOKOORI site address

<http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/infokoori>

The Koori Mail is published by Budsoar Pty Ltd and printed by SpotPress, 26 Lillian Fowler Place, Marrickville NSW 2204.

The Aboriginal flag is reproduced in the Koori Mail by permission of its author, Harold Thomas.

The Koori Mail is owned equally by Nungera Co-operative (Maclean), Bundjalung Tribal Society (Lismore), Kurrachee Co-operative (Coraki), Buyinbin Co-operative (Casino) and Bunjun Co-operative (Cabbage Tree Island), all on the NSW north coast.

Items published in Koori Mail may be reproduced by Budsoar Pty Ltd on our website – www.koorimail.com

KOORI MAIL – 100% ABORIGINAL-OWNED 100% ABORIGINAL-CONTROLLED

Dilly bags of hope and online activities provide support to performing artists

By NICK PATON



'WI-RII-PI dargo' means 'come back altogether' in Yuggerah language and that's exactly what BlakDance is encouraging mob to do during this time of uncertainty.

As the peak body for Indigenous dance and performing arts in Australia, BlakDance is committed to taking the lead in industry advocacy and now they've taken aim at alleviating the crippling social and financial effects the coronavirus is inflicting on the dance and performing arts sector, this time through fierce online gatherings and resources.

Taking a proactive approach to the isolating effects the coronavirus is having on individuals and communities, BlakDance have developed an online C-Virus dilly bag, which they have already begun to fill with useful resources so that mob can remain positive, motivated, and connected to each other.

Yuggera traditional owner and Elder Gaja Kerry Charlton said BlakDance plays a vital role in ensuring that our communities look after each other.

"So when we say, 'Wi-rii-pi dargo,' it's like we're saying, 'Soon we will all be back together, altogether, completely,'" she said.

"But it also means look out for each other and look after yourself until then.

"It's a very important time for our communities to be focusing on self-care, spiritual well-being, respect and reciprocity, and the BlakDance C-Virus dilly bag is a hope dilly, safe and full of helpful things."

The development of the online gatherings, meetings and dilly bag resources comes in response to a meeting spearheaded by BlakDance on March 20 involving ILBIJERRI Theatre Company, Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company, and Moogahlin Performing Arts, who met online to discuss and develop key priorities and a potential way forward for self-determined Indigenous performing arts organisations in the wake of the virus.



BlakDance member Joshua Pether performs *Jupiter Orbiting*, in 2018. BlakDance is taking a proactive approach to tackling some of the sociological effects of the coronavirus through online gatherings, meetings and events. Picture: by Greta Costello

Merindah Donnelly, executive producer at BlakDance told the *Koori Mail* that two main priorities emerged from the meeting.

"The first priority is ensuring the safety of our Elders and to prevent loss of cultural knowledge," she said.

"Our Elders are the source of our culture and stories, and without them, we have no future performing arts sector."

Ms Donnelly said the second priority is figuring out ways mob can ensure their spiritual wellbeing and positive mental health during isolation.

"Overwhelming concern is that the majority of First Nations artists are

independent sole traders," she said.

"It is critical we work with government and the sector to create accessible processes to financial stimulus because we have feedback that many artists are disheartened and disengaged with the current processes."

Chair of BlakDance Carla McGrath said it's critical mob find ways to stay connected and strong but also take much care in looking after the wellbeing of our communities and our own individual mental health.

"In the First Nations performing arts sector our work relies on gatherings and national and international touring, both small and large, in remote locations, in

regions and in cities," she said.

"And presenters, venues and performing arts centres are just as important as artists, producers and companies.

"But nothing is more important than our Elders, because they are the source of cultural knowledge and storytelling.

"Our Elders are the holders of our nation's oldest culture and stories. Without them, we have no future."

For more information on how to get involved in upcoming online gatherings and meetings, or to offer ideas for online activities and resources for the C-virus Dilly Bag, visit blakdance.org.au

System fails our kids

By DARREN COYNE



ABORIGINAL children as young as 10 in country Victoria are carrying out their first crime after coming under the 'care' of the state's child protection system.

The second in a series of reports by Victoria's Sentencing Advisory Council has found that nearly every 'crossover kid' – children who are known to both the child protection and the justice system – was in 'care' before they committed their first offence.

Victoria's Sentencing Advisory Council analysed cases before the Children's Court over one year.

The council found that of crossover kids who were removed from their homes and placed in residential care, more than half did not come before the

court until their first child protection placement.

The report says that while trauma and neglect have a detrimental effect on their behaviour, the "experience of care itself may be a contributing factor for many children".

The report found that one in four crossover kids who were sentenced in regional areas were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Of those first sentenced or diverted aged 16 or over, 8% were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, which the authors said is highly disproportionate for that age group in Victoria.

"However, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children tripled to 24% for children first sentenced or diverted aged 10–13," the report said.

"The median age at first child protection report for Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander children was three years, much lower than the median for other children, which was seven years."

The report said that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children emerged as a particularly vulnerable cohort of crossover children; they were over-represented in every level of child protection and youth justice involvement, especially among children who experienced the highest levels of such involvement (residential care and custody).

"The development of a new *Youth Justice Act* may offer an opportunity to consider how particular combinations of systemic and background factors affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children might be relevant to sentencing," the report said.

Last year the Victorian Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People Justin

Mohamed headed up the Koori Youth Justice Taskforce to identify the trends that are contributing to the high rates of overrepresentation of young Aboriginal people in the justice system.

"We need to do something different," Mr Mohamed said. "We need to come up with some local solutions that listen to the voices of young people.

"There's a strong link between child protection and youth justice and I believe there are better ways we can support kids in the out-of-home care system other than the ways happening now."

Council deputy chair Lisa Ward said the project had explored the pathways that lead children into the criminal justice system.

"Understanding these pathways is vital to identifying opportunities for early intervention," Ms Ward said.

"Most children who have contact

with child protection don't end up in the youth justice system.

"For those who do, sometimes it's because of behaviour that otherwise might not result in police involvement, such as minor drug use or property damage.

"For others, their past experience of trauma, abuse and distress may contribute to serious and prolific offending, causing considerable harm to the community. Providing targeted programs to children who have experienced trauma and increasing support when children enter out-of-home care are key crime prevention strategies.

"The impact of trauma on a child's ability to comply with an order and refrain from further offending should be a key consideration at sentencing and at other points in the criminal justice system."

● Editorial, page 20

A large three-masted sailing ship, the HMS Endeavour, is shown sailing on a bright blue sea. The ship has white sails and a red Union Jack flag flying from the stern. In the background, there are white cliffs and a clear blue sky.

A portrait of a man with dark hair, wearing a blue suit, white shirt, and a red and blue striped tie. He is standing with his arms crossed in front of a building with large windows and a light-colored stone facade.



Gurriny Yealamucka health service workers Merton Bulmer, Clifton Burns, Milton Mossman and Samuel Bann Snr work together to protect their community.



Elders have moved to the Iron Range Cabins in Lockhart River, for their own safety. They are receiving support and care from community health workers.

Travel bans to protect vulnerable communities



REMOTE Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Queensland are subject to strict travel restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, prompting a battle between 'culture' and 'virus' in some communities.

The *Commonwealth Biosecurity Act* has effectively triggered the lockdowns, which are being supported by the Queensland Government.

Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Jackie Trad said the move to lockdowns was critical to protect some of Queensland's most vulnerable communities and backed actions already undertaken by local community leadership.

"This won't be easy, but we stand ready to support ongoing local decision making and provide whatever advice and resources are required to keep communities safe and well," she said.

"I cannot emphasise strongly enough that anyone who breaks these laws is putting communities and Queenslanders in danger."

A Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships spokesperson said essential service personnel such as health care, police, emergency services and delivery of supplies were exempt from the restrictions.

"These travel restrictions are unprecedented and strict penalties apply for breaches," they said.

"Early reports indicate people are settling into the restrictions and any issues are being worked through at a local level."

Member for Cook Cynthia Lui said it was early days, with no

Travel restrictions apply to remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities within the following local government areas:

Aurukun
Cook
Hope Vale
Kowanyama
Lockhart River

Mapoon
Napranum
Northern Peninsula Area
Pormpuraaw

Torres Strait Islands
Torres
Wujal Wujal
Burke
Doomadgee

Cherbourg
Mornington
Palm Island
Woorabinda
Yarrabah



Member for Cook Cynthia Lui.

reports of COVID-19 in Cape York or the Torres Strait Islands.

"Lockdowns are important to safeguard vulnerable discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, our elderly and those with existing medical conditions who are at risk of complications from COVID-19," she said.

"I strongly encourage everyone already in remote communities to stay home unless it is essential to leave community for medical treatment."

Lockhart River mayor-elect and chair of the Local Disaster Management Group Wayne Butcher said the only person coming in or going out of their



Lockhart River mayor-elect and Local Disaster Management Group chair Wayne Butcher.

community, 800km north of Cairns, was the doctor.

"We're in uncharted waters here, trying to get the community to realise what the coronavirus or the COVID-19 means, and how we need to be more vigilant about the virus now," he said.

"We can be a little bit too lackadaisical in the bush here. We need to be a bit more bit more aware, although it's kind of 'culture vs virus' here."

"The virus does not discriminate against any nationality or culture so the change of people's behaviour pattern from their normal daily lives needs to be more virus savvy, I guess."

He said they had made some

hard decisions, but were struggling to find the room and resources to set up a proper quarantine area.

"We're asking people in Cairns to just hold up for a month whilst we get the quarantine place set up," he said.

"We have major concerns around not having the right facilities to cater for what we have to do to protect ourselves from this."

He said their most elderly and vulnerable had been moved to the Iron Range Cabins, next to their airport, for their own protection.

"So all the old people are out at the Cabins, the ones that wanted to go out there," he said.

"We got three meals a day happening for them. We've got our local security business, Greg Omeenyo and Sonia, monitoring for us overnight, so they make sure they are safe, and our health staff go out there every day to check up on them."

"It was a bit of a juggle around – should we use the Cabins for quarantine first? – but if we have one case slip through then it will be too late to try to move them, so we've got them out there first and now we can look at a quarantine process."

Meanwhile, payphones are free, campgrounds are closed and local airlines are continuing to operate on reduced schedules.

Telstra said more than 550 payphones were now free to

use across Indigenous communities nationally.

"As we work together to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our communities, we want to do all we can to help Indigenous communities to stay connected," they said in a statement. The payphones will now be displaying 'Free Calls from Telstra' on screen."

They advised social distancing and keeping hygiene in mind when using public phones.

"Where possible, wash your hands before and after use. Wipe down the payphone handset, and maintain 1.5 metres distance from others in line to use this service," they said.

Those same hygiene measures were behind the move to close all campgrounds in national parks, state forests and state-managed recreation and protected areas in response to the outbreak.

Queensland Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef Leeanne Enoch said this decision was consistent with the expert medical advice of the state's chief health officer.

"The nature of the shared facilities in campgrounds, like toilets and showers, is a significant concern in the current circumstances," Minister Enoch said.

She said the closure of camping grounds did not include residential caravan parks.

Following a last minute intervention from the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR), Regional Express (Rex) has agreed to reverse a decision to suspend services and will introduce a reduced schedule, as has Skytrans.

● Arrests for breaching travel restrictions, page 7



4,200 Indigenous team members and counting.

Join the team
colescareers.com.au

coles
Good things are happening



Five arrested for Palm breaches



FIVE men have been charged by police with breaching strict biosecurity laws after entering Palm Island without quarantining.

The men allegedly drove a boat to the island from Townsville. They have been charged with breaches of the *Commonwealth Biosecurity Act* and Chief Health Officer Queensland Direction.

Palm Island is one of the Indigenous communities that have had strict travel restrictions implemented due to the coronavirus pandemic.

All appeared in Townsville Magistrates Court on Saturday and were remanded in custody to appear again this week.

On Saturday the *Townsville Bulletin* reported that one of the men charged was showing coronavirus symptoms.

Police allege that the five men departed Palm Island in a private dinghy on March 30 and travelled to Townsville, before being seen on the island three days later.

When they were in Townsville, police had advised them that in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act* and the CHO direction, they were not permitted to return to Palm Island.

Three men aged 19 and two men aged 30 and 46 were arrested and charged with one count each of failing to comply with an emergency requirement and failing to comply with COVID-19 public health direction from the chief health officer.

One of the 19-year-old men was also charged with possessing dangerous drugs exceeding schedule 1



Travel restrictions have been implemented in remote Indigenous communities, including Palm Island.

(amphetamine), possessing dangerous drugs (cannabis) and two counts of supplying dangerous drugs (methamphetamine and cannabis). The 30-year-old man was also charged with possession of cannabis.

Four of the men were handcuffed and wearing face masks when brought to Townsville on the *Brett Irwin* police launch around 7pm on Friday, April 3.

It is understood they were immediately taken to Townsville University Hospital for coronavirus testing.

A Palm Island Police spokesman told the *Koori Mail* on

April 4 that the four men were located and arrested on Palm Island and then taken to Townsville by launch.

"The fifth was located and arrested in Townsville. He had travelled over to Palm in a vessel with the other four but later returned to Townsville," the police spokesman said.

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council advised residents on April 2 that the community had no detected COVID-19 cases, while there had been 20 detections on mainland Townsville.

Under the strict biosecurity measures and travel restrictions anybody leaving for the mainland could not return and even fishing

by locals from their boats has been banned.

A long-time Palm Island resident told the *Koori Mail* on April 4 that the *Brett Irwin* had been anchored out from the Palm Reel Women Jetty for numerous days monitoring any movement by boats.

Local Disaster coordinator and acting chief executive of the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Ross Higgins said the group had been working hard to try and stop the spread of coronavirus to Palm Island.

"It is sad that a few reckless community members by their selfish actions could have placed our whole community, particularly

the vulnerable and elderly, at risk of this disease," Mr Higgins said.

Townsville District Disaster coordinator, acting Chief Superintendent Glen Pointing said this sort of behaviour is extremely disappointing.

"The reckless actions of a few have placed the remainder of the Palm Island community at risk. It is even more disappointing given the great work undertaken by the Palm Island Council and broader community in putting measures in place to ensure their island is protected," he said.

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council advised residents on its website some Palm Island residents had been arrested.

"On behalf of the Palm Island Local Disaster Management Group it is stressed to all community members that current travel restrictions and Chief Health Officer directions are intended for the safety of all of our community, particularly those that are vulnerable. Any person who decides not to comply with these requirements may be placing our people at risk," it advised.

Palm Island residents have been well advised about the quarantine laws, and on March 17 Council placed signs at strategic locations.

Notices were also posted on social media.

Federal Member for Herbert MP Phillip Thompson said anybody who flouted compliance laws should be charged.

"These rules are put in place to protect their community who are vulnerable".

Mr Thompson urged the community to continue social distancing and self-isolating if required.

Calls for vulnerable to be released from prison

By DARREN COYNE



CHRONICALLY ill Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners are increasingly at risk of contracting COVID-19 yet authorities appear hesitant to act on new powers to release them.

Advocates are urging prison authorities in all states and territories, to immediately begin releasing vulnerable offenders and others who pose a low risk to the community.

In NSW, attorney-general Mark Speakman announced on March 24 that an amendment had been made to the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act* allowing for the early and temporary release of vulnerable Indigenous people from prisons and youth detention centres, in a concerted effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 into the state's prisons.

NSW has 38 correctional facilities, housing 14,000 inmates and employing 7,500 staff. Last year, Indigenous people comprised 23% the prisoner population.

Across Australia, Indigenous people are massively overrepresented in the criminal justice system. They represent only 3% of the total population, yet more than 28% of Australia's prison population identify as Indigenous.

In the Northern Territory, Indigenous people make up 83% of the adult prisoner population, while in Western Australia, it's 39%.

But despite pressure from advocates, including the Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT), Amnesty International Australia, and the Human Rights Law Centre, no prisoners have yet been released.

ALS chief executive Karly Warner said it was imperative that Corrective Services acted on the legislative change.

She pointed out that other countries such as Iran has released 85,000 prisoners, Afghanistan 10,000 and the United States over a thousand.

"The rapid spread of the coronavirus poses a significant risk to people in prison, as we've seen recently in the New York correctional system, where 38 cases of

COVID-19 doubled in a matter of days," Ms Warner said.

"We are extremely concerned about the health and wellbeing of our vulnerable community members.

"The young, the old and the sick, many who have pre-existing co-morbidities, and mothers and their babies who are behind bars, are all in danger."

A Corrective Services NSW spokesperson told the *Koori Mail* that the new measure would only be used by the Corrective Services NSW Commissioner "if deemed necessary for the safety and effectiveness of our prisons in response to COVID-19".

"There are no immediate plans to release anyone using this emergency measure, but if it does become necessary it will be done on a case by case basis and community safety will always be our number one priority," the spokesperson said.

"Certain categories of inmates, including murderers, terrorists, sex offenders, and any other serious offender, will not be considered under this legislation."

Meanwhile, Amnesty International

Australia called on the Federal Government to urgently protect the human rights of Indigenous people.

Amnesty International Australia Indigenous Rights lead Lidia Thorpe said one of the key areas of concern was the increased risk to the health and safety of children who were on remand and were detained in adult watch houses.

"We're talking about kids as young as 10 in adult prisons," she said.

"Most of these kids are later released without conviction, only underlining that it's totally unacceptable to leave them in prison when they would be safer at home with their family."

Human Rights Law Centre legal director Shahleena Musk said it was crucial that governments across Australia take urgent action to reduce the number of prisoners.

"The very nature of prisons means that people are in close proximity to others at all times. This makes prisons the perfect breeding ground for COVID-19 and once one person is infected on the inside, it will spread like wildfire throughout the prison system."



Anangu artists from Walkatjara Art Centre, based in Mutitjulu community near Uluru, have done paintings to help inform community about coronavirus.

Artists create to get the word out



ABORIGINAL and Torres Strait Islander communities around the country are doing their best to look after one another and get the important messages surrounding hygiene and isolation out to community.

In Western Australia comedian Mary G did a series of public service announcements with the Health Department about the importance of washing hands to help stop the spread of coronavirus.

First Nations media organisations have been sharing the official health messages, including radio broadcasts and messages on social media.

And in central Australia, artists from the Walkatjara Art Centre, based in

Mutitjulu community near Uluru, have done paintings to help inform community.

Artist Yaritji Miller's painting depicts Australia in the centre of the canvas with two hands.

"To block the disease from coming onto our country," she said.

Ms Miller told the ABC that it is essential for community members to recognise the seriousness of coronavirus and the need to protect the vulnerable in the community.

"Some of us are really quite worried," she said. "Some of us are scared."

"Some people don't understand the full implications of this."

"And we do have to understand that now there are new rules, and that some of which are made by governments that we need to pay attention to, and not just think it's something that won't affect us."

Funding helps media spread the message



ON Sunday, Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt announced that First Nations media organisations would receive an additional \$234,500 this financial year to support their contribution to limiting the spread of the virus.

"First Nations Media is a critical link into both urban and remote communities and a valued partner of Government to distribute important health information," Mr Wyatt said.

In Alice Springs, Indigenous Community Television (ICTV) is playing an expanded role in helping remote communities and audiences stay connected and informed during these unprecedented times of lockdown and isolation. ICTV general manager Rita Cattoni said the Aboriginal community-controlled broadcaster was delivering culturally relevant and appropriate content to help keep people safe.

"ICTV has been producing and broadcasting health and safety messages since this crisis began in order to get the messages out to our audiences across remote Australia," she said. "We are aware of how important it is in times of rapid change that people get accurate information in a way they can trust and understand. With people being told to stay at home as much as possible, ICTV is also able to play a role in delivering services that will help keep us all connected."



Alyawerre man Michael Liddle films health and safety messages with ICTV.

Wyatt urges mob to act to keep virus out

By RUDI MAXWELL



FEDERAL Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt has a simple message regarding the coronavirus pandemic.

"We have to protect ourselves, our culture and our Elders," Mr Wyatt told the *Koori Mail*.

"What we have to continue to do is to isolate, stay in our communities and practise distancing. If you live in the city with four or five other people, then remain isolated in your home."

"And hygiene is so important. Wash your hands. If you leave home, wash your hands when you come back, and wash them properly with soap for 20 seconds, so you can kill the fatty layer of the virus and there's less chance of it being transmitted."

Mr Wyatt said that while all communities around the country were facing challenges regarding

COVID-19 (coronavirus 2019), there were particular issues for remote Indigenous communities. He said he is having daily teleconferences with the National Indigenous Australians Agency to discuss what support is needed.

"Food supply and security, shortage of particular products, we're looking at how we manage all that. Medical supplies – if a child has asthma, are puffers available? Whatever else is needed for people's treatment. Diabetes, heart medicines, high blood pressure, all these things need to be monitored and I don't want to see communities go short of necessary items," Mr Wyatt said.

"Overcrowding of housing both in remote areas and in cities is potentially a serious concern. In remote regions some people have the opportunity to go to outstations and the Government has recently provided \$10m to allow people in the Northern Territory to travel to outstations."

From 11.59pm on Sunday,

Western Australia implemented a temporary hard border closure in a bid to stop the spread of coronavirus.

More than a dozen cases have been confirmed in the Kimberley region and travel between the four local government areas is also forbidden.

Labor Senator Pat Dodson, who lives near Broome, said he didn't think the Kimberley was properly equipped to deal with the problems arising from the virus.

"The clinics in the main centres – Broome, Derby and Kununurra – are under-resourced," he told the *Koori Mail*.

"Frontline staff are still battling to get essential protection equipment and I don't know about ventilators or respirators."

"There's no real oversight for the unique challenges for these remote areas. They're trying to fit remote areas into a national strategy. For example, Noonkanbah can't be accessed by road. How are they going to get

food or services? You've got to keep the airstrip open for food or evacuations."

"Infrastructure is a challenge up here at the best of times."

"Everything is happening in a reactive manner. It should have been proactive from day one. Tough measures should have put in place."

However Mr Wyatt disagreed, saying that once authorities had been alerted that there were COVID-19 cases in the Kimberley, the response was swift, including isolating those infected, identifying how people had caught the virus and more testing.

"The state health department and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations are working with health professionals in the Kimberley to implement measures that are much more rigorous than in other parts of the state," he said. "And the numbers are starting to flatten because of the rigour applied."

Both Mr Wyatt and Senator

Dodson said that the direction for everyone to stay home did mean that there were concerns for Indigenous women who were already at risk of domestic and family violence.

"My advice to women at risk of violence in their home is to contact the organisations that provide support, the Family Violence Prevention Legal Service network is very strong and robust," Mr Wyatt said.

And both Senator Dodson and Mr Wyatt stressed that following the health guidelines of staying at home, distancing and washing hands were extremely important.

"I don't want to sound alarmist but in the history of settlers in this country a large number of our people died of smallpox. It's not the same, but we don't want that to happen," Mr Wyatt said.

