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Prespakis best in women's footy



MADISON
Prespakis has become the first Indigenous footballer to win the AFLW's highest individual honour when she was named as the league's 2020 Best and Fairest award winner.

The 19-year-old joins retired great Gavin Wanganeen as the first Indigenous person to win football's top award.

The teenager's Aboriginal ties lie with the Dja Dja Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation, from her mother Jody's side, in what is now country Victoria.

Prespakis polled the highest votes in five of the six games played this season. Her team had landed a spot in the preliminary final before the season was called off entirely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

And while Prespakis may not have been able to attend an awards ceremony, due to restrictions, there was plenty of emotion and tears of joy as her sister Georgie presented her with the medal.

Wanganeen, who won the Brownlow Medal in 1993, personally congratulated Prespakis in a televised phone call. He said to enjoy her moment because football is only for a short time while life is longer.

● More in Sport



Madison Prespakis of the Carlton Blues displays her medal for being named the AFL Women's Best and Fairest for 2020. *Picture: getty images*

Tougher than most

First Nations people with disability and their carers show resilience during crisis



INDIGENOUS people with disabilities and their carers are doing it tougher than most during COVID-19 restrictions. Not only have they not received any extra funding from the Federal Government's \$213 billion stimulus package, but many are

struggling with social isolation, placing increased pressure on their carers needing respite.

First Peoples Disability Network chief executive Damian Griffis told the *Koori Mail* that many Indigenous people were already living in poverty: "When you have a person with a disability, sometimes it's hard just to get out of the house," Mr Griffis said.

Bundjalung man Zac Paden, who has cerebral palsy, is hoping that restrictions will be completely lifted soon so he can catch up with his mates and get back to performing music with his band Brotherhood of the Blues.

Asked about missing out on extra money in the Federal Government's stimulus package, he was philosophical.

"It's unfair, but at the end of the day if they don't want to give extra money then they won't," he said.

"It would have been nice to have been included, but it obviously didn't cross their minds."

Aunty Janelle Burnes, a Wiradjuri woman from Nowra on the NSW South Coast and full-time carer to her nine-year-old grandson Triston, said she had

found isolation really hard.

"We're used to having family around."

"We're used to going visiting family, giving each other support," she said.

"It's hard enough to cope with, but for a disability person it's harder and for an Indigenous person it is really hard."

● Full report, pages 6-7



Stacey Porter recharges for another tilt, page 45

INSIDE



Cara Peek's big Saltwater plans

PAGE 21



All the fuss over toilet paper

PAGES 8-9



Porter's new plan for Tokyo

PAGE 45



Queen of the track wins with the King

PAGE 47

MY FAMILY Daryl Hussey (Warrgamay/Hinchinbrook)

MY family means the world to me and provides stability in my life. I have been married to the love of my life Kaye for 10 years and we were together for 15 years before that.

We have two wonderful children, daughter Tamara, 20, and son Tyrone, 24.

I was born at Hughenden, which is 390km from Townsville, where we have lived for the past 17 years. It is good that my mother and father Sylvia and Warren, and sister Lynette live not far away from us, and when the Coronavirus pandemic is over we will get to see much more of them again.

My mob on grandmother's side is the Warrgamay from around the Hinchinbrook area, north of here.

On grandfather's side it is the First Nations people Kurtjar from Normanton area, which is the gateway to the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Sport has played a big part for my family. When Tyrone was younger we travelled far and wide to watch him play rugby league, to places like Winton, Kuranda, Brisbane, Roma and Chinchilla. Hopefully the local Townsville and District Rugby League competition will start again soon after being suspended due to the Coronavirus. Tyrone has signed with Western Lions Club in the A Grade competition which is being coached by former Cowboys star Matty Bowen and that is exciting. We will be there watching him in every game and cheering for him.

When I was younger, I was based and working at Cloncurry and used to travel to Mount Isa to compete in that rugby league competition playing for Wanderers.

That was when I worked for 10 years for Queensland Railways.

Over the years I have played cricket at carnivals such as the Reedybrook Ashes and the Charters Towers Goldfield Ashes, with family often coming as well.

I also have extended family out at Richmond and Hughenden which is four to five hours from Townsville along the Flinders Highway and will be visiting them when things get back to normal.

I have a close-knit number of Murri friends



here such as Jesse Burke, Ken Williams and Les Tanna who I keep in contact with on social media during the virus crisis.