"We need to consider the needs of our Elders and communities and we have to be patient. We have to keep this virus out of our communities."

Communities shut down to stop spread



WOORABINDA resident Stewart Smith has spent five days camped on the border of the small town, nearly 200km south west of Rockhampton, after being caught out by a local decision to lock down the community.

Mr Smith said he was stopped by a police checkpoint on the highway, after driving home for two hours from his mine-site job, and decided for the safety of his family and community to stay put.

Woorabinda mayor-elect Josh Weazel said he had since been moved, out of respect, to nearby outstation 'Black Boy' for the remainder of his isolation.

Mr Weazel told a well-spaced public meeting last week the community had made their own decision to go into lockdown a week earlier than they were directed to do so for the protection of their Elders and the community in general.

"The Prime Minister has made a determination that our people are some of the most vulnerable in Australia and he's instituted a few measures to ensure our protection," he said.

"I guess we can trust that



Stewart Smith from Woorabinda camped for five nights on the border of his community before going to an outstation after the community decided to lock down a week earlier.

these decisions are made in good will, as were the decisions that you made last week to have our community go into lockdown for the protection of our community."

He said it was not a matter of the Government saying, 'This is how we're going to manage you.'

"I know there's been some reference to 'living under the Act'," he said, referring to the racist restrictions of the past.

"Those were unfortunate times and we're all products of that, each and every one of us who stands here today, who has a connection to Woorabinda.

"But that's not what is

happening today."

Mr Weazel said the severity of the pandemic had triggered the federal response, which meant decisions were out of their hands.

"Entry and exit for this community and those other communities in the Cape, that are all in lockdown, we currently

don't make decisions," he said. "These are conditions enforced under the *Biosecurity Act*."

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* explains how we manage biosecurity threats to plant, animal and human health in Australia and its external territories

"At the moment anybody coming into our community has to have written approval," Mr Weazel said.

"I can appreciate there are hot topics as far as essential services, and the community's thoughts about that, but under the *Biosecurity Act* we have three forms that we have to fill out. These are forms for essential service workers to keep households and community functioning safety.

"There are conditions they have to comply with."

He said every Aboriginal community was subject to the same conditions.

"It's beyond Council's control. We're just the means to get the message out," he said.

"It's hard times; restrictions are hard. I guess, ultimately, if we can always keep in the back of our minds, or in our hearts, wherever it's stronger for you, that we're doing this to protect our community."

Open Letter to Mr Shergold CEO of NESAs

About 12 months ago the NSW Education and Standards Authority, NESAs, closed an alternative school for Indigenous kids who refuse to go to schools. 65 Indigenous kids, with nowhere to go, were tipped onto the streets in far Western, NSW. To save the school, mediation was requested. NESAs refused mediation. NESAs still refused mediation even when the Anti-Discrimination Board intervened.

Indigenous families/kids would love to see their school, or a similar school, returned but fear experiencing more shame and humiliation at the hands of those who work for the NSW Education and Standards Authority.

The purpose of this letter is not to re hash the past, but rather to suggest a way forward so Indigenous kids, in far Western NSW, can have their school back. Mediation, support and consultation, with Indigenous communities must be part of the process and from Day 1.

Mr Shergold, we urge you to start a process whereby Indigenous communities feel supported by NESAs, rather than shamed, when seeking to establish schools that work for them.

**(Interim)
Respect and Mediation
Indigenous education committee**

2 Dandaloo St Kariong, NSW, 2250

Mum scared her kids have been taken to England

By DARREN COYNE



THE mother of two Aboriginal children in foster care says she has no idea whether her

children are in Australia or England. NITV reported last week that community members were calling on the NSW Government to stop the children boarding a flight to England, saying no consideration was given to the biological family or the children's Wiradjuri heritage.

Grandmothers Against Removals (GMAR) co-founder Aunty Hazel Collins told the *Koori Mail* that the trip had apparently been put on hold until the children had been cleared by a medical examination.

"I don't care if it's cleared or not. These kids should not be going to England," she said. "Their mum doesn't want them to go and they only just came back in January from a six-month holiday over there.

"Poor Mum only sees them for one and half hours, four times a year. Nobody can form a relationship with anyone – man, woman or child – in an hour and a half. Other family members have also offered to take care of these kids. These kids have been in care since they were young. They've been with this English



Aunty Hazel Collins

couple for three or four years."

NITV reported that the trip was approved on compassionate grounds because the children, aged 11 and 10, wanted to travel with their foster mother, who is returning to England to be with her husband.

Aunty Hazel said the COVID-19 pandemic should rule out overseas travel.

"I've got 37 grandchildren and if you asked any of them they'd want to go too," she said.

A ban on Australian citizens travelling overseas is in effect, but exemptions are made for permanent residents from other countries and under certain circumstances.

"Amongst all the fears of COVID-19, halt of travel, and self-isolation, how can you still be stealing our kids? These children are not only Australian but they are Aboriginal," Aunty Hazel said.

The mother of the children, who cannot be identified, told the

Koori Mail that caseworkers from the Department had said they would help her get her children back but "they do nothing".

She admitted to crime and drugs in the past, which led to her children being taken into care, and the woman spending six months in prison.

"Now I'm out, I've turned my life around. I'm off the drugs and I got a job."

The mother said she was meant to have four contact visits with her children a year but "if they're in England for six months I lose contact with them."

Aunty Hazel said it was not the only case of concern.

"We have children in out-of-home care who are being housed in motel rooms. They are forcing our children to live itinerant lifestyles. How is that protection?" she said.

In response to questions, the NSW Department of Communities and Justice issued a statement saying the Department could not comment on individual child protection matters.

When asked whether ANY Australian child under the department's care is being given permission to travel overseas against the wishes of parents or other family at this time, the Department spokesperson said: "We won't be adding further to the statement provided".



Aaron Pedersen plays Detective Jay Swan and Jada Alberts is Fran in the new series of *Mystery Road*. Pictures: David Dare Parker

Jay Swan is back

Series return reflects growing energy and enthusiasm for black storytelling

By KIRK PAGE



DIRECTOR
Warwick Thornton believes there's no secret as to why audiences love *Mystery Road*, the TV series starring Aaron Pederson as Detective Jay Swan.

"Jay Swan is an incredibly empowering black character who's doing a balancing act between whitefella law and blackfella lore and the wrongdoings and repercussions of this from both cultures' perspectives," Thorton said. "It's all about story. The images might be stunning, but if it has no story in it it's worth

nothing. Sometimes you can make amazing images but no story.

"You don't need the amazing images. We see amazing things all the time. It's the story that's empowering. Our old people would sit around the campfire telling yarns – amazing Djukupu dreaming stories.

"I see cinema and television as an extension of that storytelling, that oral history, in a way, but now that we have the video camera and the cinema, it's a new kind of campfire."

Mystery Road returns to ABC TV with a new series this month.

The multi-award-winning TV series was filmed on Yawuru country and the surrounding areas on Western Australia's

picturesque Dampier Peninsula and in Broome.

The six-part series is directed by two of the finest Blak film directors, Warwick Thornton (*Sweet Country* and *Samson and Delilah*) and Wayne Blair (*Top End Wedding* and *The Sapphires*), who share the directorial role, relishing the opportunity to bring this ground breaking series back.

Blair said that with an incredible creative team driving this production the series promises to be just as fantastic as the last series, perhaps even a little better.

"There is a great crew working on this and I feel really lucky to be a part of a team," he said. "Not so much as the director, but I love

seeing all of the parts coming together, all of the departments from costume to producers, camera crew, trying to achieve the same goal. That's what I enjoy most about it and also trying to capture real life through moving images. That's wherein lies the rub: trying to get that right. "It's something that keeps you going, I suppose, something that really motivates you. Trying to capture real-life moments in moving images, that involves a team that is committed to telling these stories and that teamwork is something that I love."

The return of *Mystery Road* has Detective Jay Swan taking on a grisly case, set in a small coastal community where the desert meets the sea. Secrets

past and present run deep and dark as we see Jay reconcile the two worlds to confront a dangerous enemy in a world where deception is king, serving us tropical gothic and outback noir.

"It's another town and world that Jay Swan enters to solve a murder mystery," Blair said. "There are a few more action sequences in this series and it feels like the world the story is set in is a little bit darker. A lot of the time we seem to be in the twilight hours, night time paints the background for a lot of the drama."

Jay Swan arrives in the fictional town of Gideon, where he meets the local police constable Fran, played by the

Series return reflects growing energy

talented Jada Alberts. Together Swan and Constable Davis begin an unlikely partnership as they solve a who-done-it after a body is found washed up in the mangroves.

"Fran is his link into the community, his protege, who hopes she too can match the talent and charismatic air of Jay, the rogue crime pirate," Jada told *Koori Mail*.

"Fran is similar to Jay's character – a little naive perhaps, but passionate and smart.

"Fran left Perth to join the force and pursue her career as a policewoman and gets her first taste of the force in Perth and somehow finds herself unsatisfied and needs to return home. There is a missing persons case that is close to Fran's inner circle, which draws her back home and reconnecting back to community."

Alberts also believes that audiences will love the new *Mystery Road* story.

"It's complex storytelling that is informative as well as entertaining. I reckon audiences will be on the edge of their seats trying to figure out who did what to who," she said. "Along with all the procedural stuff that is there in a cop drama and in a mystery I think non-Indigenous viewers will get exposed to the complexities that lie inside of the community and the crossing into the two worlds.

"Each character's story is particular in its storyline as it intersects the black and white worlds that *Mystery Road* weaves together through each character's journey. It will allow us to look at those worlds in a way that exposes the nuances and difficulty some of us face on a daily basis."

Aaron Pederson leads a stellar cast and is happy to be back in Broome for the shoot.

"The character I play, Jay Swan, is a stranger in a strange town and this time it's a lot more dangerous for him," he said. "There's a large number of alpha males who do not take a backward step, a lot of 'bosses' of their own businesses.

"It's a journey of thresholds and dominance. A storyline that follows the repatriation of human remains found at an archeological dig site twists and turns along with stand over kingpins and drug labs.

"Jay Swan's world is damaged because of the job that he's married to. There's a moment in one of the episode's were Mary – Swan's accidental side kick played by Tasma Walton (*Blue Heelers* and *City Homocide*) – says, 'You can't live with the living,' which is very true and that's where Jay's at when we meet him in series two. He's got to find himself."

Bringing our stories to the screen with a blak perspective allows us to showcase the incredible talent and versatility of our actors. There is a wealth of screen writers and directors coming up and through the ranks.

Series two features an outstanding ensemble cast including Jada Alberts, Tasma Walton, Rob Collins, Ngaire Pigram, Ursula Yovich, Rhimi Johnson, Tasja Zalar and Stan Yurramunua.

So, has Aaron seen things change since he started out as an actor?

"It's taken a long time to change and it's still slowly changing but, yeah, the change is



Two of the finest Blak filmmakers, Wayne Blair and Warwick Thornton, share the directorial role in the new series of *Mystery Road*.

"Jay Swan is an incredibly empowering black character who's doing a balancing act between whitefella law and blackfella lore and the wrongdoings and repercussions of this from both cultures' perspectives."

**– Warwick Thorton
Co-director, director of photography**

there," he said. "It's really quite monumental in relation to the platforms or the foundations that we have had to work from. Everybody seems to be excited about the industry and there's a larger group of practitioners and actors/directors, whether it be in theatre or TV and film, that are available to do jobs now.

"I come from a long line of pioneers who created this tsunami before me – those like Uncle Jack Charles, Lynette Narkle, Justine Saunders, Bob Maza and Brian Syron, the list goes on. We are really fortunate for their endeavours into the theatre, television and film industry. We are forever in their debt for taking up the roles and the fight that they did. We are now in a position as black artists where we are seeing our stories told in a way that isn't one dimensional anymore."

And is *Mystery Road* particularly special?

"What I love about *Mystery Road* is when you put Indigenous actors and writers and directors together the synergy is palpable. You can't fashion it without us," Aaron said.

"We bring our talk, our walk and our spirit with us, our understanding and knowledge and our pain and our wisdom, and the way we view and interpret Australia.

"When you are witness to a group of people who are willing to give you this ultimate exclusive view of how we look at Australia I think that you have a benchmark for a better show and there's an authenticity around what's happening. Bringing all of our skills and dynamics from every area and the great thing about it is people are loving it.

"Audiences are enjoying it and audiences are really hungry for it. It's come a long way but there's still a fair way to go, but I know there's this force right behind it. With production companies like Bunya Productions, it won't take long before we don't have to discuss how far have we come anymore."

Thornton, renowned for his groundbreaking work telling Aboriginal stories, also relishes the opportunity to work with such a strong Indigenous creative team. "I grew up in Alice Springs. The



Sofia Helin on location.



Aaron Pedersen on location.

light is very similar here. The only thing that freaks me out is the sea. Broome is like Alice Springs by the sea," he said.

"It's beautiful, an incredible place. The colours here are amazing.

"I've been here for a very long time this trip. I've watched the mangoes fall off the tree when

they are overripe and then I've watched the next lot flower and now there's the new fruit on the tree so I've been here for a while, you could say."

So, what continues to inspire Thornton?

"Travelling and meeting new family is what I love about my work," he said. "I've been

and enthusiasm for black storytelling



The TV series is filmed on Yawuru country and surrounding areas on Western Australia's picturesque Dampier Peninsula and in Broome.



Sofia Helin stars with Aaron Pederson in the new series.

everywhere. I've met the most amazing mob and had the beautiful opportunity of hearing their stories and listening.

"That's the best thing about what I do as a filmmaker. I'm travelling and permanently on the move, meeting people from different language groups and cultures, hearing those voices and our languages. That's the most amazing thing about what I do."

And, like Jay Swan, Thornton

finds ways to balance the tempo of this kind of work, and walks between two worlds.

"Firstly, I am a blackfella and secondly I'm a filmmaker," he said.

"I can change my job, but I can't change my colour; I can't change my blood. That, to me, is priority number one.

"There's community and looking after community, also questioning community.

"If you think something is

wrong, you need to be able to stand up and say, 'No that's wrong.' That's leadership in a community. That's the most important thing.

"Filmmaking is a craft and a job just like a carpenter or a mechanic, but blackfella is a lifestyle and a spiritual perception thing. It's much more and much bigger. The balance is one sided in a way: Blackfella first, filmmaker second."

The other half of the directorial team, Wayne Blair, appeared in the first series of *Mystery Road* as an actor, winning awards for his performance.

"Being on this side of the camera is great," he said. "I'm feeling very blessed to be able to be on the other side of the camera, along with Warwick Thornton. It's harder work, but I really enjoy it. Being away from the city and spending time in Western Australia, especially in Broome, has been fantastic."

Blair too has had a stellar career, with many successes along the way telling Aboriginal stories.

"I graduated as an actor from QUT in Brisbane and then got an opportunity through the Uncle Lester Bostock scheme at Metro Screen in Sydney. They were looking for emerging filmmakers to make a short five-minute film and I put my hand up for it and I got selected," he said.

"Uncle Lester paved the way for many Aboriginal journalists and filmmakers. He was a founding member of Black Theatre and Metro Screen, and later Radio Skid Row, and on its first board. He was the first Aboriginal voice heard on SBS radio. A scholarship for Aboriginal filmmakers is named in his honour.

"I made a short film called the *Djarn Djarns*. It was bloody hard work. It was only five minutes and we shot it in a day and a half but, aside from the enormity of it, I really enjoyed it.

"I thought, 'OK, I like this and

how can I make another one?' Again Metro Screen and Uncle Lester gave me another opportunity the next year with five other younger Indigenous filmmakers who were all interested in storytelling through the medium of film.

"I continued to act to pay the bills, but the calling to write and direct for screen came along so I went with it. I was an actor first and through the support of Uncle Lester I became a director for film."

And while Blair is extremely grateful for Uncle Lester and those who paved the way for Indigenous film makers, after a long pause he says it's his mum who really inspires him.

"I mean my mum only went to grade six and she reads a book every week. Mum has had a dictionary and a thesaurus right beside her for the last 30 to 40 years. She reads a lot. Her curiosity about the world inspires me. She's a big reader. I try to read like her but it's hard," he said.

Mystery Road is a six-part series produced by Bunya Productions.

It would not have made it to our screens without the support of ABC and Screen Australia, in association with Create NSW and ScreenWest.

The new series will air on the ABC, Sunday, April 19, at 8.30pm.

Kirk Page plays the part of Suzy/John in Mystery Road and much of the research for this piece was done on set.

Comic convention is time out for some serious play

By NICK PATON



YORTA Yorta Ngarrindjeri young man Cienan Muir is a self-confessed cosplay and comic lover, and that's why he decided to organise IndigiCon, Australia's first Indigenous Comic Convention.

More than 1500 people came through the doors to check out IndigiCon at the Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre in Melbourne last November, and Mr Muir said he was blown away with the amount of people who came to support the event.

"I have always had a dream of bringing something like this to Australia," he said. "At our first IndigiCon we saw some great involvement in our cosplay parades, and there was some truly amazing art on our main floor."

"There were epic stalls for people to interact with, and we also had some deadly music by indigenous performers and various panel discussions on Indigenous involvement and representation in the industry."

Mr Muir's idea for IndigiCon Australia came about when he was invited to attend the Indigenous Comic Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 2018.

"I was so thrilled to head overseas to the USA to attend this comic convention and I'm so glad I went," he said.

"Seeing all the people dressed in their costumes and all the cosplayers, and how amazing that convention was in Albuquerque, I just knew something needed to happen like that here in Australia."

Cosplay is derived from the words costume and play, and is a type of performance art where participants dress up in costume representing a specific character of their choice.

Inspired by what he witnessed attending the Albuquerque Indigenous Comic Convention, Muir set himself the task of developing Australia's own, and very first, Indigenous Comic Convention, as soon as he landed back in Melbourne.

"My partner Heidi and I both share a passion for cosplay and about two years ago we were even lucky enough to showcase some of our cosplay work at the Melbourne Museum," Mr Muir said.

"Our main message aims to dismantle the concept of shame that can often be rife among members of our communities.



Many of the IndigiCon attendees dressed in their favourite cosplay outfits.



Cienan Muir is the organiser of Australia's first Indigenous Comic Convention.



The Australian IndigiCon comic convention, held at the Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre in Melbourne last November.

"Shame has no place in any of our communities in Australia, especially our Indigenous communities, so Heidi and I use cosplay as a kind of vessel to communicate that you shouldn't be ashamed of who you are."

For the next IndigiCon, Mr Muir is hoping to incorporate gaming into the convention.

"I'm interested to see how Indigenous people are able to utilise the gaming scene to

tell their story, and to bring language and storytelling back to their community," he said.

"This would give people gaming on one side of the country the ability to interact and learn from mob on the other side of the country and vice versa."

Mr Muir said he would like to see greater representation of First Nations and Indigenous characters in the pop-culture world, especially in comics and gaming.

"Because everyone is beautiful no matter who they are, what they do, or what they are into," he said.

"Whether it's cosplay you're into, or *Doctor Who* or *Star Wars*, I think the world view on pop culture is changing, and Indigenous people are at the forefront."

For more information on the next Australian Indigenous Comic Convention visit facebook.com/Indigicon/



AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT GENERALIST GRADUATE STREAM

The Australian Government Graduate Recruitment Generalist Stream is your path to a rewarding career in the Australian Public Service. It brings together five Australian Government departments and agencies, each looking for graduates from a wide variety of fields. These include public policy, the arts, humanities and sciences, law, international relations, media and communications, design, accounting, finance, etc.

If you are looking for an opportunity to work on contemporary policy and delivery, and make a real difference to the lives of Australians, this is the opportunity for you.

With a single application and assessment process, you will be considered for graduate roles at these five Australian Public Service departments and agencies:

- Australian Electoral Commission
- Australian Public Service Commission
- Department of Finance
- Department of Veterans' Affairs
- National Indigenous Australians Agency

Successful candidates will be offered a role in the graduate program of one of the above government agencies. Applications open 30 March - 30 April 2020. For more information and to apply, go to <https://www.apsjobs.gov.au/s/graduate-programs>

1355ZJ_0685

Ranger program gets extension



A POPULAR Indigenous ranger program has been extended for another seven years by the Federal Government.

The Northern Territory Northern Land Council (NLC) welcomed the announcement, with chief executive Marion Scrymgeour saying the extension would provide certainty and ongoing job security to the Aboriginal land and sea managers that work across the Top End of the NT and the rest of the country.

"The rangers work tirelessly to care for their country for the benefit of all Australians and our future generations," she said.

"There has simply not been enough funding to meet the demand for employment out bush

and to ensure that critical operational and infrastructure needs are met.

"More funding is required to ensure our rangers are able to work safely and effectively.

"Many of the vehicles that our rangers drive on a daily basis are worn out and urgently need replacement."

NLC chairman Samuel Bush-Blawasi said it was important for countrymen and women out bush to have more rangers working on their own country.

"We need more women and young rangers, and to grow-up the Learning on Country Program, which links secondary school with real jobs as rangers," he said. "We are also really worried that the recent announcement unfortunately does not include those ranger groups funded under the Real Jobs Program."

COVID-19



Protect your mob and your Elders. Stay at home.

Dr. Khyarne Biles

Connection to country, culture and ceremony is very important for Aboriginal people.

But Aboriginal people who are over 50 or who already have health problems are particularly at risk of COVID-19.

Protect yourself and your mob by staying at home, and together we will help save lives.

> HELP US SAVE LIVES

For the latest information on COVID-19, visit nsw.gov.au



Results in the balance as vote count goes on



WHILE the NSW local government elections have been postponed until next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, counting in the Queensland local polls was continuing as the *Koori Mail* went to press last weekend.

The Queensland Electoral Commission said final results are now not expected until some time later this week – but some of the results in the elections for mayor of Torres Strait and Aboriginal Shire councils had been counted.

Mayoral roundup

(At the time of going to print contests too close to call included Torres and the Aboriginal Shire councils of Doomadgee, Napranum, Palm Island and Wujal Wujal.)

Aurukun

New contender Keri Tamwoy is well in front of sitting mayor Dereck Walpo and third candidate Barbara Bandicootcha.

Cherbourg

Out of a field of eight contenders, mayoral incumbent Arnold Murray was well behind frontrunner Elvie Sandow, with Max Conlon coming in a distant second.

Doomadgee

Council has been led by acting (former deputy) mayor Cr Jason Ned for the past several months after mayor Edrick Waldren was stood down from the position.

Cr Ned was running just three votes behind Frederick O'Keefe's bid, as they lead the field in a tight race for the position between seven candidates.

Hopevale

Acting (former deputy) mayor June Pearson, a councillor of more than 20 years of experience, chose to run against an enormous



Mapoon mayor-elect
Aileen Addo.

field of 25 candidates for just four positions as councillor, and looks unlikely to succeed. Previous mayor Greg McLean has also tried again for his position, but was well behind frontrunner Jason Woibo in another big field of eight hopefuls.

Kowanyama

In what appears will be a landslide result over incumbent mayor Michael Yam, east-coast-born Robbie Sands – who has been in Kowanyama for more than 20 years and previously held the position of chief executive for the council – is sitting well ahead of his four competitors with more than 60% of the votes counted so far going his way.

Lockhart River

With preferences yet to be counted, early indications are incumbent mayor Wayne Butcher will hold his position against former mayor Rodney Accoom and Gregory Pascoe.

Mapoon

Mayor Aileen Addo should hold



Yarrabah mayor-elect
Ross Andrews.

her position as mayor ahead of former councillor Pauline Smith.

Napranum

Former mayor Roy Chevathen is narrowly winning what will likely become a tight battle for preferences with newcomer Janita Motton, both of whom have left incumbent mayor Rex Burke well behind at the gate.

Northern Peninsula Area

Newcomer Patricia Yusia was well in front of Umagico's former deputy chair Peter Lui, Jeffrey Aniba and incumbent mayor Edward Newman at the time of printing.

Palm Island

With former long-time mayor Alf Lacey stepping aside to run for an unlikely position as councillor, and seven candidates on the ballot, it looks like a preferences battle will decide if former councillor Mislam Sam, currently sitting at nearly 30 votes in front, will win over well-known activist Lex Wotton.



Wujal Wujal mayor-elect
Bradley Creek.

Pormpuraaw

Incumbent mayor Ralph Kendall sits slightly behind former mayor Richard Tarpencha's run for another stint leading the western Cape York community. Candidate Vanessa Deakin may jump up a little with preferences but Janey Deakin was most likely out of the running at this stage.

Torres Shire

Counting between incumbents mayor Vonda Malone and deputy mayor Yen Loban Snr is close and will go to preferences as other contenders Yen Loban Jnr and Barry Williams fall behind.

Torres Strait Regional Council

Former long-time councillor Phillemon Mosby has nearly twice the votes of incumbent mayor Fred Gela, and is well ahead of former TSRA chair Toshie Kris and former ATSIC commissioner Tomisina Ahwang (Mam).

Woorabinda

Four of the five candidates, which includes former mayor



Pormpuraaw mayor-elect
Richard Tarpencha.

Roderick Tobane, for Woorabinda, west of Rockhampton, will be hoping preferences might pull back Josh Weazel's clear lead of more than 25% of the vote.

Wujal Wujal

A closely drawn battle between long-term incumbent mayor Desmond Tayley is leaning towards a narrow win by former councillor Bradley Creek in the rainforest town of Wujal Wujal. Worth noting the previous council – Robert Bloomfield, Regan Kulka, Vanessa and Vincent Tayley – have been re-elected unopposed.

Yarrabah

Former mayor Percy Neal and candidate Brent Pearson have run second in numbers to incumbent mayor Ross Andrews in Yarrabah, near Cairns. Candidates Andrew Garrett and Elverina Johnson will no doubt play a role in preferencing but at this stage Cr Andrews looks well in front.

For more information see <https://prodresults.elections.qld.gov.au/lga2020>

Notice of an application for determination of native title in the Northern Territory

Notification day: 22 April 2020

This is an application by a native title claim group which is asking the Federal Court of Australia (Federal Court) to determine that the group holds native title in the area described below.

A person who wants to become a party to this application must write to the Registrar of the Federal Court, GPO Box 1806, Darwin, NT, 0801 **on or before 21 July 2020**. After **21 July 2020** the Federal Court's permission to become a party is required.

Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) there can be only one determination of native title for a particular area. If a person with native title rights and interests does not become a party to this application, there may be no other opportunity for the Federal Court, in making its determination, to take into account those native title rights and interests in relation to the area concerned.



Application name: Galarrwuy Yunupingu (on behalf of the Gumatj Clan or Estate Group) v Commonwealth of Australia & Northern Territory of Australia (Gove Native Title Claim)
Federal Court File No: NTD42/2019
Date filed: 28 November 2019
Registration test status: The Native Title Registrar has **not accepted** this application for registration. Although this application has not been registered, the Federal Court may still refer the application for mediation and/or make a determination in relation to it

Description: The application area covers approx. 238 sq km on the Gove Peninsula in north east Arnhem Land
Relevant LGAs: East Arnhem Regional Council and Unincorporated (Nhulunbuy) Area

For assistance and further information about this application, call Sylvia Jagtman on 02 9227 4000 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.



National
Native Title
Tribunal

Calls to remove racist councillor



A COUNCILLOR in western NSW remains on the local government body, despite calls for his removal following a racist email.

Labor's shadow local-government minister Greg Warren has condemned the email circulated by Dubbo Cr Kevin Parker and demanded the minister for local government investigate and take action.

It follows widespread calls and a petition by the Dubbo community for Cr Parker to resign.

Earlier this year, the Dubbo regional councillor and National Party member circulated the offensive email which featured a racist 'joke' regarding a fictitious film called *Jet Black* – an Aboriginal version of *Snow White*.

The email was sent to several

people including a staff member at the Member for Dubbo's office and a former Nationals MP.

Cr Parker was suspended by his place of employment, the Bank of Queensland, due to code of conduct breaches.

Mr Warren demanded the minister for local government launch an investigation into Cr Parker, and that the councillor also stand aside from his council duties until the investigation was complete.

"Councillor Kevin Parker's actions are disgraceful, distasteful and quite simply, racist," Mr Warren said.

At the March Dubbo Regional Council meeting, Cr Stephen Lawrence moved a successful motion that Council condemn racism and look at an Aboriginal Employment Policy, a Reconciliation Action Plan and an Aboriginal Procurement Policy.



Little moments matter
Talk, read, sing and play together – every day!



Did you know?

In their first years of life your child's brain forms over one million connections every second. Simple, everyday activities with you help to make these connections strong.



Ready to learn!

Babies are born ready to learn and you are their first and most important teacher. Talk, read, sing and play together right from birth to help their brains grow and build their connection with you.

Visit slq.qld.gov.au/first5forever
for fun ideas and activities and to sign up
for free weekly tips





Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources

Affirmative Measure – Indigenous - 2021 Graduate Development Program

About our graduate program

The Graduate Development Program at the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources is a great way to start your career not only in the Australian Public Service but in a department that values a strong culture of inclusion, diversity, respect and embraces the unique skills and qualities of our employees. Our program is based in Canberra and will commence early February 2021.

We accept all disciplines of study and have numerous opportunities available to use your skills, knowledge and experience.

We value people who have strong communication, teamwork, research and analysis skills, who are adaptable and show initiative and judgment. Prior work experience including volunteer, internships or community engagement are all a bonus!

While we have a Generalist Stream, in 2021 we will also offering a Professional Services Stream and a STEM Stream.

Professional Services Stream within the department

The department is looking for graduates with a Major in either:

- Human Resources
- Finance
- Law
- ICT
- Communications and marketing

Graduates in these streams undertake work placements in their area of expertise.

Australian Public Service STEM Stream

The department is leading the Australian Public Service Graduate STEM Stream where you have the opportunity to apply for STEM graduate roles in various APS agencies in 2021.

The department is looking for graduates with a Major in either:

- Science
- Technology
- Engineering
- Mathematics

By opting into the STEM Stream, you are not only applying for a role as a graduate at the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, you will also be considered for graduate STEM positions in other APS agencies.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a graduate position you must:

- be an Australian Citizen
- have completed a minimum of a three-year undergraduate degree within the last 5 years (completed between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2020)
- if you have an overseas qualification it must be recognised by National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR)
- if applying for a professional service stream, hold a formal qualification in the relevant area
- be able to obtain and maintain a baseline security clearance
- be prepared to relocate to Canberra.

The filling of this vacancy is intended to constitute an affirmative measure under section 8(1) of the 'Racial Discrimination Act 1975'. This vacancy is only available to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.

To ensure the department is meeting the requirements of Section 8(1) successful candidates will be required to provide evidence that they are an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person prior to being made an offer of employment. Acceptable evidence includes:

- a letter signed and executed by the Chairperson of an incorporated Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander organisation confirming that they are recognised as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person, or
- a confirmation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent form executed by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander organisation.

Recognising diversity and all abilities

The department's reconciliation vision supports a workforce with opportunities and career pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples where they feel empowered, ensuring that the department and broader community can benefit from the knowledge and experience of Australia's First Peoples.

We are committed to employment measures that are inclusive and represent the diversity of the Australian community by bringing to bear the knowledge and expertise of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our policy work and program delivery. To do this we need Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff across all levels and areas of the department.

Connect with us

Hear what graduates say about our Graduate Development Program by checking out the information on the GradConnection page.

Join the Graduates community on Facebook.

More information, including how to apply, can be found by visiting

<https://www.industry.gov.au/about-us/work-with-us/graduates-program>

For further information regarding this opportunity, please contact us at employmentprograms@industry.gov.au or +61 2 6213 6501

1010UD_0701



Professor Stan Grant Jnr has been appointed the vice-chancellor's chair of Australian-Indigenous Belonging at Charles Sturt University.

Professor Grant gets a chair



CHARLES Sturt University has appointed Professor Stan Grant Jnr as the vice-chancellor's chair of Australian-Indigenous Belonging.

Professor Grant Jnr was appointed the chair of Indigenous Affairs in 2016, and this new role, which has been in discussion for a year, continues his already strong association with the university.

He began in the new role last week.

He is also the son of Dr Uncle Stan Grant Snr, a Wiradjuri Elder and university's Graduate Certificate in Wiradjuri Language, Culture, and Heritage.

"My family has a long and deep association with Charles Sturt University," Professor Grant said.

"Being a Wiradjuri person, and of course that Charles Sturt University sits largely on Wiradjuri land, my traditional country ... Charles Sturt University is the perfect institution for me.

"I am honoured to join Charles Sturt University to explore the convergence of Indigenous issues with national and global shifts in politics and power."

Professor Grant will bring decades of experience as an educator, journalist and film producer to the university to explore and answer questions about belonging, home, history and identity.

In his new role, Professor Grant will engage students, faculty members and the

media to discuss issues of belonging and identity.

Professor Grant aims to lecture and speak nationally and internationally to explore an ever-changing world in what he says is a critical time in national and global history.

"I want to be provocative and challenging as well as, hopefully, enlightening," he said.

"The world is in the grip of crisis and teetering on global recession, the impact could permanently change the way we live.

"All of these issues are central to Australia's future and the future of Indigenous peoples in our country.

"There is important work to do at a critical time in our national and global history, and what a privilege it is to do that and live and work on my ancestral Wiradjuri country."

Professor Grant will work with Charles Sturt's Office of Indigenous Affairs and will be based at Charles Sturt in Wagga Wagga.

He will report directly to deputy vice-chancellor (Research and Engagement) Professor Heather Cavanagh, who said this new role will contribute to the advancement of nationhood and the advancement of Indigenous peoples.

"We are incredibly fortunate to welcome Professor Stan Grant Jnr into this position," she said.

"His experience educating people about Indigenous rights and processes will be a valuable asset to the university and our commitment to Indigenous education."



Australian Government

OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Financial assistance is now available to support individuals, households and businesses.

From keeping Australians in jobs and businesses in business with the **\$130 billion JobKeeper Payment**, to assisting individuals and households with a doubling of income support, we're helping Australians during the Coronavirus.



To find out more,
visit **australia.gov.au**

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra

Palawa beat shutdown

By JILLIAN MUNDY



WELL over 100 members of the Aboriginal community gathered on returned land for the annual Preminghana camp, in Tasmania's north-east last month.

At the time, little did anyone know that such a gathering would not be possible for the foreseeable future.

Preminghana was returned to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community through legislation in 1995 and from the late 90s there has been an annual camp

With breathtaking coastlines, lagoons and a mountain, Preminghana is home to plenty of bush tucker, craft resources, recreational opportunities, and Aboriginal heritage places including rock art thought to be made between 2000 and 4000 years ago, middens and stone tool sites; a testimony to the long and continued Aboriginal occupation of the area.

A timeless reminder: view of the moonlit mountain, stars and ocean at Preminghana.

People travelled from all over the state for the gathering to catch up, relax, and the enjoy country.

Activities included palawa kani language activities, lino printing, walks and talks exploring the property and learning about bush tucker and seeing the work by the Pakana Rangers. People made spears, kelp water carriers and baskets. There was a fireside short film night and a last minute slide show of past camps – many of the photos featured in the *Koori Mail* over the years. There was a visit to nearby Kings Run, which was returned to the Aboriginal community in 2018 through philanthropic donations and an Indigenous Land Corporation grant.

A group also visited the Bob Brown Foundation's forest defenders blockade in takayna in a show of solidarity and thanks.

There was also role modelling, as happens at such get-togethers, whether intentional or unintentional.

At the time of the camp, there were no restrictions on organised gatherings, but an increased focus on hygiene around food was noticeable. Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) staff cooked and distributed all the food. Having thoroughly attended to handwashing, they were strict about using utensils and wearing gloves, and ensured washing up water was really hot.

"We knew that things were going to escalate and we were ensuring public guidelines around hygiene were followed and modelling the importance of hygiene and risk management for large groups," said Raylene Foster, chief operations manager of TAC, who managed the land and run the camp.

She said had the camp been scheduled for later in the month



Artworks drying between the trees.



Calen Willis Hart, Jkobi Hughes and Cori Davis at Kings Run.

it would have been called off.

"We wouldn't be able to manage the public health messages in that sort of environment," she said.

Ninety percent of the TAC's work now relates to the COVID-19 pandemic, including special measures to ensure the safety of those in the community least able to care for themselves.

At first some small TAC gatherings were still held, and presented an opportunity to get messages out about social

distancing, hand washing and staying safe.

"We know social isolation is going to be detrimental to our community. While we can still get together we will. It will lessen the impact when we do have to knuckle down and isolate," she said.

All groups are now cancelled and staff have been kept busy supporting families via telephone where possible and making some home visits where strict social distancing is observed.



Jamaya Summers and Cheryl Rose check out Browyn Dillon's print.

On midnight Friday, March 20, Lutruwita (Tasmanian) borders were effectively closed. Anyone entering the state is now required to quarantine for 14 days, with exemptions for essential travellers such as healthcare workers, emergency workers, defence personnel, air and ship crew, specialists and essential freight personnel.

Those breaching the quarantine may cop a fine of up to \$16,800.

The last time the state

borders were closed was in 1918 during the Spanish Flu outbreak. Lutruwita's reported death rate, of 171, was one of the lowest in the world. Around a century earlier the First Nations clans of the island also suffered and died from viruses and infections introduced by Europeans.

While the overall statistics will never be known, there are records of dozens who were forced into 'settlements' dying from pneumonia, tuberculosis and influenza in the 1830s.



Alisha Pearson with her daughter Frankie Pearson and Janeeva Trail from Launceston at their first Preminghana community camp. After returning from living in Queensland for the past 21 years, the camp was an opportunity to connect with extended family and country.



Awareness of the COVID-19 crisis meant camp hygiene was strict.



Sisters Colleen Mundy, Loueen Triffitt and Cheryl Mundy were among three generations of their family that came to the camp.



Scott Wells and son Alexander from Wynyard and Buck Brown from Cape Barren Island.



Krystelle Jackson from Burnie with her sons Kezz, Jordan and Billy Jackson, and their friends from Launceston, twins Mica and Konan Brown at Kings Run.



A group of campers about to set off up the mountain.



Tanika Burford, Amber Brown-Murray, Piepa Taylor and Sophie Jennings with some of the kelp water carriers they made.

Danny Eastwood's view



A YARN WITH...



Sarah Wosomo

Wulguru,
Queensland/
Saibai Island,
TS descent

Quote



"As a group we seek to facilitate reconnections with family and close friends by restoring women's self-esteem and respect. It's about bringing the girls together to sing and dance and simply be themselves as sistergirls."

Senior sistergirl Bertie Tipungwuti on the 2020 Black Rainbow Sistergirl Retreat

● See page 22

Unquote

Child protection pain continues

At what point do child protection authorities begin to listen to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people? For too long so-called child protection workers have been removing children from their families instead of working with those families to address generational traumas.

The often cited accusation of 'neglect' is one too often used against Indigenous parents, with the median age at first child protection report being three years, much lower than the median for non-Indigenous children, which is seven years.

So let's get this straight.

Indigenous kids are spending more time in government care than with their so-called neglectful parents, yet they are also more likely to end up before the courts after coming into that 'care'.

Something's not quite right there.

What the latest report from the Victorian Sentencing Advisory Committee confirms is that once you're in, it's hard to get out of the system. So called 'care' often leads to crime, which then leads to doing time.

The latest report only confirms what many already know. The child protection system in this country, especially for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, is broken. And one of the main reasons that the system remains untrusted, by not only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people but also the wider community, is that it hides its indiscretions from proper scrutiny.

Ask any journalist trying to investigate matters involving the treatment of



Aboriginal kids by a government department and they will quote you the one line response the journalist has waited all day for: "The Department cannot comment on individual cases."

And while that is sometimes understandable from the point of protecting privacy or court proceedings, there is no excuse for not answering broader questions posed regarding the department's handling of particular matters. For example: The *Koori Mail* asked last week whether two Aboriginal children had flown to England with a foster parent, against the wishes of the mother, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Department cannot comment on individual cases," was the not-unexpected response.

OK, are ANY Australian children under the department's care being given permission to travel overseas against the wishes of parents or other family at this time? The response: "We won't be adding further to the statement provided."

This from a department that thought it OK to contact a mother on a Thursday to inform her that her children were set to fly to England the following day.

This is not care. It's cruelty.

KOORI MAIL 100% ABORIGINAL-OWNED

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

Favourite bush tucker?
Turtle.

Favourite non-Indigenous food?
Spaghetti bolognese.

Favourite drink?
Tea, any Australian brand.

Favourite music?
Slim Dusty songs, especially *I Love to Have a Beer with Duncan*.

Favourite sport?
Rugby league. I follow the Sydney Bulldogs and my local team the Cowboys, and was so happy they won the NRL Nines.

Favourite read?
The *Koori Mail* and *Torres News*, also *Townsville Bulletin*.

Favourite holiday destination?
Cairns and Innisfail, because I have relatives there.

Favourite movie?
Any with Elvis Presley starring. *Girls, Girls, Girls* is really good.

What do you like in life?
Catching up with family and friends.

What don't you like in Life?
Bullying in any form.

What person would you like most to meet often? My sisters Millee and Sheree, who live at Innisfail.

Which people would you invite for a night around the campfire? My dad, who is in Cairns.

Who/what inspires you? The staff at Tumbetin Lodge eatery where I have worked for 10 years.

What would you do to better the situation for Indigenous people? Tell youngsters to get as good an education as possible to enable them to get a good job.

Jahna is dedicated to make change happen

By NICK PATON



NYIYAPARLI woman Jahna Cedar has encountered heartbreaking losses, abuse and failure as part of her journey. But the barriers and hurdles have only encouraged Jahna to build stronger resilience, become more determined to succeed, and help her understand that nothing can stand in the way of someone dedicated to making change.

Ms Cedar said her biggest setback came at age 11, when her father passed away suddenly. Twenty years on, the event is still something Ms Cedar struggles to come to grips with.

"How can someone I love unconditionally and with whom I hold a special bond, and who truly worshipped my every move, not share in my graduation? Not walk me down the aisle to my future husband? Not witness the birth and lives of my children, and not be in a position to offer me guidance and support," she said.

"As blessed as I am to have an amazing stepfather who has always treated me as his own, no one can take the role or place in my heart of my dad."

Describing herself as a multidimensional First Nations woman, Ms Cedar said her proudest and most challenging moments are when she is faced with conflicting priorities and expectations between Western and First Nations protocols and responsibilities.

"As a community we need to educate non-Indigenous people on our cultural rights and responsibilities," she said.

"Flexible and culturally safe workplaces require innovative approaches to accommodate, appreciate and respect the need for cultural participation and inclusion.

"So we need to find a way to walk in two worlds."

Ms Cedar is an advocate for Indigenous advancement, especially in the business sector.

"The emergence of Indigenous business within Australia means that there will be a continued need for Indigenous professionals who are able to bring the level of leadership and cultural decorum to corporations who have social and cultural responsibilities," Ms Cedar said.

"So building effective Indigenous engagement involves securing greater two-way accountability and legitimacy, while respecting and acknowledging the difference of opinion and diversity."

Ms Cedar has dedicated her life to advocating for equal rights and reconciliation of Indigenous people and has represented Indigenous Australia at the United Nations in New York on three occasions.



Nyiyaparli woman Jahna Cedar is director of Policy, Evaluation and Indigenous Affairs/Engagement at IPS Management Consultants.

On January 26, this year Ms Cedar was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) as part of the 2020 Australia Day honours list.

"It's a humbling experience knowing I'm standing on the shoulders of my ancestors who have fought such a long battle for reconciliation and recognition of our First Nations people," she said.

"I particularly want to recognise the rich knowledge and experience of the many Elders who have led and guided me, whose cultural authority I respect and appreciate."

Currently Ms Cedar works as the director of Policy, Evaluation and Indigenous Affairs/Engagement at IPS Management Consultants, a majority Indigenous-owned organisation.

"IPS provides innovative and focused consulting services to meet organisational development and leadership, business development, research and communications needs," she said.

"Our network of sister businesses create Indigenous engagement and employment opportunities around Australia, while providing important service

"Indigenous women play an integral role in their communities as family and business leaders and role models and I have been fortunate to be raised and surrounded by strong Indigenous men and women who have advocated for the rights and acknowledgement of our people."

– Jahna Cedar

offerings to our clients, and IPS are proud to be the recipients of Supply Nation's Certified Supplier of the Year award in 2018 and 2019."

In February, Ms Cedar was invited to Parliament House in Canberra to address the House Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs, where she

spoke about pathways and participation opportunities for Indigenous people in employment and business.

"The Federal Indigenous Procurement Policy, Indigenous Procurement Policies in NSW and Queensland, and the Aboriginal Procurement Policy in WA, all require a certain percentage of government procurement contracts to go to Indigenous business, effectively driving demand for Indigenous goods and services," Ms Cedar said.

"This creates opportunities for Indigenous businesses to access government contracts, and Indigenous economic sustainability should be at the forefront of economy boosting discussions."

Being an advocate for greater opportunities and support for Indigenous businesswomen, Ms Cedar said that although Indigenous women face greater social and economic marginalisation than any other demographic in the world, Indigenous women in business are creating pathways and opportunities to break the chains of intergenerational disadvantage and stereotypes.

"We come from one of the longest living civilisations on earth, yet many of our communities are still faced with third world conditions," Ms Cedar said.