We try and get away on holidays as a Hussey and Tanna family each year and have been to the Whitsundays, Mission Beach and Cairns in recent years. It is good to be with the family, who I spent heaps of time with during five weeks holidays which just finished.

Like everyone else, we are hoping the Coronavirus crisis passes soon so life in general can return to mostly how it used to be.

But it doesn't matter when that occurs because I have this wonderful family who I love being with.

From left Daryl, daughter Tamara, wife Kaye and son Tyrone Hussey.

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



Keisha, aged 2, has moved onto her family homelands from Wadeye in the Northern Territory during the coronavirus pandemic. The book is about bush tucker, and is in her local language. See story, page 27.

Koori Mail

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Artist's message recalls the ancestors

REMEMBER ME by Reko Rennie, Carriageworks.
Picture: Zan Wimberley



ON the 250th anniversary of Captain James Cook's first landfall at Kamay (Botany Bay), April 29, Kamilaroi artist Reko Rennie has a message: **REMEMBER ME.**

Commissioned by Carriageworks, *REMEMBER ME* is a major site-specific, illuminated text work and was accompanied by a video about the work.

"On April 29, I choose not to celebrate the arrival of colonial invaders and the dispossession of our land. Instead I want to acknowledge the original inhabitants whose lives were

changed forever on this day, as well as affirm our survival, and reiterate that sovereignty was never ceded."

REMEMBER ME is one of Rennie's most stripped-back, minimal installations to date. Spanning some 25m in length and 5m tall at the entrance of Carriageworks, this

monumental work is both searing and tender.

Rennie has created a present-day memorial in recognition of the Frontier Wars, the massacres and the survival of the original sovereigns of this country – the Aboriginal people of Australia.

For almost two decades, Reko Rennie has made art that references his identity as a Kamilaroi man living and working in an urban environment.

Working broadly across painting, sculpture, video and installation, and with a practice firmly grounded in the origins of street art and graffiti, Rennie's signature style is one of high-key colour and complex composition. His finely tuned visual language adapts the shapes and symbols of his Kamilaroi culture with Australian colonial history, interwoven with text and camouflage patterning.

REMEMBER ME remains on display throughout 2020.

Celebration of Cook on hold due to COVID-19



WIRADJURI woman Linda Burney said the 250th anniversary of Captain James Cook's arrival on the east coast of Australia is a "difficult" time and there shouldn't be a one-sided celebration of the explorer.

Planned commemorations to reflect on April 29, 1770, when Cook sailed into Kamay (Botany Bay), including a "meeting of two cultures" event, were suspended or delayed by the COVID-19 crisis.

Federal Labor MP and Wiradjuri woman Linda Burney says it's an anniversary of mixed feelings.

"It's obviously a very difficult anniversary," Ms Burney told Sky News.

"I'm not saying that Cook was not a great navigator. I'm not saying that Cook's contribution to the world is not significant.

"But what today means for First Nations people was the beginning of terra nullius – the beginning of a very difficult period in our history."

Ms Burney said it was important the truth be told and there not be a one-sided celebration of Cook.

"There is the story from the ships out in Botany Bay, but there is also the story from the shore and both stories need to be told."

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the anniversary provided an opportunity to celebrate the world's



Tristan Simms at Bare Island. Picture: James Alcock

oldest continuing living culture while learning about the origins of modern Australia.

"The day Cook and the local Indigenous community at Kamay first made contact 250 years ago changed the course of our land forever," the Prime Minister said in a statement on Wednesday.

"It's a point in time from which we embarked on a shared journey which is realised in the way we live today."

While Dutch, Spanish and Portuguese explorers had seen and even landed on the continent a century earlier, Britain seized the opportunity to expand its empire and chose Cook to lead the ambitious

project south, leaving Plymouth in August 1768.

He was sceptical about the existence of the great southern continent, but on April 19, 1770, sighted what is now southeastern Victoria.

The Endeavour followed the coastline north, reaching a large shallow inlet before Cook stepped ashore at Kamay 10 days later.

Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt said the *Endeavour's* arrival "marked the first true understanding from the Western world on the world's longest-living Indigenous culture".

La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council said that many



Kamay. We are still here. We have survived! Picture: La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council

families in La Perouse are descendants of people who witnessed the *Endeavour's* eight-day stay in Kamay.

Year 11 La Perouse LALC member Tristan Simms wrote an essay, which was published on the NSW Education Department website education.nsw.gov.au, titled 'True histories need both stories'.