"Indigenous women play an integral role in their communities as family and business leaders and role models and I have been fortunate to be raised and surrounded by strong Indigenous men and women who have advocated for the rights and acknowledgement of our people."

In 2012, Ms Cedar became the youngest person to be elected into the West Australian International Women's Day Hall of Fame and in 2016 she received the Emerging Leader Award from the Australian Institute of Management in Western Australia.

Ms Cedar was also the recipient of the 2017 Business News 40 under 40 First Amongst Equals award, and winner of the WA Telstra Business Women Awards for Purpose and Social Enterprise in that same year.

"My peer respect is underpinned by my genuine approach, my appreciation of cultural Elders, their cultural authority and traditional owner culture and it is because of them that I have a passion for social advancement and capacity building and drive for creating transformational opportunities for Aboriginal communities," Ms Cedar said.

"It is due to the strength of my ancestors and their fight for justice and equality that I am able to live the life I have. It has given me a fire and passion to want to learn and give back to my community."



Founder of Black Rainbow Dameyon Bonson and the sistersgirls. All pictures: Terri Smith at Terri Creatives

Sistersgirls celebrate

By NICK PATON



FOURTEEN sistersgirls have recently returned from an empowering wellbeing retreat, and now the girls are set to star in a deadly mini-documentary about their experience, which they hope will inspire other sistersgirls and brotherboys to embrace their sexuality and culture as one.

On March 5, the sistersgirls boarded a ferry from Bathurst Island to Darwin for a 140km adventure south by bus to the Mount Bundy outstation.

It was the beginning of an epic four-day cultural and positive wellbeing experience held at the 2020 Black Rainbow Sistersgirl Retreat.

'Sistersgirl' and 'brotherboy' are terms used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to describe gender diversity. This retreat was exclusive to sistersgirls and several other members of the Tiwi Islands LGBTQI+SB community.

It was the first retreat to be hosted by Black Rainbow, an Indigenous not-for-profit that supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQI+ people through a variety of community initiatives and 'Contagion of Love' projects.

Black Rainbow's founder Dameyon Bonson said the retreat provided the sistersgirls a safe space to share culture and knowledge, and, over the course of the four days, the sistersgirls engaged in various forms of traditional dance and storytelling.

A highlight of the retreat, Mr Bonson said, was seeing the reactions of the sistersgirls after



Tiwi Islands sistersgirl Aunty Crystal.



Trevor, a volunteer at Indigenous not-for-profit 'Women Of' pampers Black Rainbow member and senior sistersgirl Bertie Tipungwuti.

their hair and make-up sessions.

"Seeing the sparkle in the girls' eyes when they looked in the mirror and saw the transformation after their hair and make-up session was done, absolutely made my heart melt," he said.

"The girls were on cloud nine."

Senior sistersgirl and Black

Rainbow member Bertie Tipungwuti said the experience

was particularly special for the girls because this was the first time they had been on a retreat of this kind, and the first time lesbian women were invited along.

"This retreat is about giving the girls from Bathurst Island a weekend away from community life," Ms Tipungwuti said.

"As a group we seek to facilitate reconnections with



Tiwi Islands sistersgirl Lima.



Tiwi Islands sistersgirl Patricia.

family and close friends by restoring women's self-esteem and respect.

"It's about bringing the girls together to sing and dance and simply be themselves as sistersgirls."

The sistersgirls were pampered by Sydney-based Indigenous not-for-profit 'Women Of', who specialise in empowering young

women undergoing adverse circumstances, through hair and beauty sessions.

Founder Dan Tafeuni said it was a privilege that he and the team were able to partner with such a special event, going as far as donating his time to the cause.

"Both the team and I came away feeling enriched and empowered by the stories and dances the sistersgirls shared," he said.

"They are the first group of LGBTQI+ women from an Indigenous community to live openly, freely existing with cultural practice and lore.

"They are the Gatekeepers and liaise between two worlds of traditional and modern practice."

Sistersgirl Aunty Crystal said she enjoyed the week away with Black Rainbow because it made her feel proud.

"And it made me feel good as a person," she said.

After the retreat, the sistersgirls were whisked back to Darwin where they were surprised with tickets and front row seats to see drag queen superstar Courtney Act's new show, FLUID.

Being a proud advocate for LGBTQI+ people, Courtney Act has been instrumental in highlighting the work of Black Rainbow after they chose the organisation as her charity of choice when competing on *Dancing with the Stars* in 2019.

The Black Rainbow Sistersgirl Retreat is currently being converted into a mini-documentary set to be released later this year.

It will serve as a multimedia educational resource informing viewers about the lives, experiences and needs of members of the Tiwi Islands sistersgirl community.



Please, Ken Wyatt, hear our urgent plea

An open letter to the Commonwealth Minister for Indigenous Australians from a group of concerned health professionals

Dear Minister Wyatt,

We are writing as a group of health professionals to urge you to do whatever is necessary to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people/communities to take protective actions regarding COVID-19. As in all measures, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community guidance, involvement in design and decision making is essential.

There is an urgent imperative to prevent the spread of COVID-19 into Indigenous communities, which are particularly vulnerable to its impacts. Given the multiple and significant health issues faced by many in isolated Indigenous communities, and the lack of intensive/accessible health facilities, the death rates of a COVID-19 outbreak would be very high.

Related critical issues include:

- the risk posed by non-essential 'fly in fly out' (FIFO) workforces into remote communities;
- the need for early release of imprisoned Aboriginal people (those serving time for lesser offences), given incarceration massively increases risk of infection and death;
- ensuring the ongoing provision of supplies in a reliable and cost-effective manner;
- access to clear, accurate health information – both in English and in local languages; and
- provision for health worker support, testing and isolation/quarantine facilities.

Clearly there are different situations across the country; there is no 'one size fits all' approach.

After reaching out to a number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations, individuals and healthcare workers, we strongly advocate for these recommendations with urgency:

1. Clear protocols must be established to cease non-essential FIFO contact with local workers and community, as well as ensuring adequate hygiene measures are used at every point.



Health professionals are urging the Government to ensure vital medical services, like dialysis.

Where the separation of workers is not feasible, we request that either FIFO work should cease, or a local workforce should be given extended paid leave, given the key role this income plays in many communities.

2. The urgent release of many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander minor offenders from custody.

Specifically, this applies to those who are on remand or in custody for minor offences and/or not deemed as a threat to others. This includes women, young people, and those at greatest risk of dying from COVID-19, e.g. the elderly, and people with pre-existing health conditions.

At all costs, we must prevent any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths in custody from COVID-19. These are preventable deaths.

3. Provision by government of guaranteed supplies of staples to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

This is increasingly becoming necessary, especially given remote locations can have few alternatives and prohibitive costs. The

subsidisation of fresh food, particularly fruit and vegetables, may also improve the nutrition, health and resilience of communities.

Currently, there are reports of essential item shortages similar to those noted in metropolitan areas. As examples, a lack of meat, toilet paper, hand sanitiser and basic food items are now common. The adequate provision of cleaning supplies is imperative, as many of these communities do not have reliable access to running water in all homes. Ammunition used in hunting is also in short supply in some areas. Various communities are also reporting price gouging, with some locations seeing essentials like milk and toilet paper double their usual cost.

Further, while encouraging isolation from nearby towns would reduce the spread of COVID-19, it is also very difficult to enforce if there is limited access to many essential supplies locally.

4. The provision of clear, accurate and up-to-date information (preferably in language) would help to mitigate the worry, confusion and fear that is currently

being reported in some communities.

For example, speaking of 'avoidance' can mean many different things in cultural contexts. Further, strong cultural traditions might prevent people from readily embracing safer, recommended hygiene practices. For example, some people may be more concerned about not disrespecting Elders, wanting to attend a funeral and observe Sorry Business. Hence, the Government needs to be very clear in its messaging across media platforms about the actual risks involved and the recommended precautions people should take. Culturally appropriate work with communities and Elders to find new solutions that also ensure they can continue to practise their Law and culture must be an imperative. Noting, there are many existing language centres that could assist with this (ideally for a reasonable fee in this time of economic uncertainty).

5. Provision for health worker support and training, testing and isolation/quarantine facilities.

Health workers in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

or in remote regions need specialist training in this time to ensure they have access to the latest information, as well as personal protective equipment and testing facilities. Capacity to allow for safe isolation or quarantining is vital in helping control the disease.

We strongly urge the government to work with local community-controlled services to ensure vital services such as dialysis services, mental health services, telehealth services and supplies lines of medication are not reduced during this time.

As healthcare workers, our concern is for all people facing this global pandemic. But our First Nations people are particularly at risk here in Australia.

There are significant urgent actions that need to be taken NOW, to prevent unnecessary deaths.

We are sure you share this concern and we look forward to hearing what you can do in this rapidly deteriorating and highly threatening situation.

Dr Margaret Beavis
Dr Anne Noonan
Dr Kris Rallah-Baker
Dr Dana Slape
Dr Catherine Keaney
Assoc Prof Tilman A Ruff
Dr Ruth Mitchell
Dr Sue Wareham
Lynette Saville
Dr Helen Feniger
Dr Ka Sing Chua
Dr Michael Keem
Dr Lucy Desmond
Dr Tom Keaney
Genevieve Christophers
Dr Bruce McClure
Deborah Leighton
Dr Carole Wigg
Dr Jane Fyfield
Dr Andrew McDonald
Dr Barbara Robertson
Jane Phillips
Dr Judith Hammond
Professor Eric Morand
Anne C Hosking
Dr Richard K Barnes
Dr Kate Lardner
Dr Peter Shannon
Dr Henry Robert Jennens
Dr Maria Bikos

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.



Mail

The Editor, PO Box 117,
Lismore, 2480



Phone

You can reach us
on 02 66 222 666



E-mail

The address is:
editor@koorimail.com

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

In crisis we need each other

WE are a quarter of the way into 2020 and the devastation is very real and remains all around us.

We have had to endure watching the drying and dying landscape around us, knowing that our mother was suffering.

Then we have watched in horror with everyone else as the culmination of poor land management by the coloniser brought wildfire decimation of so much of this country, which resulted in immeasurable ecological loss.

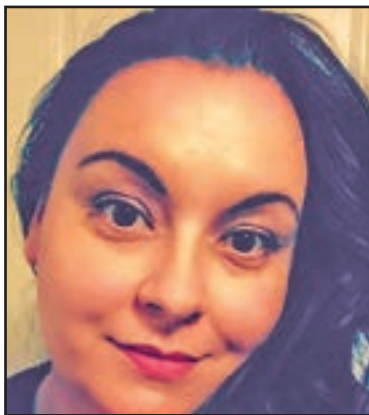
Now we find ourselves in the midst of a global pandemic with the vulnerability of our people stoking the fires of anxiety within.

This perpetual compounding of heightened anxiety during the continuation of the daily struggle of life in the colony causes an impact on us as individuals, as families and communities.

The pervasive weight of life is compounded when you are mob because we need only look around and we see the very real impacts of this heaviness.

We see the old aunties and nans stressing over younger ones who are in the system, wondering if they will get out and get home before this pandemic takes over.

Some of these ones are languishing in jail on remand, not guilty of any crime, but not granted bail, where their white counterparts were because justice is not colour blind in this



Natalie Cromb

country, despite all assertions of objectivity.

We have to contend with the real risk to the lives of our people in the system on a daily basis, but during times of intense pressure, such as a pandemic, this stress is intensified and we need to advocate harder to get the power brokers to hear us, to see us as human, deserving of life like all others.

We see the parents among us stressing over being able to provide the basics in circumstances where prices are in line with demand and the demand is fuelled by panic buying. Add to that if you are in remote communities because the greed of proprietors makes things worse in terms of the ability to afford a basic grocery order.

They removed our ability to move freely on our country, removed our right to pursue our old ways and means for survival and then placed us into this dehumanising life of capitalism where we are required to purchase the means that we never needed and work jobs that we never needed or be broke without any means.

Where there are no jobs or means, you are subject to dehumanising Centrelink payments, less than a basic living income.

You are treated with contempt by the government, and other non-Indigenous people who fail to understand the political machinations that set us against one another.

They may change their tune now that they have to grapple with the same system.

We see the uncles and cousins walking the riverbanks seeing some water but knowing that it is masking the ecological devastation of the dries and fires.

Over the course of the last two years particularly, we have seen mass fish kills and rivers run dry. We have seen poisoning from the pastoralists and industries profiting from the destruction of country.

We have seen governmental decisions protect the right to destroy while eroding all rights we have had since time immemorial to care for country.

The continuous knock backs, to our land keepers and fire practitioners as they seek to step in and care for country, are worn tiredly on their faces and carried in their shoulders.

We see the kids joking and acting up to lighten the mood, to divert attention because they can feel the situational stress despite the efforts of adults to hide it.

This is a heavy weight to bear for our kids who already grow up too quickly as they grapple with the daily struggle of being black in the colony.

We see it all around us.

No family, community or individual is immune from the heavy burdens of additional situational stress and devastation on top of the weight of our daily lives.

In times like these, it is not easy to find purpose or reason, but, for us, we have the beauty and benefit of our kinship structures to bring us purpose, and need only look at our families through the lens of understanding the struggle of all who came before us to know that they are the reason.

As our advocates work tirelessly to alleviate the stress of our old ones by trying to get our mob out of the system, support them. Ask them what can be done to support their work.

As our mental health workers and psychologists rally to support mob through this heightened

period, they too will carry this. So call them and try to lighten their load.

As our uncles who hold knowledge feel defeated in the context of our current ecological devastation, walk with them, learn from them and give them hope that you will be there to support them and continue their work long after they are sitting on the sidelines watching you.

There is a multitude of ways we can continue to do as we always have in supporting each other and giving ourselves and each other purpose: Cuppa teas over the phone, koori grapevine to help everyone get what they need from a bottle of milk, some toilet paper or a cooked meal.

We have always, and will always, come together, but this current situation just makes the way we do that different.

If the last 230 odd years has told us one thing, it is that we have broad shoulders and we carry so much from our ancestors already.

We can carry for one another as we struggle through this together too.

Although we are now forced to physically isolate, that does not mean socially isolate for us. We can still collectivise and support one another.

● *Gamilaraay woman Natalie Cromb is a writer and advocate.*

We will beat this too

UNDERSTAND the need for 'social distancing' due to COVID-19, but for our mob maybe we should be calling it physical distancing, because right now we need social connection, whether it be through social media or calling someone, more than ever to help our living in isolation.

We, more than any other social group in Australia, need one another. Yes, we respect and understand that we can't come together physically, that we must maintain distance but, socially, we need each other now more than ever.

We are also a people connected spiritually in such a way unique to the relationship to the land embedded in our kinship systems that go back well over one hundred thousand years in this country.

Suddenly we observe silently within ourselves the true meaning of words that build solidarity, love, strength and faith in understanding that we as a people survived the ice age – great change to this land – and not only prospered but over thousands and thousands of years created



Woolombi Waters

an entire land estate over an entire continent built on sustainable land practices over a thousand generations.

We then survived genocide and invasion and once again prospered. Maybe not materialistically but in our culture our languages and ceremony to become the richest people among this nation called Australia.

And YES ... We will survive this. It has been a long time since we felt so connected as a community in Australia

– even if the motivation is fear. No matter what colour you are or how much money you have in your bank account, you can't ignore the uncertainty that has come into our lives. We are all affected.

The supermarket shelves are empty and the hospitals are full.

No matter the brand of your car – whether an old 1500-dollar Toyota or a brand-new Mercedes-Benz worth one hundred thousand dollars – it now stands motionless, unused, because we are all locked down, isolated in our own homes.

And outside of these homes of refuge are empty streets, less pollution, clean air, and now, after the fires and the rain which brought new life, the land also breathes.

Truth is, the most beautiful people I have known in my life are those who have known hardship and struggle, those who have grieved loss and despite all they have faced have found their way out of the depths of despair in discovering their true selves.

I think back to the start

of the year, to that first morning of the first day and the way we were welcomed by our first sunrise, represented as a large all-encompassing Aboriginal flag that was captured and went viral on Facebook.

Then the bush fires raged out of control and Nation Dance was called. And we responded around the country with so many nations dancing and the rains came and they came and they came and the rivers once again flowed.

And then almost as suddenly the pumping began again and the farmers and irrigators started to take the water as if not having learned a thing and so now creation has once again stepped in and brought everything to a stop.

Suddenly the cars and the machines have stopped running and pollution for the first time in living memory was put on hold, or at least forced to slow down, as have we also been forced to slow down.

Families have been forced to spend more time together. Parents are spending time with their kids as a family, building

activities, creating art, drawing and telling stories around kitchen tables.

Work is no longer a priority. My son downloaded a 'shake-a-leg' challenge while in isolation that went viral. People are running concerts from home. Celebrities are reaching out to ordinary people on social media. We are connecting now even more than we were before.

As a result, more Australians are beginning to join us Blackfellas in realising our vulnerability as human beings, while others hoard food, toilet paper and still gather as if they are somehow above what's going on.

Make no mistake: These people who now have become exposed on social media and in public for their arrogance and sense of entitlement were there long before the virus, and as a nation we are now condemning their actions as remote communities and others struggle to stock food.

Nature has stepped in and is forcing us to clean up the mess we made by ourselves and in doing so has overthrown the Gods of

Money, Sports, Fame and Politics.

We are part of a whole, fragile battle. We are vulnerable and there is no place in this new world for the arrogant and those who disrespect others, and yet these were the people who gained most and felt the most secure in the world pre- COVID-19, only weeks ago. Their fear and their selfishness show they do not have the resources we do to survive this.

What this new world is teaching us is that our best protection is faith. Our homes have become places of refuge and family; friends and community have become our greatest support.

As First Nations people we have come full circle. As I stated at the beginning of this article, we not only survived the ice age we then prospered and, though we have suffered much in recent years, we are still here.

And YES... We, as a people, will survive this.

● *Woolombi Waters is a regular Koori Mail columnist.*

Protect your MOB from COVID-19

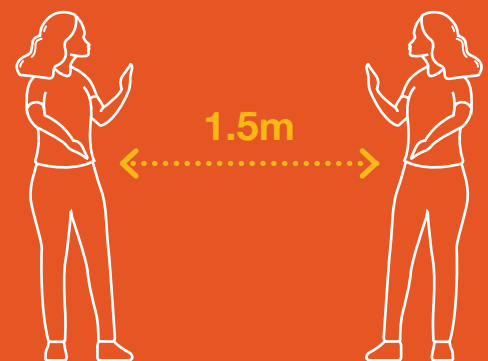
You can help stop the spread and
keep your family healthy by:



Wash your **maras (hands)** thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds to prevent passing on germs after coughing or sneezing, after going to the toilet, and before eating.



Always cough or sneeze into your **bungun (arm)** or a tissue and put the tissue in the bin straight away. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds afterwards.



You don't want your mob to get **wiibi-li (sick)** so make sure you keep your distance. Stay 1.5 metres apart and don't shake hands – always wash your hands after being out in public.



Want to check on your **waayamaa (old man)** or your **yambi (old woman)**? To keep them safe, you should call instead of visiting.



Keep your **gaayili (child)** safe and teach them how to wash their hands –

1. Wet hands with water
2. Add soap
3. Rub soap in between palms, fingers, back of fingers, thumbs, and finger tips against palms
4. Wash hands with water
5. Dry hands thoroughly.



If you are sick, stay **home** – protect yourself, your mob, and don't risk passing on illness to our elders and vulnerable people in our communities.

The Indigenous language used in this message comes from the Gomeroi people of North-West New South Wales.

See what BHP is doing to help stop the spread at bhp.com/covid-19

BHP

New airport artwork tells a fishy tale



WHEN flights recommence after travel restrictions are lifted due to COVID-19, visitors to Newcastle Airport will see a new artwork by local Indigenous artist Peter Kafer, titled *MAARA 5*.

It is the fifth in a series Kafer, a D'harawahl man, has done in recent times, which recognises the importance of fish in the lives of saltwater peoples.

Peter has dedicated this painting to the memory of Worimi Elder Uncle Lionel Ridgeway, who passed away in late 2019 and was the son of a fisherman, raised on the shores of Soldiers Point. "This painting relates back to Dreaming stories of how fish appeared in our rivers, estuaries and their importance to our saltwater peoples," Peter said.

"The *MAARA 1* painting that I did earlier is a story way back when the Big Blue Whale was told he had to make sure fish were put in rivers, creeks and bays. The Big Blue Whale sucked up all types of fish and sea creatures into his belly and he swam up and around the coastlines of our continent.

"Each time he came to a river mouth or a bay or estuary he spat out different fish types, for instance in Newcastle Harbour the main fish was the mullet.

"In Port Stephens, the mullet (Jewfish) and so on all around the coastline. The fish provide a large part of sustaining of our peoples.

"In *MAARA 5*, I have included several other species besides mullet and mullet and I have also used many different hues of blue to try and give a sense of moving water and currents."



Peter J Kafer, a D'harawahl man (saltwater man) who has lived in the Port Stephens/Newcastle region all his life and who was a Port Stephens councillor from 2008-2017, with his work *MAARA 5* at Newcastle Airport.

The show must go on



BRINGING an arts festival to an audience is a massive job. Translating that work into an online platform for art lovers to

experience is something the team at NIRIN, the 22nd Biennale of Sydney is thrilled to reimagine.

The Biennale of Sydney has recreated the way we experience art by going online during the current COVID 19 changes.

The 22nd edition will go online with a series of activations and experiences transforming the way we currently experience contemporary art.

Biennale of Sydney chief executive Barbara Moore said that, starting last Monday, April 6, online programming will provide curious art fans access to the seven themes that inspire the exhibition without having to leave home during current restrictions.

"The 22nd Biennale of Sydney, titled NIRIN, is a global platform for diverse cultures and perspectives, uniting people across the world, stimulating dialogue and inspiring change," she said.

"Now, more than ever, it is important to find ways to connect, to help each other, listen, collaborate and heal."

NIRIN artistic director Brook Andrew has used his mother's language, Wiradjuri, to identify seven different themes.

BILA (River: Environment): Each week will begin with a focus on the physical environment, as well as the changing environments of local and global communities including playlists and podcasts to set the tone for the week.

GURRAY (Transformation): Looks at transformation as a tool



Wiradjuri artist Brook Andrew is the artistic director of NIRIN, the 22nd Biennale of Sydney, which is recreating the arts festival to cope with COVID-19.

for change. The Biennale will share new experiences of exhibition spaces, artworks and processes through the voices and perspectives of artists, curators and educators.

MURIGUWAL GILAND (Different Stories): Every Wednesday, the Biennale's global community of artists will host social media takeovers, watch parties, and never-before-seen content on the Biennale's IGTV channel.

NGAWAAL-GUYUNGAN (Powerful-Ideas: The Power of Objects): The Biennale is creating



Tennant Creek Brio is one of the artist groups participating in NIRIN.

spaces for artists and audiences to connect, collaborate and express powerful ideas through performances, readings and conversations.

DHAAGUN (Earth: Sovereignty and Working Together): Every Friday, Artistic Director Brook Andrew will connect with the global community, NIRIN artists and curators to give unique insights into the exhibition.

YIRAWY-DHURAY (Yam-Connection: Food): How can we gather in isolation? Each weekend, artists and community leaders will

share their personal favourite recipes encouraging audiences to cook together from kitchens all around the world.

BAGARAY-BANG (Healing): Stay connected with friends and family near and far through a series of intergenerational activities that include workshops using recycled materials, easy craft projects, readings and lots more.

Every Tuesday, teachers, students and families across the globe can access a range of learning material about NIRIN, from environmental studies to

Indigenous histories and cultures to interactive resources, podcasts, artist interviews, videos and tutorials.

Further details about how audiences can experience the 700 artworks featured in the 22nd Biennale of Sydney through Google's Arts & Culture platform will be announced in the coming weeks. This platform will bring artworks from all six exhibition partners online for audiences to experience in compelling new ways including 360-degree tours, video walkthroughs and curated content.

**Too many
of our mob
are dying on
our roads.**

**Say “Yeah...NAH” to
taking risks when driving.**



Bring the mob home safely.

towardszero.nsw.gov.au

TNSWOS3761

Woorabinda graduates take first steps on path towards a rewarding career



WOORABINDA community's first-ever university graduation ceremony last month saw 18 Indigenous Central Queensland University (CQU) students receive their Certificate I in Conservation and Land Management.

The students, who weren't able to cross the stage in February's CQU Emerald graduation ceremony due to wet weather, gained the qualification as part of the unique Woorabinda Memorial Walk restoration project.

The project, carried out in conjunction with the Woorabinda Pastoral Company, Yoonthalla Services and the Queensland Government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative, involved regenerating a local wetland in Woorabinda and constructing a culturally significant development of the walkway.

Surrounded by friends and family, Indigenous Elders and representatives of project partners, students reminisced on their journeys and expressed their excitement for the next phase of their careers.

Program graduate Deitmar Wachter said he was extremely grateful for the opportunity to be part of the course.

"I have really enjoyed the experiences and knowledge I've gained over the past year while completing the course," he said.

"This has helped me gain confidence within myself and everyday tasks, and has opened my



CQU graduates Raymond Saltner and Deitmar Wachter proudly show off their Certificate I in Conservation and Land Management.

vision to see a different path to other opportunities in the future."

Fellow program graduate Raymond Saltner said that by undertaking the course, he was able to better himself for his people, family, and culture.

"One day, I will pass my new-found knowledge down to my children, who will one day pass it down to their children," he said.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed this course and all it had to offer."

CQU vice-chancellor and president, Professor Nick Klomp said it was an absolute privilege to hear from students and celebrate their hard work.

"By successfully completing the course, today's graduating cohort can now confidentially enter the conservation and land management industry and follow their passion for the natural environment," Professor Klomp said.

"I'm honoured to welcome the 18 graduates to our rapidly growing network of alumni and wish them every success in their future endeavours."

CQ pro vice-chancellor (Indigenous Engagement) and BHP chair in Indigenous Engagement Professor Adrian Miller said the university would continue to support the pathway from education and training to employment through the Woorabinda education/enterprise/research hubs.

"In August 2019, CQU committed to working with the Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council (WASC) and local service providers to improve employment and training opportunities for its residents," Professor Miller said.

"The delivery of a Certificate I in Conservation and Land Management qualification was one of the first projects introduced.

"Future projects include developing workshops for emerging artists and transforming the WASC-owned Daringa Hall to an arts and tourism hub."

Senior school students get ahead of the game



MORE than 60 Indigenous students from across Australia and New Zealand swapped the classroom for the trading room when they paid a visit to Gold Coast's Bond University as part of the NRL School to Work program before the coronavirus restrictions were in place.

The Year 11 students' recent visit included interactive sessions at the university's Transformer entrepreneurial hub, trading room, moot court, and a science-based session.

The NRL also ran a leadership program on campus with the students in the afternoon.

Bond University general manager learning services Jason Murray said all 64 students were affiliated to NRL clubs and were visiting the Gold Coast for a leadership camp ahead of the NRL All Stars game in February.

Mr Murray said the visit to the Bond campus was designed to showcase career opportunities to



Participants in the NRL's School to Work program visited Gold Coast's Bond University recently. Pictured with guest speaker Jeremy Donovan are Jack Field, Jordan Julius, Taleishah Councillor, Shyla Mundine, Pharrell Chapman and Ngakohu Joseph Walker.

the students that they otherwise may not have thought of.

"It's just an experience for the students to show them what they could study at Bond University.

What tends to happen is a lot of students might have an idea for a traditional kind of career; they don't necessarily know what their options are until they come here," he said.

He said the university felt privileged to support the NRL School to Work program, and was hopeful of being able to host students again, if the All Stars game returned to the Gold Coast in the future.

The NRL School to Work program uses the profile of rugby league to support and encourage young Indigenous Australians to complete their schooling and successfully transition into further education or employment, by providing them with work experience, mentoring and leadership opportunities.

The program is backed by NRL players, clubs and staff, alongside community organisations and government and business supporters. It has supported more than 2000 Indigenous students over the past seven years.

NRL School to Work program manager Shaun Humphries said the students enjoyed their visit to Bond, Australia's first private, not-for-profit university.

"The tour of the Bond facilities really opened up the students' eyes

to the real possibilities of a supported and genuine career pathway that can be established at Bond University," he said.

Paul Sinclair, director of education at cultural awareness training organisation Mirri Mirri, which helped facilitate the students' week-long camp, was grateful for the students having the chance to visit Bond.

"Many of these students come from indigenous communities all over NSW, Victoria, Queensland and New Zealand. Often they've never had a family member attend university; they've never set foot on a university campus," he said.

"Today's about giving them an experience and about breaking down any perceived barriers they might have about university, and have them thinking about tertiary as a post-schooling option.

"For a lot of our Indigenous community, financial literacy is something we haven't been taught, so to get opportunities to learn about investments and where to put your money, it's a real eye-opening experience for them."

Tiwi translation to ease the conversation about our mental health and wellbeing



A NEW Tiwi-to-English phrase book to help people talk about mental health and wellbeing was

launched in Wurrumiyanga, on Bathurst Island, Northern Territory, last month.

Ngawurramangajirri (we care for each other) features Tiwi-to-English translations, as well as illustrations to encourage conversations around wellbeing and mental health.

Cathy Pumuralimawu Stassi, a Tiwi Elder and one of the book's authors, says the book is an important tool to help people start conversations about mental health and wellbeing.

"We are helping our people to keep our culture strong, respect each other and look after ourselves and others, our land and our creators, Purrukupali and his mother, Murntanka," Ms Stassi said.

"We would like people to know, we feel this is just the beginning.

"Others might like to make their own story.

"We included many people's views and interpretations.

"We hope this book



Ngawurramangajirri (we care for each other), a Tiwi to English phrase book created to help people talk about mental health, was launched on Bathurst Island last month.

encourages Tiwi people to talk about how they feel and what could help them."

Menzies School of Health Research project manager, Josie Povey, said she hopes the book

encourages Tiwi people to talk to others who might be going through a tough time.

"This is a resource that can be used to provide people with the words that they need to talk with

other people about how they are feeling; this may be family members talking to family members, service providers and/or health professionals," she said.

"This project grew out of the identified need for young people to develop stronger Tiwi language skills, and more specifically be able to express their feelings and needs using Tiwi."

The content was developed through seven workshops of four-to-six hours duration, held over a six-month period between May and September 2019.

"There is rarely a direct translation for mental health terms in Tiwi. Each feeling, description or phrase included in this dictionary, was explained in Tiwi and English, then crafted through discussion among the Tiwi language speakers," Josie said.

"Words and phrases were put together, taken apart, put back together, revised, edited, revised again then checked and double checked."

The book is a collaboration between Menzies School of Health Research, Tiwi Elders, Tiwi college students, R U OK Australia and the NT Government.

Ngawurramangajirri (we care for each other) is available in hard copy as well as on the Menzies website at: menzies.edu.au/tiwiphrasebook

Shawls promote breast screening



COLOURFUL cultural shawls are encouraging Aboriginal women to screen for breast cancer – and a new podcast tells it all.

In a bid to break down barriers around breast screening,

BreastScreen Victoria and the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), partnered with eight Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO) across the state to produce the shawls.

BreastScreen Victoria travels to towns across the state in two pink mobile screening vans to provide an accessible, easy, free and friendly service to as many people as possible.

However, many groups remain under-screened, particularly Aboriginal women, who have reported a lack of cultural awareness among health professionals, fear, shame and logistical barriers as negative impacts on their participation in screening.

To tackle this, the combined organisations produced customised screening shawls, decorated with designs from Aboriginal artists in each area.

The idea was to break down barriers around breast screening by providing Aboriginal clients with a culturally appropriate, familiar and beautiful garment to wear.

After a while, it became evident to everyone involved in the initiative (later named The Beautiful Shawl Project) that they were participating in something very special.

BreastScreen Victoria's podcast, *The Screen*, was there to document the groundbreaking health service as well as the reaction of the communities, staff and clients themselves.

Visit its website to listen to the podcast on the project or find show notes and credits.



Susan Forrester (VACCHO), Andrea Casey (Aboriginal liaison officer, Cancer Council) and Lisa Joyce (BreastScreen Victoria).
Picture: Jo Nilsson

Heart checks needed at 18



ABORIGINAL and Torres Strait Islander people should have their heart checked by a GP by age 18 at the latest to combat high risk of heart attack and strokes, according to new research.

Researchers at the Australian National University (ANU) have recommended moving the age Indigenous people should get screened for Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) down from 35 to 18.

The move is backed by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), the Australian Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance and the Editorial Committee for Remote Primary Health Care Manuals.

While the rate of deaths from heart attacks and strokes among Indigenous people have almost halved, three out of four Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults under 35 still have at least one CVD risk factor.

Rheumatic Heart Disease Australia's senior cultural adviser, Vicki Wade, said reminding community and health workers about the risks of CVD was vital.

"Although rates have improved, the statistics are frightening. We have generations of Aboriginal people who are not seeing their grandchildren growing up because of heart attack and stroke," Ms Wade, a 62-year-old Indigenous cardiac nurse who has heart disease, said.

"This is a chance for local solutions, community engagement and health workers to be educated."

Under the new recommendations, young adults with type 2 diabetes and microalbuminuria, kidney disease, and very high blood pressure or high cholesterol will be identified as high-risk of CVD.

Lead researcher Dr Jason Agostino from ANU said the heart assessment as part of a regular health check will be bulk-billed and free "for the vast majority" of people.



Michael O'Loughlin with former Sydney Swans teammate Adam Goodes.

Curtin contract awarded in line with RAP commitment



CURTIN University in Western Australia has awarded its new fire services maintenance contract to ARA Indigenous Services – an Indigenous business spearheaded by Premiership winning AFL player Michael O'Loughlin, that works to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to find meaningful employment and training.

The three-year contract will see ARA Indigenous Services (ARAI) deliver statutory preventative and reactive maintenance for approximately 21,000 pieces of plant and equipment; as well as provide for the employment of an Indigenous apprentice.

Curtin University's chief operating officer Ian Callahan said the agreement aligns with Curtin's Elevated Reconciliation Action Plan,

which strives to acknowledge and celebrate the proud heritage of Australia's First Peoples.

"The Elevate RAP allows us to think strategically about how we as a university can advance reconciliation, and promoting opportunities for career development, sustainable business growth, and economic participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within our sector is part of that," Mr Callahan said.

"As a Supply Nation certified business, with majority Indigenous ownership and strong leadership from Michael O'Loughlin, ARAIS has achieved proven success in the maintenance services sector while also providing valuable employment opportunities to members of the Indigenous community.

"While Michael is an AFL icon, he's also been a long-time champion

of breaking down barriers and creating better futures for his community through his businesses, and Curtin is proud to play a part in that mission."

ARAI's managing director Michael O'Loughlin said the Curtin contract fits his company's vision of strengthening partnerships between Indigenous and other Australians through understanding, encouragement and active involvement.

"ARAI is excited by the opportunity to partner with Curtin University," Mr O'Loughlin said. "We look forward to delivering a quality service and creating opportunities within the local community, something that has been a passion of mine for a very long time."

The new ARAIS fire services maintenance contract commenced on February 1.

Pandemic puts inquiry on hold



THE Commonwealth has suspended the current federal inquiry into pathways and participation opportunities for Indigenous Australians in employment and business.

By unanimous resolution of the Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs, the inquiry was halted last week.

Committee chair Julian Leeser MP said that while they could take electronic submissions, they could not hold hearings.

"In light of the continuing and evolving public health and economic challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee has decided to suspend its activities until further notice," he said. "The committee greatly appreciates the contributions made to this inquiry so far.

"Written evidence to the inquiry will continue to be accepted and instructions on making a submission can be accessed by visiting the committee's webpage."

Mr Leeser said that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and business owners can also interact with the inquiry without having to prepare a written submission by completing an online survey.

In October last year, the Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt asked the committee to inquire into and report on opportunities for employment and economic development for Indigenous Australians.

It held two hearings in Canberra but a third, due on March 26, was cancelled due to Coronavirus.

The Inquiry will identify existing and future pathways for employment and the opportunities for Indigenous business enterprises. It will also identify barriers that may impede employment and business opportunities for Indigenous Australians.

The scope of the Inquiry includes:

- Government employment programs and opportunities to build upon effective initiatives;
- Identify gaps and opportunities in the workforce and future growth sectors that could result in employment and enterprise options for Indigenous Australians;
- The experience of successful enterprises initiated and owned by Indigenous Australians; and
- The involvement of Government departments and agencies in facilitating business opportunities for Indigenous Australians.

More information is available at <https://www.apf.gov.au/IndigenousAffairs>

COVID-19 help available for Indigenous business



INDIGENOUS businesses are significant employers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and generate broader social and economic benefits for their communities. The economic impact of COVID-19 is seeing many of these businesses face significant challenges.

Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) and the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) have developed a new support package for Indigenous businesses who have been impacted by the crisis, including non-IBA customers. The package includes:

Access to specialist advice:

to help navigate the COVID-19 crisis IBA can provide access to specialist advice such as a rapid assessment of business positioning, cashflow management and assistance to access available stimulus measures.

Working capital assistance:

where an Indigenous business is not eligible for other government stimulus packages, it can apply for working capital assistance of up to \$100,000 via a loan/grant package (assessed on a needs basis), which will consist of:

- A grant of up to 50% of the package amount;
- For the loan component, up to 36 months loan term, zero

repayments for the first 12 months, and preferential interest rates thereafter.

Up to \$50 million in assistance is being provided through these initiatives.

IBA chief executive Rajiv Viswanathan said these measures follow earlier relief announced by IBA for its customers. This includes a waiver of interest and deferral of loan repayments for business loan and equipment leasing customers impacted by the current COVID-19 crisis for an initial four-month period, a reduction in the interest rates for all IBA home loan customers for an initial period of six months, as well as deferral of repayments for

home loan customers in hardship.

"We know that many Indigenous businesses will be facing uncertainty and economic hardship now and in the coming months," Mr Viswanathan said. "In this rapidly changing environment, access to a support package like this will help Indigenous businesses to navigate the crisis, and to build resilience for the future."

Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt said it was important that Indigenous businesses were supported during this difficult period.

"IBA is working closely with the National Indigenous Australians Agency, other Government

agencies and sector participants to ensure we have a coordinated approach to assisting Indigenous Australians, families, communities and businesses," he said.

"Indigenous businesses are significant employers of Indigenous Australians across Australia, including in regional and remote areas. By supporting them to get through these tough times, we can help them to keep generating positive economic and social benefits for their communities."

For more information on support available by IBA during the COVID-19 crisis, visit iba.gov.au/indigenous-business-australia-covid19-support/

Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT

Brittany is leading the way to a bright future



BRITTANY Cheel's experiences with the Queensland Indigenous Youth Leadership Program (QIYLP)

changed her life and put her on the path towards a bright future.

The proud Wiradjuri woman, from the Mudgee region of NSW and who studies at Central Queensland University, now works for Central Queensland Indigenous Development (CQID) as compliance/finance officer.

CQID provides services across Central Queensland to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including drug and alcohol treatment, family participation, family wellbeing, homelessness to housing and youth services.

Brittany said she and all the participants had benefitted immensely from the QIYLP.

"Every participant who attended has gone on to further contribute to their communities in a leadership capacity, whether it is working or being involved with community organisations, running deadly events, being active on relevant boards or attending other Indigenous events and inspiring other young mob to do the same," she said.

"I have taken on board everything I learned during the six-day program.

"It gave me the chance to really reflect on my life and the career I want to pursue, which lead me to a job and study change and the opportunity to work with Indigenous mob and make positive contributions to the central Queensland community."

She encouraged anyone with leadership aspirations to apply for the QIYLP.

"I have never participated in a program that has given me so many opportunities to enhance my career development and mentoring and networking skills,



Proud Wiradjuri woman, Brittany Cheel, says she has benefitted immensely from participating in the Queensland Indigenous Youth Leadership Program (QIYLP). Brittany currently works for Central Queensland Indigenous Development as a compliance/finance officer.

as well as the opportunity to participate in the Eric Deeral Indigenous Youth Parliament," Brittany said.

"The Youth Parliament was a real highlight of the program for me and reignited my passion for representing community and giving me the courage to apply for change-making opportunities, such as the 2019 QAIHC Youth Health Summit.

"The support and encouragement from everyone

involved and the opportunity to be able to speak and hear from so many community, corporate and government leaders was astonishing."

Brittany said she is excited to see where her career and experiences take her.

"Since the program, I have continued to serve on the CQUniversity Student Representative Council, as the Indigenous Representative until the end of last year.

"I have made a change in my studies, aiming to finish the Graduate Certificate in Social Innovation this year and have changed my Bachelor to a Bachelor of Arts (Social Enquiry and Geography and Environmental Studies) to reflect my future career goals.

"I aim to work up to a management position at CQID and hopefully have the opportunity to be a member on some local boards," she said.

She has also had a number of professional development and community support opportunities, sponsored by Glencore.

"I was fortunate enough to be able to complete an Executive Certificate in Event Management (Business and Public Events) course in Melbourne and was successful in securing funding for myself to run an Indigenous Women's Leadership Program here in central Queensland," Brittany said.

Your guide to employment

Welcome to the **Koori Mail's** Indigenous Job Opportunities section. Each edition we publish scores of employment advertisements from around the nation. To be part of this section, simply give our advertising staff Chris or Stuart a call on (02) 66 222 666, email advertising@koorimail.com or see our website – www.koorimail.com

**Koori Mail – Our ABC audit means our readership is guaranteed.
No other newspaper aimed at the Indigenous market can offer this!**

Advertising disclaimer: Budsoar Pty Ltd, publisher of the **Koori Mail**, reserves the right to alter, omit or change advertisements, and while every care is exercised, it is not responsible for errors or non-insertions. No adjustments will be made for errors unless attention is drawn to them within the first week of

publication. Advertisers agree that all advertisements published by Budsoar Pty Ltd may also appear on a relevant web site operated by Budsoar Pty Ltd.
Privacy Policy: Budsoar Pty Ltd collects your personal information to assist us in providing the goods or services you have requested, to process your

competition entries, and to improve our products and services. We may be in touch to let you know about goods, services or promotions which may be of interest to you. We may also share your information with other persons or entities who assist us in providing our services, running competitions or with other companies

who provide prizes for competitions or reader offers. If you would prefer that we do not do this, please write to us at: admin@koorimail.com or phone (02) 66 222 666, or fax (02) 66 222 600. Mail can be sent addressed to General Manager, Budsoar Pty Ltd, PO Box 117, Lismore NSW 2480.

Northern Health

At Northern Health, we take care of the residents of Melbourne's north, by providing a diverse range of health services, at Northern Hospital Epping, Broadmeadows Hospital, Craigieburn Centre and Bundoora Centre. We also collaborate with our partners to help expand the range of healthcare services offered to our culturally rich and diverse community.

Are you looking for an opportunity to work in a dynamic health service in a new service model whilst completing your degree?

Do you strive to improve your assessment observation and planning skills further?

Northern Health is seeking expressions of interest from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Undergraduate Students of Nursing to be part of our RUSON workforce, through an ATSI Cadetship.

Northern Health (NH) has successfully conducted our RUSON pilot program in 2017-2018 and we are continuing to grow and develop our undergraduate workforce. In partnership with our education department we again offer this employment opportunity to RMIT and Latrobe Bachelor or Nursing Undergraduates who have completed a minimum of 12 months of their course. Applicants must identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, live in Victoria and maintaining a pass grade in all subjects.

Working as a RUSON will allow you to gain invaluable experience in the hospital setting assisting the nursing team in the delivery of safe and quality patient centered care. You will work under the delegation of an RN and develop and refine your skills in line with your student scope of practice and the RUSON Position description.

Successful applicants will be rostered to two shifts a fortnight and you will also have the opportunity to be offered extra shifts in line with organisational requirements and your availability. Local work environment within one of The Northern Hospital's acute units..

We can offer:

- The opportunity to join a friendly and progressive team in a rapidly expanding and dynamic organisation.
- Support through Preceptors, Professional Mentors, Educators, NH Nursing Workforce and Cultural Peer Supervision.
- Encouragement to grow, innovate and partake in ongoing training and development programs.
- Benefits including salary packaging, monthly accrued day off, flexible working arrangements, access to EAP, library access and onsite car parking.

Next Steps . . .

If this opportunity sounds like the next step in your career, then we would love to hear from you. Please visit our Northern Health website to apply: www.nh.org.au/work-with-us/current-job-vacancies/. Alternatively, contact the Recruitment Team on: (03) 8338 3185 for more information. Applications close on the 18th of April, 2020.



Aboriginal New Street Service Counsellor/Social Worker

Department: Mid North Coast Local Health District

Location: Negotiable

Employment Type: Temporary Full-Time

(May 2020 – 30 June 2023)

Position Classification: Health Clinician Level 4, Senior Psychologist (Aboriginal Identified)

Remuneration: \$100,000 – \$119,999 pa

Hours Per Week: 38

Enquiries: Ian.Nisbet@health.nsw.gov.au

MNCLHD New Street Service is a NSW Health child protection initiative and part of a developing network of services delivered by Local Health Districts in New South Wales. It provides counselling intervention to families of children and young people (10 – 17 years) who have sexually harmed.

To collaborate with local service providers in the provision of programs related to engaging with the local Aboriginal communities.

Undertake community development and capacity building with local Aboriginal communities in order to best facilitate ongoing communication and service delivery to these communities.