"The arrival of Cook at Kamay in 1770 and the extensive story of how Cook 'discovered' Australia has been told repeatedly from a European perspective," she wrote. "It has taken this long for my community to be given the opportunity to tell our story, our way. A prime example is the first

Aboriginal words spoken to the British and the meaning of those words which have been misunderstood for 250 years.

"The British heard the words 'warra warra wa' being projected towards them as they were approaching the shores of Kundell (the Dharawal name that was adapted for Kurnell). Those words were accompanied by threatening gestures with raised spears by two Gweagal warriors. It is clear from the *Endeavour* journals our old people did not want the British to land and it is quite simple to assume that the words being spoken simply meant 'go away'.

"It wasn't until recently that our community's language, culture and research group decided to confront this assumption. The group determined the phrase 'warra warra wa', from a Dharawal language perspective, literally translates to 'you're (they) all dead'.

"In Dharawal 'warra' sometimes spelt 'wara' means dead and when the words are repeated it is highlighting its significance or suggesting large numbers of the dead. This perception is linked to a Dharawal Dreaming story that explains how spirits of the dead come back from an easterly direction. Our old people were seeing the British through a spiritual lens and seeing them as spirits of the dead."

● Eastwood's view, page 20

Artists capture diversity of our people in National Photographic Portrait Prize



NUMEROUS Aboriginal photographers and subjects feature as finalists in this year's National Photographic Portrait Prize, including *Alithia's Tree* by Maree Yoelu and *Matilda* (Ngambri/Ngunnawal) by Brenda L Croft.

The exhibition is staged by the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra, but due to COVID-19, the gallery is closed to the public.

"I'm so happy with that picture being a finalist. I put that one in 'cause Auntie Matilda is a senior traditional owner from Canberra, so it's very exciting that it's on the short list, but no-one could go to the exhibition opening," Brenda L Croft told the *Koori Mail*.

"It's so different seeing a work in person, what it's printed on, how big it is – it all looks so different when you get up close, so it's such a bummer no-one can do that."

And while it's disappointing that people can't see the photos in person, Croft said it's fantastic to see so many First Nations photographers as finalists.

"Blackfellas are one of the most photographed groups ever and not always in a positive light," she said.

"That's why I started taking photos. I wanted to see my own community. It's about self-reflecting in a positive affirmation.

"That relationship between photographer and subject is really important to me. I want them to feel they've been depicted as they see themselves or as they would like to be seen."

And while the judge's prizes for the National Photographic Portrait Prize have been decided, the people's choice award is still open for voting, at portrait.gov.au

● Check out some more of the finalists, pages 28-29.



Alithia's Tree by Maree Yoelu. On a special trip back home to Wadjigany country, family and friends gathered to perform a Kapuk ceremony (rag-burning/smoking ceremony) for my late mum and dad. Kapuk is a time of letting go and cleansing, but also a time of happiness. Family gathered, including gorgeous girl Alithia – who preferred to hang in the trees while everyone was preparing for the traditional ceremony.

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NT relaxes restrictions



RESTRICTIONS due to COVID-19 were beginning to be lifted by most states and territories last weekend.

But internal border controls restricting access to areas that include Indigenous communities under the *Commonwealth Biosecurity Act* will remain in place until June 18 and possibly longer.

More than four million people have registered with the Federal Government's tracking app COVIDSafe and the national cabinet will decide on relaxing some social and economic clamps this Friday, a week earlier than expected.

The Northern Territory will be the first jurisdiction in Australia to return to "a new normal" over the next five weeks in the age of coronavirus with all businesses including restaurants, bars, cafes and gyms to reopen.

The hope is that a relaxing of the harsh restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that have been in place for nearly six weeks and led to mass shutdowns and job losses will create a more sustainable life while still practising social distancing.

On Thursday, the Territory had not had a new coronavirus case for 24 days and all but three of its 28 cases had recovered.

There have been no deaths or community transmission, which Chief Minister Michael Gunner said was a remarkable achievement and thanks to the cooperation of Territorians.

However, the NT's borders would stay shut for now with no plans to reopen them and increase the risk of anyone bringing in the coronavirus,

and Indigenous communities still have restrictions to entering.

"It is a business before borders plan. We can do all these things before everyone else because our borders are staying shut," Mr Gunner said.

"The whole idea is to get our lives back as close to normal as possible without putting you at risk and without putting some of Australia's most vulnerable at risk.