To act as a cultural broker in the work of MNC NSW New Street, both internally and with communities and other Government and Non- Government agencies.

Closing Date: 15 April 2020

Applications must be lodged electronically. Please go to healthnswgov.referrals.selectminds.com and search Job Reference Number REQ151623.

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

I work FOR NSW



TAFE NSW

Teacher of Meat and Allied Trades

Location: Taree

Status: Casual

Classification: Part-Time Casual Teacher Suitability List

Job Grade: Teacher | Base Grade | \$82.75 per hour

TAFE NSW is looking for individuals with current industry experience and knowledge in Abattoirs to join our team of teachers on a part time casual basis at **Taree**.

This position is targeted for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people under Government Sector Employment Rule 26. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.

This advertised position is to create a suitability list for future employment, non-Aboriginal people are also encouraged to apply.

You will love this role if you:

- Like to **share your knowledge** in **Abattoirs and Meat Processing**
- Want to work as a part of a collaborative and **dynamic teaching** team and are committed to building the skills of diverse learner groups
- Have a **demonstrated commitment** to or previous experience in delivering training in an adult learning environment.

Closing Date: Sunday 26 April 2020 at 11:59pm

Job Specific Enquiries: Please contact Linda Dewbery, Recruitment Officer (02) 6581 6395.

For more information go to iworkfor.nsw.gov.au and search for job reference number 000070R5.

I work FOR NSW



Lifeline
Saving Lives
Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention.

Professional Board Member (Legal or Health)

Parole Board Queensland

Queensland Corrective Services

Salary: To be confirmed

Location: State Law Building, Brisbane City

REF: QLD/341516/20

Key Duties: Responsible for making decisions in relation to a prisoner's application for parole and any amendment, suspension or cancellation of a prisoner's parole order.

Skills/Abilities: Must have decision making skills, experience and expertise in evidence based decision making processes and an ability to apply QPSR findings and recommendations to the functions of the board.

Enquiries: Michelle Moore

Michelle.Moore@dcs.qld.gov.au

To apply please visit www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au

Closing Date: Friday, 24 April 2020



Queensland Government

REC004435



Careers with Queensland Health

Senior Medical Officer - Bamaga

Medical Services – Northern.

Remuneration value up to \$440,868 p.a., comprising base salary between \$155,589 – \$214,897 p.a., employer contribution to superannuation (up to 12.75%), annual leave loading (17.5%) and additional allowances (L13-L25). (Applications will remain current for 12 months).

Job Ad Reference: TC341537.

Duties/Abilities: Based at Bamaga, as a Senior Medical Officer provide general practice care to Bamaga primary health centres with Thursday Island primary health care and outer island clinics as required. Be a member of a dynamic health care team that provides quality and culturally appropriate medical services, whilst making a significant contribution to improving the health of the local population.

Enquiries: Dr Marlow Coates – (07) 4069 0640.

Application Kit: www.health.qld.gov.au/workforus

Closing Date: Tuesday, 19 May 2020.

REC004470

You can apply online at www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au

A criminal history check may be conducted on the recommended person for the job. A non-smoking policy applies to Queensland Government buildings, offices and motor vehicles.



Queensland Government



Female Mental Health Professional (Aboriginal Mental Health)

Department: South Western Sydney LHD

Permanent Full-Time

Remuneration: Dependant on Qualifications

(SW / OT / COUN Lvl 1/2 or Psych, RN)

Enquiries: Ann Baker on 0459 871 540

Reference Number: REQ157623

Mental Health Professional (Aboriginal Health)

Department: South Western Sydney LHD

Permanent Full-Time

Remuneration: Dependant on Qualifications

(SW / OT / COUN Lvl 1/2 or Psych, RN)

Enquiries: Ann Baker on 0459 871 540

Reference Number: REQ157883

In these roles Aboriginality is a genuine occupational requirement, and is authorised by section 14(d) of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1997 (NSW).

Stepping Up aims to assist Aboriginal job applicants by providing information about applying for roles in NSW Health organisations.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.steppingup.health.nsw.gov.au/>

Closing Date: 26 April 2020

Applications must be lodged electronically. Please go to healthnswgov.referrals.selectminds.com and search Job Reference Numbers above.

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

I work FOR NSW

BLZ_KH0061



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

Senior Project Officer – Traditional Agreements Unit

Location: Melbourne CBD

Salary: \$98,396 - \$119,052 + super

Position No: 50010103

- **Do you have the ability to work productively and effectively with Victoria's Traditional Owners**
- **Can you provide policy and program expertise to get things done?**
- **Location:** Melbourne CBD

Exciting opportunity to work in a dynamic environment focused on supporting the implementation of Traditional Owner agreements. Be a part of the contribution to reform work to facilitate DELWP's ability to work effectively with Traditional Owners.

The Senior Project Officer is responsible for leading the implementation of DELWP commitments that arise from native title-related agreements with Traditional Owner corporations in Victoria. The role is part of the Traditional Owner Agreements Unit (TOAU) within the Land Management Policy Division. This is an exciting opportunity for someone with experience and skills in the delivery of dynamic programs and projects and with a strong interest in working with Traditional Owners in land and water management.

Specialist/Technical Expertise

- Experience and knowledge in the development and delivery of policy, programs and projects; use of these skills in the context of land management and Traditional Owner policy development and/or implementation is advantageous.
- A demonstrated knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal culture and society and ability to communicate effectively with Aboriginal people.
- Tertiary qualification(s) including post-graduate qualification(s) in science, engineering, law, economics, public policy, natural resource or environmental management, business management or similar is desirable.
- An understanding of the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* and/or Natural Resource Management is advantageous.

This is a fixed term position available for 12 months.

To be considered for this position, your application should include a supporting statement demonstrating that you meet the key selection criteria and any job requirements specified in the position description.

DELWP will conduct relevant and required checks about applicants and the information provided with an application. Such checks will include but are not limited to:

- A Statutory Declaration and Consent form consenting to DELWP contacting current and previous employer(s) to substantiate employment history, past conduct and performance is required.
- A satisfactory National Police Check will be required (for all non-DELWP employees).

To apply online and for further information on position description and selection criteria visit

www.careers.vic.gov.au

Applications close at midnight Friday 10 April 2020.

We are building an inclusive workplace to help realise the potential of our employees, embrace our differences, and apply our diverse thinking to innovation and delivering services to Victorian communities. All jobs can be worked flexibly and we encourage job applications from Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, young people and people from culturally diverse backgrounds.

FR1560

www.delwp.vic.gov.au
Customer Service Centre 136 186



Accommodation Service - Mt Isa

- Culturally safe transitional & crisis accommodation
- 12 month contract with potential to continue

Jimaylya Topsy Harry Centre (JTHC) is a unique service that provides transitional accommodation, intense case management and support for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, who are homeless or in a crisis situation.

JTHC ensures a safe, secure and client focused environment that enables residents to access the support they need to move back into community, and where people and cultural ways and practices are at the heart of all that happens.

Service Manager: lead the team and operations, develop and maintain key relationships

Deputy Service Manager: support daily management of staff, facilities and safety

Caseworkers: provide practical client engagement, support, access to community resources

JTHC offers flexible working options, generous leave entitlements and a safe, inclusive, diverse work culture. All positions offer an attractive salary package and incentives available include subsidised housing, remote living allowance and relocation assistance.

For further information please call Louise Furlong on 07 5530 8066 or email your CV and a cover letter outlining your relevant experience to cv@ngorecruitment.com quoting #365690



Child Protection Practitioners



Health and Human Services

Job description

- A strong commitment to develop and support Child Protection Practitioners
- Work collaboratively with your team to strengthen case practice and to provide effective service delivery
- Highly rewarding career opportunities

Being a Child Protection Practitioner means making real change to the lives of our community's most vulnerable children and families. A career in child protection will provide a range of professional pathways that support your personal growth and development.

We offer a supportive team approach, quality supervision with great training and development.

Skills and Experience

We are looking for experienced child protection/child and family welfare professionals to join our child protection teams.

Key responsibilities include

- Assessing children and young people to bring about the changes necessary to ensure their safety, stability and development
- Conducting risk assessments and investigations
- Working collaboratively with families, community services organisations and other professionals to develop and implement effective plans for children
- Managing complex cases, problem solving and presenting matters to the Children's Court of Victoria as required
- Be responsible for supporting and developing Child Protection Practitioners in the integration of theory and practice while demonstrating your expertise through case practice
- Working collaboratively with the Team Manager to strengthen case practice
- Provide effective service delivery and support other practitioners

To be a child protection practitioner you need a current and valid driver's licence and a recognised Social Work degree or a similar welfare or behavioural related degree.

Make the decision to pursue a fulfilling professional career and make a difference in vulnerable children's lives.

Salary

- Child Protection Practitioner (CPP3) \$68,884 to \$83,640
- Advanced Child Protection Practitioner (CPP4) \$85,279 to \$96,759
- Team Manager and Senior Child Protection Practitioner (CPP5) \$98,396 to \$119,052

For more information about the role descriptions of Child Protection Practitioners at different levels, please email childprotectionjobs@dhhs.vic.gov.au or visit <https://childprotectionjobs.dhhs.vic.gov.au/roles/role-descriptions>.

For more information about the Department of Health and Human Services visit www.dhhs.vic.gov.au To apply online and for other DHHS and Victorian Government job opportunities please visit www.careers.vic.gov.au

Police Checks form part of the Department of Health and Human Services recruitment process.

The department promotes diversity and equal opportunity in employment and is committed to a more diverse workforce.

If you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander applicant, or if you have a disability, and require advice and support with the recruitment process, please contact our Diversity Unit on DiversityInclusion@dhhs.vic.gov.au

The department is committed to the safety of its clients. The department takes a zero tolerance approach to abuse, including child abuse and abuse of people with disability.

Departmental employees are required to comply with all legal requirements including the Child Safe Standards to keep children safe from harm and abuse.

BIRIPI ABORIGINAL CORPORATION MEDICAL CENTRE



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

TAREE, NSW (MID NORTH COAST)

SALARY TO \$180,000 + SUPER + MOTOR VEHICLE + SALARY PACKAGING

Biripi Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre provides a wide range of culturally-appropriate health and well-being services covering communities across the mid-northern NSW region. These include Clinical, Maternal Health, Aged Care, Community Health and Dental Health services from clinics and facilities around Taree and statutory Out of Home Care (OOHC) through Biripi Aboriginal Children Services (BACS) in Taree and Walanbaa Gaayili in Inverell.

Biripi has recently undergone many positive changes and is flourishing with new funding and service provision opportunities. In this role you will report directly to Board of Directors to continue on this path and provide culturally appropriate, high quality services to the Aboriginal community.

The key objectives of the role also include to:

- ensure the organisation is a leader in delivering outstanding business operations, risk management and financial performance;
- establish core organisational values in conjunction with the Board of Directors and ensuring these values are fully integrated;
- provide high quality service standards and develop systems to build key relationships and improve operational efficiency;
- oversee all functions within the organisation and provide direction and guidance to the organisation as a whole; and
- contribute to the operational and strategic decision-making process and provide authoritative advice to the Board of Directors.

A strong leadership flair is essential as is extensive experience in management at a senior leadership level, preferably with an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation.

If you also have:

- Post Graduate Tertiary qualification in Business, Commerce, Management, Finance, Health or similar discipline
- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of health issues impacting upon the health status of Aboriginal communities
- Demonstrated knowledge of strategic planning and achievement of strategic objectives
- Demonstrated experience in ensuring an effective management system, policy and procedure framework and financial system for an organisation
- Demonstrated ability to lead and develop a team at a senior level
- High level of computer literacy; sound working knowledge of Microsoft Office software

We would love to hear from you.

Applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged but this is not a designated/identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander appointment.

A generous salary of up to \$180,000 plus superannuation, motor vehicle, mobile telephone and laptop is available. As a non-profit organisation Biripi can provide salary packaging benefits meaning you increase your take home pay.

To find out more or request an application package please contact Kelli Dragos from Abundance Human Resources on 0419 419 554.

Applications close at 9am on Monday, 27 April 2020.

All applications will be received via seek.com.au.



AGENCY FOR
CLINICAL
INNOVATION

Aboriginal Chronic Care Project Officer

This is a Targeted Position for Aboriginal recruitment. Preference will be given to applicants of Australian Aboriginal descent. Exemption is claimed under Section 21 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977. In the event there are no suitable Aboriginal applicants, mainstream applications will be considered. Aboriginal applicants must demonstrate Aboriginality in addition to addressing the Selection Criteria.

- Join the Agency for Clinical Innovation, a pillar of NSW Health.
- Oversee change management programs and initiatives aimed at improving chronic care service delivery for Aboriginal people across NSW.
- Flexible Working Organisation based in Chatswood and will be moving to state of the art, agile offices in St Leonards in 2020.

We are looking for

- Experience in the management of complex projects and systems. Knowledge and experience in the management of chronic disease is desirable.
- Experience leading projects that address the needs of Aboriginal people, including experience engaging and working with Aboriginal communities.
- An organised self-starter with strong verbal and written communication skills who can work autonomously and thrive in a collaborative environment with strong stakeholder engagement.

Employment details

Employment Type: Full-Time Temporary role up to January 2021
Position Classification: HSM3
Remuneration: \$113,735 - \$129,658 pa
Hours Per Week: 38
Requisition ID: REQ159847

What you will be doing

Reporting to the Stream Manager for Integrated Care and Aboriginal Health, the Aboriginal Chronic Care Project Officer will promote, develop and implement strategic change management initiatives to improve the level and quality of chronic care health services for Aboriginal people across NSW. This includes projects that support better integration of care across the health sectors.

About us

The Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) leads innovation in clinical care across NSW. We do this by bringing clinicians, patients and healthcare managers together to design and implement new ways to deliver healthcare. For more information go to <https://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au>

How to apply

Please refer to details on how to apply and selection criteria online via the link below.

A copy of the position description can be accessed [online](#).

At the ACI we value diversity and inclusion. If **you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person** and would like some more information about applying for a role within the ACI, please contact one of our Aboriginal Workforce Consultants on 1800 004 546 or by email aboriginalcareers@health.nsw.gov.au

If **you are a person with disability** and require information or specific arrangements to participate in the recruitment process, please contact the People & Culture Coordinator on (02) 9464 4630.

This position is a temporary position and requires full working rights in Australia (e.g. Australian citizenship or permanent Australian residency). If you currently hold a temporary visa that allows you to live and work in Australia you may be offered employment in line with the conditions of your visa

Closing Date: 11:59pm 22 April 2020

If you would like more information on this role please contact Regina Osten, Stream Manager, Integrated and Aboriginal Care, on 0429 637 131.

Applications must be lodged electronically. Please go to healthnswgov.referrals.selectminds.com and search Job Reference Number REQ159847.

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

Work
FOR
NSW



Indigenous Reporting Analyst

APPLY NOW Job no: 502977

Work type: Fixed Term Full-time
Location: Australia Wide
Categories: Human Resources

A unique opportunity has arisen for a motivated and results orientated individual to join the Kmart Group in the role of Indigenous Reporting Analyst. Reporting to the Kmart Group Diversity and Inclusion Manager, our position will ideally be based out of Brisbane, however with a National focus, we will be considering applicants from across Australia with the potential to work remotely.

For more details go to <http://careers.kmart.com.au>
<http://careers.kmart.com.au/caw/en/job/502977?ApplicationSubSourceID>



Notice of an application for determination of native title in the Northern Territory
Notification day: 22 April 2020



National
Native Title
Tribunal

see page 14



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, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area*	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Mining Lease	15/1877	BARRETT, William Edward	10.97HA.	92.3km NE'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 50' S Long: 120° 10' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Mining Lease	70/1391	CARBONE BROS. PTY LTD	18.99HA.	21km NW'ly of Harvey	Lat: 32° 56' S Long: 115° 43' E	HARVEY 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: 8 April 2020

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 **8 July 2020**. 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. 8 August 2020**), 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, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

DMIRS_291_0735

Notice of an application for determination of native title in the state of South Australia

Notification day: 22 April 2020



National
Native Title
Tribunal

This is an application by a native title claim group which is asking the Federal Court of Australia (Federal Court) to determine that the group holds native title in the area described below.

A person who wants to become a party to this application must write to the Registrar of the Federal Court, Level 5, Roma Mitchell Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 3 Angas St, ADELAIDE SA 5000 **on or before 21 July 2020**. After **21 July 2020**, the Federal Court's permission to become a party is required.

Under the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* there can be only one determination of native title for a particular area. If a person with native title rights and interests does not become a party to this application, there may be no other opportunity for the Federal Court, in making its determination, to take into account those native title rights and interests in relation to the area concerned.



Application name: Caroline Wilson and Ors on behalf of the Wirangu No 3 Native Title Claim and the State of South Australia

Federal Court File No: SAD228/2019

Date filed: 28 February 2020

Registration test status: The Native Title Registrar has **accepted** this application for registration

Description: The application area covers approx. 34 sq km and includes specific land parcels along the coastline from Streaky Bay (north to Flagstaff Landing and south to Lake Newland) and an area south east of Poochera abutting the Eyre Highway

Relevant LGAs: District Councils of Elliston, Streaky Bay and Wudinna

For assistance and further information about this application, call Dianne Drake on 02 9227 4000 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.

Notice of a non-claimant application for determination of native title in the state of New South Wales

Notification day: 22 April 2020



National
Native Title
Tribunal

This application is a 'non-claimant' application, an application made by persons to the Federal Court of Australia (Federal Court) who are not claiming native title themselves but are seeking a determination that native title does not exist in relation to the area described. The applicant has a non-native title interest in the area, set out in their application as described in the notice below.

Under the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* (the Act) there can be only one determination of native title for a particular area.

PLEASE NOTE: A person who claims to hold native title rights and interests in this area may wish to file a native title claimant application prior to 21 July 2020. Unless there is a relevant native title claim (as defined in section 24FE of the Act) over this area on or before **21 July 2020**, the area may be subject to protection under section 24FA and acts may be done which **extinguish or otherwise affect native title**. The Tribunal may be able to assist people wishing to make a relevant native title claim.

A person who claims native title rights and interests may also seek to become a party to the non-claimant application in order for those rights and interests to be taken into account in the Federal Court's determination. Other than filing a native title claim in response to the non-claimant application, this may represent the only opportunity to have those rights and interests in relation to the area considered. Any person who wants to become a party to this non-claimant application must write to the **Registrar of the Federal Court, Level 17 Law Courts Building, Queens Square, Sydney NSW 2000 on or before 21 July 2020**. After **21 July 2020**, the Federal Court's permission to become a party is required.



Applicant's name: Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Land Manager and Attorney General of New South Wales

Federal Court File No: NSD189/2020

Non-native title interest: The applicant is the manager of Reserve No. 77444 pursuant to clause 13 of Schedule 7 of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016 (NSW)*

Order sought by Applicant: The applicant seeks a determination that native title does not exist

Description: The application area covers approx. 1,176 sq m consisting of Lots 2816 and 2658 in DP752015; located at 51 Military Road, Matraville, Sydney

Relevant LGA: Randwick City Council

For assistance and further information about this application, call Maryanne Harvey on (03) 9920 3000 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.



Centre Manager

- Immediate interview and commencement
- Riverina N.S.W. location, housing included in package
- Residential program for Indigenous Youth

Opportunity for an inspirational & strategic Centre Manager with a proven ability to lead a highly qualified team

ABOUT THE ORGANISATION

The Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre is a culturally based residential program providing targeted early intervention programs for Aboriginal males between the ages of 12 and 15 who all have innate talents and qualities to be nurtured.

Located on 780 hectares of Crown Land it is targeted to Indigenous youth from communities throughout Western NSW.

THE POSITION

This position requires a leader who is driven to make a positive contribution to Indigenous Youth and their communities, by enhancing the service provided by this extremely successful and established Centre.

Reporting to the Board, the position requires

- exceptional stakeholder engagement skills with diverse Indigenous communities and all levels of government;
- senior leadership experience with a deep understanding of Indigenous issues, public funding streams and expectations;
- a proven record of transforming strategy into operational performance;
- a commitment to quality, financial accountability and sustainability; and
- active promotion of the Centre's guiding mission and values.

BENEFITS

An Executive level salary package, inclusive of housing, will be offered to the successful candidate.

This is an immediate opportunity, all queries may be directed to Ben Jones on 0411 174 409 alternatively, please forward your resume to ben.j@spinifexrecruiting.com.au

Relationship and results driven recruitment,
across City, Country and Coast.

spinifexrecruiting.com.au

download now
KOORI MAIL NOW AVAILABLE



Available via Apple Newsstand, iTunes, Google Play for Android market or www.pocketmags.com

Latest issue & back issues just \$1.49 each.
Subscribe for six months or one year at a reduced rate.
Download to your iPad, iPhone, Android device, Mac, PC or Kindle Fire.

A digital subscription to the **KOORI MAIL** is the perfect way to treat yourself!



Also available via



www.koorimail.com

Hawkesbury and Lower Nepean Rivers Water Source, Mid-Nepean River Catchment Management Zone—Matahil Creek

SB1277

KH0054

KH0055

KH0056

For assistance and further information about this application, call Sylvia Jagtman 02 9227 4000 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.



WATERNSW

NSW BORDER RIVERS UPSTREAM KEETAH BRIDGE ALLUVIAL GROUNDWATER SOURCE

An application for an AMENDED WATER SUPPLY WORK APPROVAL has been received from **TIMOTHY WILLIAM RAMSAY & SUSAN THORNTON RAMSAY** for one (1) x 204mm bore located on Lot 1 DP1097451 and two (2) x 204mm bores located on Lot 28 DP750073, both County of Arrawatta, Parish of Bonshaw for irrigation purposes.

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to WaterNSW, P O Box 1251, Tamworth NSW 2340 or email to customer.helpdesk@waternsw.com.au within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address, specify the grounds of your objection and note the application number – A23110.

Any queries please call 1300 662 077 or email the above.

David Thomas, Water Regulation Officer North.

KH0069

WATERNSW

LOWER MURRAY GROUNDWATER WATER SOURCE

An application for a WATER SUPPLY WORKS APPROVAL has been received from: **NATHAN ALLEN AND EMILY MARIE HEHIR** for a bore (proposed diameter 400mm) on Lot 69 DP756319, Parish Pungulgui, County Townsend for the purpose of irrigation. (Application No. A22991).

Objections to granting of this Approval must be registered in writing to WaterNSW, PO Box 453, Deniliquin NSW 2710 or email to customer.helpdesk@waternsw.com.au within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name, address and specify the grounds of objection.

Any queries please call 1300 662 077 or email the above.

Jenny Campion, Water Regulation Officer South.

KH0052

WATERNSW

LOWER MURRAY GROUNDWATER WATER SOURCE

An application for a WATER SUPPLY WORKS APPROVAL has been received from: **RAYMOND ALLEN AND JENNIFER ANNE HEHIR** for a bore (proposed diameter 400mm) on Lot 144 DP756353, Parish Yalgadoori, County Townsend for the purpose of irrigation. (Application No. A22992).

Objections to granting of this Approval must be registered in writing to Water NSW, PO Box 453, Deniliquin NSW 2710, within 28 days of the date of this notice. The objection must include your name, address and specify the grounds of objection.

Any queries please call (03) 5880 1735.

jenny.campion@waternsw.com.au

Angela Lepper, A/Manager, Water Regulation South.

KH0053

WATERNSW

BONVILLE CREEK WATER SOURCE

An application to Amend a WATER SUPPLY WORKS & USE APPROVAL has been received from **AMANDEEP SINGH**, for two additional Lots - Lot 211, DP844968 and Lot 217, DP864111, for irrigation purposes, Parish of Bonville, County of Raleigh.

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to WaterNSW PO Box 1400 Grafton NSW 2460, or email to customer.helpdesk@waternsw.com.au within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address and specify the grounds of objection (Ref. A023043). Any queries please call 1300 662 077 or email the above.

Mark Bonner Water Regulation Officer North.

KH0062

WATERNSW

BONVILLE CREEK WATER SOURCE

An application for a New Water Supply Works & USE APPROVAL has been received from **Amandeep Singh, Rajinder Kaur and Jarnail Singh Sidhu**, for a Bore (15 Megalitres), a Mixed Rights Bywash Dam (12 Megalitres) and a 100mm Centrifugal Pump, all on Lot 20, DP634371, Parish of Bonville, County of Raleigh, for irrigation of same lot.

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to WaterNSW PO Box 1400 Grafton NSW 2460, or email to customer.helpdesk@waternsw.com.au within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address and specify the grounds of objection (Ref. A022905).

Any queries please call 1300 662 077 or email the above.

Mark Bonner Water Regulation North.

KH0063

WATERNSW

Upper Namoi Regulated River Water Source

An application for a New Water Supply Work Approval has been received from **Roslynn Gai RIGGS** for one (1) x 50mm Centrifugal pump located on Lot 1 DP634173 and one (1) x 50mm Diversion pipe located on Lot 2 DP106065, both County of Darling, Parish of Baldwin on the Namoi River for stock & domestic use only.

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to WaterNSW, P O Box 1251, Tamworth NSW 2340 or customer.helpdesk@waternsw.com.au within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address, specify the grounds of your objection and note the application reference number – A22976.

Any queries please call 1300662077, Ben Hanks, Senior Water Regulation Officer.

KH0065

WATERNSW

LACHLAN FOLD BELT GROUNDWATER SOURCE

An application for a NEW WATER SUPPLY WORK APPROVAL has been received from **MCA CULTIVATION ASSETS PTY LTD** for two existing 5 litres per second groundwater bores located on Lot 56 & 57 of DP 255534, Parish of Price, County of Phillip. (Ref: A022680).

Objections to the granting of the above approvals must be forwarded to WaterNSW, PO Box 1018, DUBBO NSW 2830 or email to customer.helpdesk@waternsw.com.au within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address and specify the grounds of objection.

Any queries please call 1300 662 077.

Rob Kardell, Water Regulation Officer North.

KH0071

WATER NSW

NORTH COAST VOLCANICS GROUNDWATER SOURCE

An application to AMEND AN EXISTING WATER SUPPLY WORK AND USE APPROVAL (30CA321901) has been received from **SARATINI FARM PTY LTD** for additional bores, one (1) proposed bore on Lot 1 DP123443 and one (1) proposed bore on Lot 3 DP572748, Parish of Bexhill, County of Rous (Application number A023083).

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to WaterNSW, PO Box 796, Murwillumbah NSW 2484 or by email to customer.helpdesk@waternsw.com.au within 28 days of this notice.

The objection must include your name and address and specify the grounds of objection.

Any queries please call 1300 662 077 or email the above.

Melissa Hundy, Water Regulation Officer, Murwillumbah.

KH0072

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, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following amalgamation applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Exploration No.	Applicant	Amalg No	Area*	Locality	Centroid	Shire
04/2060	ALEXANDER CREEK PTY LTD	573124	92.56HA.	108.1km E'ly of Derby	Lat: 17° 0' S Long: 124° 35' E	DERBY-WEST KIMBERLEY SHIRE
26/161	JOHNSON, Chad Graeme, JOHNSON, Sharon Lee	573496	9.11HA.	21.8km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 6' S Long: 121° 52' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY

Nature of the act: Grant of amalgamation applications which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals.

Notification day: 8 April 2020

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 **8 July 2020**. 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. 8 August 2020**), 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, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

DMIRS_290_0733

Notice of applications to register area agreements on

the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements

Northern Territory of Australia

Notification day: 15 April 2020



National
Native Title
Tribunal



D12020/001 Dingo Gas Pipeline Agreement ILUA

D12020/002 Dingo Gas Production Agreement ILUA

Description of the agreement areas:

D12020/001: The agreement area covers approx. 9 sq km and is located approx. 19 km south of Alice Springs extending in a southerly direction for approx. 41 km

D12020/002: The agreement area covers approx. 469 sq km and is located approx. 51 km south of Alice Springs

Relevant LGA: MacDonnell Regional Council

Parties to the agreements and their contact addresses:

Central Land Council	Central Petroleum (NT) Pty Ltd (Company)
27 Stuart Highway, Alice Springs, NT 0870	Level 7, 369 Ann Street, Brisbane, QLD 4000

The agreements contain the following statements:

[Explanatory notes in brackets inserted by the National Native Title Tribunal]

D12020/001 and D12020/002: 2.1(c) The Parties acknowledge and agree that during the term of this

Agreement the doing of all Authorised Acts carried out in accordance with this Agreement which are Future Acts are agreed and valid to the extent that they affect Native Title in the area covered by this Agreement.

2.6 The Parties agree that the Right to Negotiate is not intended to apply to any Future Acts the subject of this Agreement.

D12020/001 only:

Authorised Acts [means: (a) the grant and continued operation of each Approval and any authorisations required pursuant to the Pipeline Licence and Approvals (including any renewal); (b) the use of the Pipeline Licence and each Approval (including any renewal); (c) the Project Activities; (d) any other thing authorised or required by the agreement; (e) all acts in connection with, or in relation or incidental to, the Project, whether that grant or those acts occurred before, on or after the Commencement Date].

Pipeline Licence [means Pipeline Licence No. 30 (PL30) granted under the Energy Pipelines Act 1981 (NT) and includes any renewal, re-grant, re-making, replacement, variation, substitution or extension of the licence].

Approvals [means: (a) any authorisation, other than the Pipeline Licence; and (b) the grant, renewal, assignment or substitution of any such authorisation (including the Pipeline Licence)].

Project [means activities and operations for the investigation, development, construction, installation, use, operation, maintenance, repair, upgrade, replacement, further development, alteration, enhancement and decommissioning of the Pipeline undertaken by the Company and all Project Activities].

Project Activity [means all those activities, works or operations carried out in, or related to, the investigation, development, construction, installation, use, operation, maintenance, repair, upgrade, replacement, further development, alteration, enhancement and decommissioning of the Pipeline undertaken which are permitted or required under any term of this Agreement].

D12020/002 only:

Authorised Act [means:(a) grant and continued operation of the Production Licence and Approvals and any authorisations required; (b) use of the Production Licence and approvals and any authorisations required including any renewal; (c) the Recovery Operations; and (d) any other thing authorised or required by the agreement].

Production Licence [means Petroleum Production Licence 7 (L7) granted under the Petroleum Act 1984 (NT) and includes any renewal, re-grant, re-making, replacement, variation, substitution or extension of the licence].

Production Activities [means activities or operations related to the recovery, extraction or preservation of petroleum including: (a) mobilisation and access; (b) exploration and appraisal; (c) development, production, gathering, separating, pressure maintenance, dehydrating, heating, treating, processing, handling, transportation, fractionation, storage, distribution and marketing of petroleum; (d) design, capacity, installation, operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of required infrastructure and facilities; (e) use of any work site; (f) well shut-in, demobilisation, rehabilitation, re-vegetation and decommissioning; (g) any other thing authorised or required].

Approvals [means:(a) any authorisation, other than the Production Licence; and (b) the grant, renewal, assignment or substitution of any such authorisation (including the Production Licence)].

Recovery Operations means activities and operations for the recovery, extraction or preservation of Petroleum pursuant to the Production Licence and Approvals in or on the Licence Area and all Production Activities.

Objections to the registration of an ILUA where the application for registration has been certified:

These two applications for registration of indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs) have been certified by the Central Land Council, the representative body for the area concerned. The area covered by each agreement is shown in the map. Any person claiming to hold native title to any part of the areas covered by any of the agreements may object in writing within the notice period to the registration of the agreements if they think that the applications to register the ILUAs have not been properly certified. If you wish to object to the registration of any of the agreements (and you hold or claim to hold native title in any part of the areas covered by the agreements) you may only object for one reason: in your view, the applications to register the ILUAs have not been properly certified, as stated in section 203BE(5)(a) and (b) of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). You must make this objection in writing and send it to the **Native Title Registrar, National Native Title Tribunal, GPO Box 9973 Sydney, NSW, 2001 by 15 July 2020**. Generally, procedural fairness will require that the material you provide is given to certain other persons or organisations for comment. It may also be taken into account in the registration of other ILUAs and claimant applications and thus be provided to relevant persons or organisations for comment.

Details of the terms of the agreements are not available from the National Native Title Tribunal. For assistance and further information about these applications, call Sylvia Jagtman on 02 9227 4000 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.

From Borroloola to the Young Matildas

By **LIANA BURATTI**
Australian Olympic Committee



ON the eastern coast of the Northern Territory on the Gulf of Carpentaria sits the remote township of

Borroloola, home to a community of around 850 people.

One of those people is Shadeene Evans, a two-year player with W-League club Sydney FC and a representative of Australia's female youth under-16 soccer team, the Young Matildas – a far cry from Borroloola.

Growing up in the bush, Evans was taught about country and her people's stories from a young age. Her early days were spent learning how to hunt goanna, kangaroo and fish for food by her dad from the time she was five.

When she wasn't sleeping under the stars and having a yarn around the fire, her favourite pastime was to have a kick around with family and friends which is where her love of the 'beautiful game' began.

"I just remember all of us kids running around like crazy, barefoot in the long grass under the hot sun," the young Marra woman recalls.

"Borroloola is tiny, a very isolated community, so everyone is really close and connected to the land and the culture.

"Everyone shares their stories and passes them down to younger generations. That's what I love most about it."

Little did Evans know that one day she would be the main character of one of these stories.

'Just like me'

As a child, Evans' main focus was to play football with her friends and family, but that all changed when she saw someone just like her playing the game she loved for Australia, and on the biggest stage of them all. That was Anaiwan woman and Matilda Kyah Simon. When Evans saw Simon playing for Australia on TV it opened a new world of possibilities for the youngster.

"I remember watching Kyah as a kid and just being so excited to see an Indigenous athlete representing her country, playing football. She played the same position as me too, a striker," Evans said.

"Kyah became my role model and that was when I decided I wanted to represent my country, my family and my community. Playing for Australia became all I wanted."

Until that day, representing her country was something Evans didn't think was possible.

When she was 12, what turned out to be an opportunity of a lifetime appeared.

The John Moriarty Football (JMF) program had just been formed by the first Indigenous man to be selected for the

Australian national men's soccer team, the Socceroos. That was John Kundereri Moriarty, also from Borroloola.

JMF was established to encourage children to receive a good education, live a healthier life and chase their footballing aspirations.

It took some convincing to get her mum on board.

"I was attending the after-school program with JMF and they started picking kids to go away for school tournaments," Evans said.

"I was picked for a football tournament in Katherine which would've been my first trip away from Borroloola.

"Initially my mum wouldn't let me go. She was very scared because I was so young and had never been away from home before, but after a few tears she saw how important it was to me and let me go."

The following year, former Matildas head coach and current Central Coast Mariners boss Alen Stajcic scouted Evans as a 13-year-old at a state championships tournament, and in 2015 she was selected for a place at Westfield Sports High School through a JMF scholarship.

Evans' new venture involved a 3000km relocation from the familiarity of the bush to the big smoke of Sydney where she would eventually participate in the Future Matildas program.

The adjustment was hard for the youngster, from being away from her family to wearing football boots.



Shay Evans celebrates her first goal for Sydney FC in the 2019/20 W-League season.

"Moving to Sydney was very hard (and) it was just so weird coming from Borroloola where I was playing barefoot to moving to a big city and playing in football boots," she said.

In 2018, Evans made her debut for the Young Matildas and is now the vice-captain of the team.

First W-League goal

Evans went on to make her W-League debut in the 2018/19 season and in round 1 of the 2019/20 season scored her maiden W-League goal, with her celebration an emotional reflection of just how much it meant to her.

"Scoring my first W-League goal was emotional. It was a great, surreal feeling," she said,

"I was going out representing my team, my culture, my

family and everyone who supported me, so it wasn't just a goal for me; it was for them. Everything

I do is for my family and my culture.

"I am so grateful for all the hard work and the sacrifices and support from others like JMF who have got me to where I am. I definitely wouldn't be here today without them."

The next goal Evans will look to tick off her list is to represent Australia as a senior Matilda but her education is still at the forefront of her mind.

She has commenced a degree in Social Work at the University of New South Wales and wants to use her skills to give back to her community, support them and inspire a positive change.

"I went from a kid wishing to one day represent Australia to having that dream come true, which is pretty amazing," Evans said.

"Moving down here, playing for the Young Matildas and playing in the W-League, it's just unbelievable.

"I want others back home and all over Australia to believe that it can happen for them too."



Above: Shay Evans with mentor John Moriarty of John Moriarty Football, the foundation that provides a pathway for Indigenous youth in football. Top: Evans played for the Australian girl's national youth soccer team, the Young Matildas, the first person from Borroloola to do so.

Hard to watch this but league must survive

WE'RE almost a month out since the NRL's decision to suspend the 2020 premiership season and it seems that that, together with the life-saving act of self-isolating from the coronavirus, which I advise everyone to keep up with until we know better, is taking a personal toll from a number of people in rugby league I've spoken to.



Dean Widders

Livelihoods are at stake and I am speaking from personal experience. It is predicted that there will be cuts of up to 90% of NRL staff, with only essential staff – key personnel in league's administration, the finance sector, players and gameday officials – to survive.

There is big talk about players losing up to 80% of their pay, this year and next.

Among the early casualties are the community programs, and that includes my role at the NRL as Indigenous Pathways manager.

I have had to take all my personal leave and for the first time in my life face an uncertain future in employment.

Rebuild

I understand all of this. I don't like it, but I understand why it has to be this way. Rugby league's sole goal over the next two years will be to survive and to slowly rebuild.

The NRL's Indigenous and community programs will take a long time to rebuild because they took a long time to establish.

It is a worrying time for all of us who love league. Players are at a loss. It seems a lot of us are on edge. It is a scary time. But right now the last thing we need to do is to hit the panic button.

Speaking to some of the players recently like Andrew Fifita and Will Smith, they are fully aware of the predicament they're in. What they've been doing is keeping themselves physically motivated by continuing to train, and to also be there for their young families.

And, despite everything in regards to their careers, they are touching base with young people in their communities and are giving as much support as they can to others doing it tough. This, to me, reveals great character. We need that sort of leadership and positivity and example now more than ever. All of us who can need to be leaders in our communities and remain positive.

Something to look forward to

On a lighter note, I have seen quite a few videos on social media of some of the players keeping up their fitness levels. They're also providing tips and examples of what workouts viewers can do at home. Some of the videos, like from Josh Addo-Carr and Latrell Mitchell, have a lot of humour in them and are worth watching.

On the TV, NITV are showing old Knockout games.

George Rose, Timana Tahu and myself have had the pleasure of going through some of the old games with some of the players who played in them. (This is in place of the *Over the Black Dot* rugby league show, and is on Tuesday nights at 8.30pm.) Also, I will continue to write here for the *Koori Mail* about rugby league.

Everyone, please take care. Stay positive. It is tough but we will get through this. Hopefully, we will learn some valuable lessons along the way.

**Dean Widders is a proud Anaiwan man. He played 159 NRL games for Sydney Roosters, South Sydney and Parramatta and 60 Super League games for Castleford. He is the NRL Indigenous Pathways manager.*



Fred Bulsey (with ball) runs through an opposition player in one of his countless rugby league games in Queensland as a player.

Palm Island legend will turn to coaching

By ALF WILSON



FRED Bulsey has given his heart and soul to the Palm Island

Barracudas rugby league team over the course of 25 years.

The local league legend is now looking forward to coaching his sons whenever football returns to the north Queensland Aboriginal island community.

Bulsey, who turned 40 last weekend, made his senior debut for the Barracudas as an 80kg 15-year-old utility player. Now, 25 years and 40kg later, he has finally taken off his football boots for the last time, with a reputation as one of the toughest prop forwards around.

His focus now is to coach footy and his sons, Fred Jnr, 22, Germaine, 17, and Isaac, 19.

He hopes that some football, even if it is just Indigenous carnivals, will be played at some time this year.

When that does happen, he will be a vital cog in the Palm Island rugby league community next season with his insight in to the game.

But will he make a comeback?

"I'll just be concentrating on



The family that plays footy together: Fred Bulsey Snr (right) with (from left) his wife Krishna, and sons Fred Jnr, Germaine and Isaac.

the boys and helping them out," he said.

Bulsey had an earlier taste of coaching when he led the Barracudas to a 38-16 win over Yarrabah in their December 19 clash on Palm Island.

He wanted to play in that game alongside his sons but he couldn't due to injury.

"I would have loved to have been able to get onto the field with my boys, but I had an injury," he said.

Isaac is one of the rising young stars of North Queensland football and

played several games for the Townsville Blackhawks in the QRL's statewide Mal Meninga Cup (under-18s) competition.

Outside footy, Fred Snr works as an animal control officer for the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council.

With no football being played for an undetermined period this season, and Palm Island in lockdown due to the coronavirus outbreak everywhere, Bulsey had time to reflect on his long football career and the countless number of A-grade games he has played.

"I remember coming into the side when Hector Poynter was fullback and we were coached by Vern Daisy," Bulsey recalls.

"Last year, I was going to play one more season but I have a chronic knee injury so I will have to watch the boys from the sidelines."

What he rates highly was when the Barracudas won the final of the Bindal Sharks rugby league carnival in Townsville in 2012.

"That was great; we had many supporters there that day," he said.

"And representing a combined Palm Island-Bowen side in the Foley Shield, too."

Bulsey also has a special place in his heart for the Mua Razorbacks side he played in when they won the Island of Origin's 25th anniversary series on Badu Island in the Torres Strait in 2010.

"Five of us travelled from Palm for that series and our team were not given much chance," he recalls.

"We beat a favoured Badu team in a semifinal and then Malu Kiai from Boigu island in the grand final.

"I also loved playing for Skipjacks each year against the Army teams when we played for the Bill Coolburra Shield in memory of a great man."

The hard luck story of 2020

By CHRIS PIKE



in the AFLW.

The Dockers were undefeated 6-0 before the league dropped the final two rounds and brought the finals forward in attempt to get in a grand final play-off and a 2020 premier before the health crisis worsened.

As the top team in Conference B, Fremantle would play Gold Coast in a semifinal at home, in which they ran over the top of the Suns by 70 points to secure a preliminary final.

But the next day, acting on expert advice, the AFL

Commission suspended the AFL premiership season until the end of May, and cancelled the 2020 AFLW season, effective immediately, where there would be no premiers.

As the only team undefeated team tracking toward a maiden grand final, most likely against Conference A's top team, North Melbourne, the Dockers had every right to feel hard done by.

Fremantle star forward Gemma Houghton, one of several Indigenous players at the club, took the news hard.

"I actually found out when I was at the beach; it was on a Sunday and I was in Fremantle doing my recovery from the day before," she said.

"We have a What's App group and it got announced in there that our season was cancelled, not postponed.

"For us there was that instant feeling of disbelief and then I guess it sort of sunk in that that was it and the season was done and all our hard work of being undefeated was for nothing.

"There were only two games left with one more final and the grand final so to not know where we would have ended up leaves a bit of an uneasy feeling.

"But obviously, at the end of the day, it had to be done and our safety is the most important thing."

Back on the field, Houghton had a great season and relished her key role in the forward-line alongside a bunch of new faces and is already looking ahead to 2021.

"This year I played a different role," she said.



Gemma Houghton
Picture: Getty

"Normally, we'd go with myself and Ebony Antonio as 'twin towers' in the forward-line but she played of a different role on the wing and down back. We had quite a young forward-line with the likes of Sabreena Duffy and Roxy Roux who were incredible this season.

"I had to stand up a bit in that (on-field) leadership role to help them with their specific roles on gameday. I guess we built on that connection that we had from last season."

We are facing very serious challenges

SO much for all of us has changed in the past few weeks; our personal security and safety has been hit hard. If you're anything like me, your head will still be spinning at the overload of coronavirus news, views and to-dos, and don't-dos.



Shelley Ware

The world of AFL football that I have observed and have lived in for decades has been hit hard.

What's startling, however, is just how quickly the industry was brought to its knees.

The AFL competition and administration clearly cost a fortune to run, even just as a daily operation, but what we've come to learn is that it doesn't have much to spare in the bank for a rainy day, and the COVID-19 pandemic is about a 'rainy day' as we will ever see in our lifetime.

The league have secured a line of credit which, according to a definition I've found, is "effectively a source of funds that can readily be tapped at the borrower's discretion... (which) can be secured by collateral, or may be unsecured", which is vital for the game's overall survival.

What's been particularly devastating to see are the people I have worked closely with over the past 20-plus years being stood down.

We also saw the player's dispute over the pay-cut they would need to take for the game and their careers to survive. The PR of this wasn't great and the players didn't win too many new fans with the perception, real or imagined, that they were simply out of touch with reality because no other organisation has negotiated a 50% pay-cut for a non-working period and, in effect, simply being stood down.

Chad Wingard said that media should stop interviewing players that have been on a "good wicket for the past seven years", instead interview players that would be adversely affected financially.

I've seen enough of the AFL world to know that players who are on less than \$100,000 a year, and believe me there are many, would be significantly disadvantaged with the 70% pay cut, which would happen if play is delayed beyond May 31.

OK, enough of all of that for now.

What have the players actually been up to? Like many professional sportspeople here and around the world, it seems sharing fitness tips and home gym-builds are all the rage.

Would you also believe that The Wiggles – yes, The Wiggles! – have been a huge help to Eddie Betts and his lounge gym motivations? You can catch all that hilarity on his Instagram.

There has also been a lot of love and generosity by people sharing their true selves to us. There have been heartfelt messages from players; one from Buddy who said while he misses his morning ocean swims that it's more important to self-isolate.