"The new normal will be with us for a while. That's why we are making changes that are sustainable and built to last for as long as we need them."

A three-stage process of easing coronavirus restrictions began on Friday in time for the May Day long weekend, with some parks reopening and people able to go away and more activities such as golf, tennis, fishing or swimming allowed with other people.

Outdoor weddings and funerals, real estate inspections and auctions are also permitted. Stage two from Friday, May 15, allows for the reopening of restaurants, cafes, and bars as long as people purchase food.

Non-contact sports can start up and indoor activities will be allowed too for activities of less than two hours.

That includes beauty salons, gyms, libraries and places of religious worship.

The third and final stage will remove the two-hour limit on indoor activities and allow the reopening of bars and clubs without food being compulsory.

Entertainment venues and cinemas will reopen and team sports such as football and netball will be allowed.

Fundraising initiative to support our arts and health workers



WHILE the entire community is taking a significant hit from the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, First Nations artists and creative industries workers remain highly marginalised and more at risk than ever. Similarly, Indigenous health services in many communities are struggling to keep up with the public health demands this crisis is continuing to create.

Barpirdhila Foundation is a community-controlled not-for-profit organisation aiming to contribute to the sustainability of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the arts.

Barpirdhila Foundation general manager Nathan Leitch said the foundation has launched an appeal to raise funds for First Nations artists and Indigenous health services affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

"The arts give voice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people," he said.

"The creative industries create employment, provide attainable

aspirations for young people, and play a critical role in political change, social justice, and healing.

"As we continue to look for ways to provide support to artists and community, we must also look for funding, and this is where everyone can help. All donations are very appreciated.

"All funds raised will be distributed directly to areas where significant impact can be achieved, for the empowerment and support of First Nations people. Priority will be given for initiatives that have critical/immediate impacts, and that have long-term sustainable ambitions.

"This may include providing support to Barpirdhila's existing artist network – many of whom have completely lost their ability to earn income from their art."

Mr Leitch said that distribution of funds raised will be decided by an expert panel of First Nations people with qualifications and expertise in national community, arts, and health sectors.

To donate go to <https://covid19-first-nations-community-impacts.raisely.com>



Maya Hodge
Picture: Jacinta Keefe.

Calls to release mob from prison get louder

By DARREN COYNE



FIRST Nations people in custody and their families are terrified that the COVID-19 pandemic could lead to more black lives being

lost behind bars. In an open letter to the federal, state and territory governments, the families have called for the urgent release of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners, and for governments to provide released prisoners with support.

Among the families calling for action is the sister of Nathan Reynolds, who died in a minimum-security prison in South Windsor, NSW.

"In 2018, my brother Nathan died from an asthma attack in prison," Makayla Reynolds said.

"It took 40 minutes from the first call for medical help to arrive. If prisons couldn't cope with my brother's medical emergency back then, how will they cope with an outbreak of coronavirus?"

"Every day experts warn of the second wave of COVID-19.

"It is not good enough to wait for people to get sick, to suspend family visits while prison workers come and go, to prevent people from showering for 10 or more days.

"It's dangerous and cruel. No family should have to endure what mine and so many other Aboriginal families have.

"Now is the time to clean out prisons and build caring and strong communities."

Apryl Watson, the daughter of Tanya Day, a Yorta Yorta woman who died of a brain haemorrhage two weeks after being locked up in custody for public drunkenness in 2017, spoke on behalf of her family.

"As a family who've suffered first hand from a corrupt system built on systemic racism, it's imperative that governments listen to families from the Aboriginal community," Ms Watson said.

"Our mother's death is a painful reminder that racism and incarceration are lethal. Aboriginal people are at a higher risk of

contracting COVID-19, yet the Andrews Government is giving Victoria Police more powers to target and criminalise our people.

"We strongly urge governments to act now and release Aboriginal people immediately, otherwise the numbers of Black deaths will continue to rise, and our community will be mourning the loss of more of our loved ones."

The call to release prisoners has the backing of the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA) and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (NATSILS).

NATSILS chair Cheryl Axleby said governments must "listen to the voices of these courageous families".

"The families are calling for the immediate release of First Nations people from prison," Ms Axleby said.

"An outbreak in prisons is imminent and our health system will not be able to cope."

AIDA president Dr Kris Rallah-Baker said Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities were at

a high risk of contracting COVID-19 because of the high levels of chronic disease, inadequate housing and environmental health infrastructure and the lack of culturally appropriate healthcare.