AFL players around the country are using their social media platforms to share info on helping to keep people safe, healthy, connected and a true sense that we are all in this together.

When this is all over, I hope that we come back more connected and stronger than ever with a new direction to how we can handle any situation like this with the hope we never have to ever again.

**Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide. She appears on AFL.com.au's Colour Of Your Jumper.*



Howarth earns first All-Australian squad



KALINDA Howarth's decision to restart her AFLW career has paid off with a stellar season with new team Gold Coast, a semifinal and selection in the 40-woman All-Australian squad that will be whittled down to a 21-woman team.

Howarth is one of four Indigenous women from across the 14-team AFLW selected in the squad, joined by Maddie Prespakis (Carlton), Gemma Houghton (Fremantle) Sabreena Duffy (Fremantle).

Howarth, from the Yuin Nation, had given the AFLW a miss after being delisted by Brisbane at the end of the 2018 season without playing a game for the Lions.

She played for Bond University in 2019 in the QAFLW where she won the goalkicking award with 31 majors in 15 games, which got the attention of Gold Coast who were compiling their playing list ahead of their entry into the AFLW. The Suns pounced on Howarth with a pre-draft selection.

Her selection in the expanded AA squad comes after good form throughout the 2020 season and the round 3 Rising Star nomination.

Selection of the 21-woman 2020 All-Australian team will be announced at a date to be confirmed.

● Kalinda Howarth flies in to take a strong pack mark for Gold Coast in a game against West Coast during the 2020 AFLW season. Picture: AAP

West Coast got their man and he delivers

By CHRIS PIKE



HE was the biggest story of the AFL trade period last year and his wish to return to Perth and join West Coast was eventually granted.

While we will only ever have a sampling size of one for the time being, all signs point to Tim Kelly and the Eagles being a very good fit.

In the first and only round in the AFL this year, Kelly impressed in his West Coast debut with 19 possessions

and a goal in his new team's 27-point win over Melbourne at an empty Perth Stadium.

Kelly is what you would call a 'clearance machine', a tough in-and-under ball-winner, good with the run and carry, and a proven goalkicker. He was a revelation at Geelong as a mature-age recruit.

West Coast were turfed out of the 2019 finals series by Geelong (ironically with Kelly playing for the Cats) less than 12 months after winning the flag in 2018. The club's post-season analysis identified that a player of Kelly's calibre would help

get them back into premiership contention.

With Andrew Gaff, Luke Shuey, Dom Sheed, Liam Duggan and Elliot Yeo feeding off the ruck from Nic Naitanui, Kelly and co could be the right midfield mix to take the Eagles toward a tilt at another premiership.

"Obviously there was a lot of excitement for myself heading into playing officially my first game for the club," Kelly said post-match.

"It was a childhood dream come true so there was a lot of excitement, but obviously it was a weird feeling heading into it

because the AFL had just announced the season was going to be suspended.

"These things are going to take time for anyone that comes to a new team.

"It's a challenge to build that chemistry and understand the game plan and all the rest of it.

"These things will develop over time and I definitely felt a lot more comfortable than in the previous pre-season games. "It just felt weird not having a crowd there.

"Fingers-crossed we can get back to having our fans back at games after all this."



Tim Kelly is back home in WA and now plays with the Eagles in the AFL. Picture: Getty Images

Athletes turn their focus to healthy body, mind

By PETER ARGENT



ATHLETES across the sporting spectrum are finding ways to cope with the cessation of their sports and potentially careers after Australian sports administrations followed expert medical advice and suspended their operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key to their 'survival' as professional and semi-professional sportspeople is somehow managing to 'bank' pre-season training or how to deal with the cancellation of lead-up events should their sports resume in the near future.

While to a person they agree to the need to follow the advice from health professionals to self-isolate, they share a universal concern of



Taliqua Clancy

just how to maintain peak physical conditioning required of their particular sports.

Olympic beach volleyballer Taliqua Clancy was to compete at a FIBV-sanctioned event on the

Gold Coast in mid-March but that was cancelled at the 11th hour, and with the Tokyo Games now pushed back to 2021, her preparations in a specialist sport that is team beach volleyball have been thrown a curveball.

Domestically, Aussie rules and rugby league players have a much better chance of maintaining their fitness levels.

Still, there are challenges.

Anthony Wilson, a 2014 SANFL premiership player at Norwood, said he shared the disappointment of not able to play sport while fully accepting the dramatic circumstances in which we find ourselves.

"I got in some solid work on my individual preparation," he said of pre-season training.

"The club has asked us to keep in as good a shape as possible. (But) there are so many unknowns

at the moment. A lot of the boys are doing their own stuff, finding ways to continue with their fitness."

Byron Sumner, who plays for Sturt in the SANFL, said his club has delivered its players a fitness program.

"The club has just recently been giving us a strength and conditioning program to do over the next couple of weeks," he said.

"A number of the boys have borrowed weights and gym equipment from the club to run their own programs."

Wilson is closing in on 100 games in the SANFL.

"That milestone is a driving point for me," he said.

"I'm still hopeful that we will get 18 rounds in, even if they push the season back. I'll be pretty shattered if our campaign doesn't get underway or we have a shortened season.



Byron Sumner

"Even if we don't get away this year, I still expect to front up again in 2021. I spent a year playing community footy, and I reckon I'd be lost without training four nights a week."



Anthony Wilson, a SANFL premiership player with Norwood, is hopeful of a return to football in 2020. SANFL pictures: Peter Argent

download now

KOORI MAIL NOW AVAILABLE



www.koorimail.com

Available via Apple Newsstand, iTunes, Google Play for Android market or www.pocketmags.com

Latest issue & Back Issues just \$1.49 each. Subscribe for six months or one year at a reduced rate. Download to your iPad, iPhone, Android device, Mac, PC or Kindle Fire.

A digital subscription to **KOORI MAIL** is the perfect way to treat yourself

pocketmags.com



The day Bernie refused a helmet and hit Watto for six

By ALF WILSON



VETERAN
Tasmanian cricketer Bernie Lamont fondly recalls the day he was told to wear a helmet for his own safety when he was about to face an up-and-coming tearaway fast bowler who would captain Australia in Test cricket and flatly refusing to do so.

Lamont, with pads on and a bat under his arm, strode purposefully to the crease for Sandy Bay in a Hobart District A-grade game against Lindisfarne at Bellerive Oval in the early 2000s.

As Lamont got to the crease and assumed his stance, there at the top of his run stood a bloke called Shane Watson, red cherry in hand, pumped from claiming the previous wicket, and in the middle of a spell that included 140km/h thunderbolts.

Lamont was well aware that Watson was on fire that day, but try and tell a proud Palm Islander who had never worn a helmet to better go and get one?

"Watson actually asked me where my helmet was and I told him in no uncertain terms that I never wear one and wasn't about to," Lamont recalls.

"Some of his teammates had a go at me and suggested I may lose my head."

In a brazen act of total self-defiance, and theatre, Lamont hit Watson's first delivery for a massive six.

"I turned to the players who had a go at me and said, 'I still have my head,'" Lamont said, laughing now at a great memory.

Lamont scored 14 more runs that day but can't actually remember what the final result was.

Watson went on to become an international cricketer in 59 Tests for Australia, captain Australia in one Test, play in 190 one-day internationals and 58 T20 internationals, and carve out a lengthy career in first-class cricket here and overseas.

Watson, a Queenslander like Lamont, had moved to Tasmania. They both played in the island state's domestic competition during the 2000/01 season. That's how they crossed paths.



Bernie Lamont had no fears when tearaway fast bowler Shane Watson (inset) came at him full-throttle in a Tasmanian domestic cricket match. Pictures: Alf Wilson, Getty Images

"It was just never part of my game to wear a helmet," Lamont said.

Except for this one time when another Australian Test cricketer had a ball in his hands and Lamont's wicket in his sights.

"Yeah, that was when I faced Mitchell Johnson who was one of Australia's fastest bowlers at the time with a speed of

150km/h-plus," Lamont said.

"I was playing in an Aboriginal XI side against Johnson's Queensland Second XI and when he was coming back from injury. "He was very fast."

Otherwise, no helmets.

When he was young, Lamont was a feared right-arm fast bowler who bowled off a short run-up.

"When I played for Balmain in Sydney I finished third in a fast-bowling competition and was recorded sending down a delivery at 135km/h," he said.

As he got older, and a bit slower, Lamont dropped down to medium-pace level then on to gentle off-spinners.

He was a star for Tasmania in several Imparja Cups in Alice

Springs in the early 2000s.

Nowadays, Lamont hasn't played cricket for a while, but wants to make a comeback next season for Spreyton.

"I miss playing cricket; it's been a big part of my life," he said.

The big question is, if he does, will he bat without a helmet? "No, definitely not!"

**POWER
THE
HAPPY
FOR SICK KIDS**



While hospital is Ruby's life, Starlight helps her laugh and play. Because a healthy dose of happiness helps sick kids just be kids. That's the power of happy.

This Starlight Day, Power the Happy for sick kids and see that money can buy happiness.

DONATE NOW
starlight.org.au



Moree puts its people before footy

● From back page



MOREE'S affiliation with Group 19 remains and the club is committed to a return in 2021.

The decision also means the club's 2019 premiership defence and push for a 'three-peat' will last another year.

"It was a tough decision and we spent a fair bit of time on it, but over the past two weeks or so the situation's just gotten worse and the safety of our community was first and foremost," Johnson said.

"There are other towns (in our Group) with confirmed cases of coronavirus and we have a big supporter base that travels with us and we just don't want to risk our Elders' health because they're in a

high-risk group with this virus.

"That was the main thing for us: the health, safety and wellbeing of the community, the volunteers, the players and coaches. We're not taking a risk with people's safety."

Other logistical and financial considerations were cited as reasons for pulling the pin on 2020, with countless businesses closing down and restrictions on

large-scale gatherings. The domino effect means that sports and sports sponsorship are among the first to go.

"If Group 19 restarts but then has to cancel again, we'll have a big insurance bill because those (insurance) fees are applicable if you play one game or 20," Johnson said.

"On top of that, as a club you rely on sponsors, but all the local

businesses have been hit hard so it all just added up that we can't make a commitment for this year based on the current information.

"This is a brave move by our committee; we've never shied away from making a call and this is a brave one.

"We want to safeguard ourselves for the future. We want to be in a strong position for next year."

Fantastic Febi is cricket's best

By PETER ARGENT



CRICKETING all-rounder Febi Mansell is at the top of her game after winning consecutive SA

Indigenous female cricketer-of-the-year awards.

The 22-year-old was announced as the 2019/20 winner at the SACA awards in a presentation delivered over the web via Zoom.

The trophy goes with her fourth consecutive Para Districts Cricket Association Women's Grade 1 premiership which she won with Eyre Royals.

"Yes, this is my second Indigenous female player-of-the-year award in a row," Mansell, obviously proud of her award, said.

"This will sit alongside the one that I won last year, right next to my bed."

Mansell, with her sister, Violet, 20, a left-handed batter and right-arm bowler, represented the Desert Peas, South Australia's team at the National Indigenous Cricket Championships in Alice



Febi Mansell (right) and her sister Violet represented South Australia at the NICC in Alice Springs earlier this year.

Spring earlier this year.

The Desert Peas went winless in the tournament. Febi's best

figures were 1/4 off three overs against eventual winners New South Wales.

"From a playing perspective, it was a bit frustrating only getting in three games for the tournament in February," she said of the rain-interrupted tournament.

"It was still an awesome experience for the group and we had a lot of bonding time.

"That was my fourth NICC tournament for the Desert Peas and it was the fifth time there because I played in the community competition one year as well."

In the PDCA Women's Grade 1 grand final, Mansell bowled six overs for a return of 1/22 in opponent Central United's innings of 4/132.

With the bat, as an opener, she produced a better than a-run-a-ball 33, including a pair of boundaries and a six, setting a strong foundation in the run-chase in her side's eventual five-wicket triumph.

Mansell found time in her busy schedule to play with Southern Districts Stingrays in the SACA district cricket competition.



Febi Mansell in full flight for South Australia at the 2018 Australian Country Cricket Championships in New South Wales.

Mills' message of solidarity after Games postponement



BOOMERS star Patty Mills has reached out with a message of support to Australia's

Olympians as they deal with the postponement of the Tokyo Olympic Games to June 2021.

The triple Olympian applauded the Australian Olympic Committee's proactive move which had earlier prepared Australia's Olympic athletes for a 2021 Games because of the coronavirus.

Torres Strait Islander, Mills, an NBA star with San Antonio Spurs, has endeared Australians with his off-court efforts too, visiting bushfire-impacted regions during the recent All-Star break and spearheading a project to provide clean drinking water to remote communities.

One of the contenders to carry the flag at Tokyo's opening ceremony, Mills did his best to

rally his fellow Olympians as they came to grips with the situation.

"Just like every Olympic athlete around the world I'm absolutely gutted this crisis has affected the largest international sporting event in the world," he said in a video he posted on Twitter.

"Do not be discouraged by this adversity. As an Olympic athlete your goal remains the same; to represent our country the best way possible and strive to be your very best.

"I understand every athlete has their own journey but the commitment to our country and this team remains consistent.

"Just regroup, regather and adjust your preparation plans, stay positive and stay strong and lean on each other for support if needed."

Mills has been in isolation in the United States since the NBA was sensationally shut down after Utah Jazz star Rudy Gobert's positive test nearly two weeks ago.



Patty Mills

"Stay at home and keep your distance; the better we can control this virus the better we can look after each other," Mills said.

Timeline of events

December 31: A pneumonia of unknown cause detected in

Wuhan is first reported to the WHO Country Office in China.

January 25: The first case of COVID-19, also known as coronavirus, is reported in Australia at a Melbourne hospital.

March 12: NBA, NHL halts seasons. ATP suspended for six weeks. Australian women's cricket team tour of South Africa cancelled.

March 13: WHO declares the virus outbreak a pandemic. EPL suspends season until April 30. Melbourne Grand Prix cancelled.

March 14: Australia's ODI cricket series against New Zealand abandoned. Indian Premier League delayed until April 15.

March 15: Super Rugby season suspended.

March 16: English Super League and the Rugby Football League suspended until April 3.

March 17: NBL finals series cancelled. Perth Wildcats awarded championship. NSW declared Sheffield Shield winners

after CA suspends shield season. MLB postponed until at least mid-May. Tim Tszyu v Jeff Horn, scheduled for April 22, postponed.

March 18: Euro 2020 pushed back to 2021. Copa America delayed until 2021. The PGA Championship scheduled for May 14-17 postponed. Supercars delay racing until June.

March 19: The ATP and WTA extend suspension of their tours until June 7.

March 21: The International Ice Hockey Federation cancels 2020 World Championship in Zurich and Lausanne.

March 22: AFL season suspended until May 31, remainder of AFLW season cancelled.

March 23: NRL suspends season. Australia pulls out of Tokyo Olympics. Super Netball season deferred until at least June 30.

March 24: A-League postponed.

— AAP



The WSU student team (from left): Tiah Vocale, Stacey Elliot, Jessica Oehm, Kayden Edwards, Luke Hodge, Kobi Whalan, Matilda Harry, Nicholas Locke, Lachie Beavan, Talyssa Baker and Gabby Talbot-Mundine, and (front, kneeling) Jarred Murphy.

WSU students teach staff a sporting lesson



INDIGENOUS staff and students at Western Sydney University put

their pencils down and pulled their football boots on in a competitive soccer match at Kingswood Campus, a first for the uni.

Before social distancing became enforceable by law, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander undergraduate and postgraduate students tested their skills against their educator counterparts.

The staff team looked to have the pre-game edge with Frank Fairna, former Socceroos coach (1999-2005), as their coach. And he had a 'stacked' team to work with, with some of WSU's big names, including Professor Michelle Trudgett, the pro-vice-chancellor of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education, strategy and consultation, Josh Mason, WSU Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement marketing project professor as skipper, Anna Cody, dean of Law and Professor Brian

Stout, dean of Social Sciences, among others.

But the students flipped the script, and the table, defying all odds to defeat their peers 4-2, despite having a couple of yellow cards waved in their faces by the referee, a staffer, Professor Kevin Dunn, pro-vice-chancellor of research.

Rubbing more salt into the wound for the staff team was when Kristy Bell, student success officer, was judged to be the game's best player.

The fun event was designed to bring together the various mob at WSU.

A good crowd of community members and university staff and students cheered the teams on from the sidelines.

"We are deeply committed to the wellbeing and success of our Indigenous students," Prof Trudgett said.

"This soccer game will become an annual event in our action-packed calendar which is designed to bring our students, staff and broader Indigenous community together in a fun way that builds Indigenous excellence through positive engagement."

— Contributed



The WSU staff team: (back row, from left) Frank Farina (coach), Josh Mason (ATSI engagement marketing project officer), Dr Scott Avery (lecturer in Social Sciences), Professor Brian Stout (dean of Social Sciences), Professor Michelle Trudgett (pro-vice-chancellor ATSI education, strategy and consultation), Corrinne Sullivan (assoc. dean of Social Sciences), and Chris Youness (director of employability and graduate success); and (front row, from left) Wayne Clark (ATSI engagement marketing project officer), Sophie Partridge (senior manager of engagement marketing), Ellen Karimanovic (student administration), Kristy Bell (Badanami student success officer), Michelle Locke (research), Professor Anna Cody (dean of law), and Djaleesa Kickett (ATSI engagement marketing project officer). Pictures: Contributed

Maybe time for an NRL/AFL 2.0

ONE month in with no proper footy and how's everyone going? If you're anything like me: 'Yeah, good; good enough; getting there.' Yes, I am totally missing the great sporting spectacle that is football of any persuasion.



Darren Moncrieff

What's filling the void, at least, is an insight into the administration of the football codes. Daily it seems we are presented with a whole suite of fixture modelling that involves anything from multiple weekday games, triple-headers to a god-damned "NRL Island" and even a Christmas Day grand final... it just gets better, doesn't it? Wake up on any given morning and there's another option on the table. But seriously, what has become clear is that the situation the codes find themselves in ought to be the catalyst to change because the current model has proved unsustainable. Semi-seriously, I'm going one better here and will have a look at what the NRL and AFL could look like in a post-COVID-19 world.

The AFL set-up has left at least a generation of fans disillusioned with the current regime ever since West Coast, alongside Brisbane, joined the VFL in 1987. Let me explain: if you were a staunch fan of the SANFL or WAFL in the 1980s when the VFL came along and basically seized control of your state's best football resources, later renamed itself the "Australian" Football League and by a social engineering masterplay became the 'default' national football competition you would get an idea of that disillusionment.

In rugby league, the NSWRL sidled in on the thriving Brisbane Rugby League in 1988 from which it drew a team, called it the Brisbane Broncos, and later morphed into the default national rugby league competition while leaving the BRL a shadow of its former self.

So here's my idea. In Aussie rules, AFL licences are granted to all state-level clubs in the VFL, SANFL, WAFL, NEAFL (NSW and Queensland), Tasmania and the Northern Territory after which government and corporate sponsorship clamour to be associated with national league clubs thereby creating a solid and sustainable financial environment. Year 1 of AFL 2.0 would keep to its current 18-team format and top-eight finals system. At the end of this season, the bottom seven teams are replaced by the end-of-season top seven state league teams in a relegation and promotion system (teams can only be replaced by a team from their original state who won that year's flag). The league then adds the premierships teams from Tassie and the NT to now become a 20-team league for Year 2 and beyond. Eventually, this mix of AFL 1.0 'legacy' clubs and original state league clubs strengthens football across the board as the now well-resourced teams clamour toward an AFL promotion or go all out to avoid state league relegation.

The "AFL" brand would remain but the administration would become the Australian National Football Council, the name of the organisation that used to independently govern all the state leagues from 1906 until the 1990s.

Turning our attention to rugby league, NRL 2.0 would see the return of the Perth Reds, the Adelaide Rams, a central Queensland team and another Brisbane team for a 20-team competition with its own league-wide promotion/relegation system. And so, in one column, I have just solved all of football's problems. You're welcome. And wash your hands.

*Darren Moncrieff is a Wadjari-Thakarri man from Carnarvon in Western Australia who started with Yamaji News in 1997 and freelanced in WA's Kimberley region and in the Northern Territory.

Got something to say?
Then say it! Drop us a line:
sport@koorimail.com



Boomerangs pull the pin on 2020 season

By **DARREN MONCRIEFF**



AN Aboriginal football club in north-west NSW has formally ruled out returning to the field in 2020 due to the COVID-19

pandemic even if competition resumes.

The Moree Boomerangs Rugby League Football Club has made the bold decision to withdraw entirely from any form of competition in 2020 in a move that it says will protect the health and wellbeing of its players, staff and large supporter base.

The club has informed New England Group 19 officials that its senior men's team won't play this year should the league resume competition.

The 13-team Group 19 competition, administered by the Country Rugby League, was suspended until further notice following the outbreak of coronavirus in Australia, falling in line with the NRL, NSWRL and QRL.

NSW currently has the highest rate of positive diagnoses of COVID-19 in the country.

The Boomerangs board met two weeks ago and later announced its

decision to pull its only team from competition even if Group 19 somehow gets underway.

It is believed to be one of the first football clubs to take a proactive stance such as this in the face of an unprecedented global health crisis.

Mitchell Johnson, who sits on the club's board of directors, said several factors led to this decision, including the health and wellbeing of its large supporter base and the many elderly and senior members of the community that regularly attend matches.

● Continued, page 42



Moree enforcer Peter Duncan crashes through the Glenn Innes defence in the 2018 Group 19 first-grade grand final, which the Boomerangs won. The club has written off the 2020 season.
Picture: Raquel Clarke

Reality sets in for fans and players



COUNTRY sports fields that would ordinarily be cluttered with games and people playing them remain vacant; multi-million dollar state-of-the-art stadiums purpose-built for professional football teams are locked up and empty; people whose lives, livelihoods and worlds revolve around regular season football are left searching.

And in a country like ours which has elevated sport to notions of self-identity, this is a particularly difficult time.

Life as we know it has temporarily been turned on its head as humankind fights for its literal survival with over 50,000 people dead and over one-million infected worldwide with COVID-19, a new strain of the coronavirus that's turned particularly deadly. Football, sport, and our preoccupation with it seems trivial in comparison, and it is, but it makes us who we are. And when it returns, and it will, it would mean we've defeated this thing.

Until then, we are literally all in this together. Do what you can to keep yourselves and those you love to remain healthy.

● Rugby league must survive this, Dean Widders, page 38;

● Aussie rules faces serious challenges, Shelley Ware, page 37;

● Maybe time for an NRL/ AFL 2.0, Darren Moncrieff, page 43.

● Picture: Getty Images



Fantastic Febi wins top SA cricket award for the second time, page 42