"It's essential that the government listens to our families," Dr Rallah-Baker said.

Nerita Waight, co-chair of NATSILS, said the organisation wrote to the federal and all state and territory attorneys-general, corrections ministers and commissioners with its policy positions three weeks ago, but was not aware of any people from prison being released by governments.

"COVID-19 is spreading like wildfire in prisons overseas," Ms Waight said.

"Many people in custody as well as corrections officers have already contracted the virus and died.

"The United Kingdom, Canada, Indonesia, Germany and the United States have already released people to contain the spread of the virus. We must follow their example to prevent any COVID-19 black

deaths in custody."

In the open letter signed by 10 families, governments are urged to 'Get mob out of prison', 'Stop criminalising mob', 'care and protect mob', and 'support mob back into community'.

"This includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are being detained in immigration detention, and our people overseas in prison and who need help to come home," the letter says.

"More than 400 of our family members and friends have died in custody since the end of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

"Prisons are crowded, violent, unsafe places, more so during a global pandemic.

"As we are seeing COVID-19 deaths can be prevented by taking bold and brave measures.

"Being imprisoned during a global pandemic is likely to be a death sentence to our imprisoned people.

"Our governments must act now. We will not leave anyone behind."

● Read the letter, page 23



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Good things are happening



You are not alone – carer speaks out

By DARREN COYNE



LAST week Auntie Janelle Burnes, a Wiradjuri woman from Nowra, took part in an ABC Radio National broadcast in an effort to raise awareness of some of the issues facing carers during the pandemic. As a full-time carer to her nine-year-old grandson Triston, who has six diagnosed mental health problems and is prone to behaviour ranging from extreme anxiety to violent outbursts, she spoke of the isolation she and other carers were feeling.

"We're used to having family around. We're used to going visiting family, giving each other support. It's hard enough to cope with, but for a disability person it's harder and for an Indigenous person it is really hard," she told the program.

Speaking to the *Koori Mail* later, Auntie Janelle said she hoped that by speaking out it might help other carers know they were not alone.

"We've had fires in Nowra, then flood, and then COVID," she said.

When the Federal Government's stimulus package was announced, she said it was a disappointment as there was no recognition of people with disabilities or their carers.

"I sympathise with the ones on the dole and pensions because they're doing it tough also, but we (carers) find it tough day in, day out," Auntie Janelle said.



Brotherhood of the Blues kicked off the Boomerang Festival, on Bunjalung country, at 30th Byron Bay Blues Fest last year. The band is fronted by three talented young Aboriginal men – John Cieslak, Zac Paden and Luke Murray, pictured here with guitarist Harley Bodenham. Picture: Jillian Mundy

"Carers are usually older and they take on whoever needs their help but we didn't even get a mention from the Government about how they could support us.

"These kids need to be acknowledged. That would have been incredible."

Auntie Janelle said with winter coming she would have extra

expenses to keep warm clothing on her grandson, and other things to keep him entertained and calm.

"The virus might be here now, but our challenge as carers started the day we started working with these kids."

Bundjalung man Zac Paden, who has cerebral palsy, is another who is hoping that restrictions will

be lifted soon so he can catch up with his mates. By then, he plans to have some new songs ready for when The Brotherhood of the Blues can finally get back together.

"It is what it is," he said. "There's nothing we can control so I'm keeping myself pretty distracted. I'm going to be writing songs."

Mr Paden said the daily

programs at RED Inc, a disability service provider he attends in Lismore, northern NSW, with other members of the band, had stopped along with everything else.

"There are no daily programs so you can't see friends and catch up with people, but all we can do as a community is to support each other to get through this," he said.

"I'm keeping in touch with the other guys. We'll probably text each other later. But at the end of the day, I'm just most excited to be writing."

The mixed abilities band – an 11-piece formed by residents of Lismore, Suffolk Park, Ballina and Mullumbimby – performed twice at last year's Byron Bay Bluesfest, and received great reviews.

"Before this all started in March we were going to have a big meeting to see what we wanted to do next. The plan was to write and rehearse.

"So when this is all over we'll come together and have a chat about what we want to do next."

Mr Paden said he was looking forward to working on a project with his friend Blake Teddy Rhodes some time in the future.

Asked about missing out on extra money in the Federal Government's stimulus package, he was philosophical.

"It's unfair, but at the end of the day if they don't want to give extra money then they won't," he said.

"It would have been nice to have been included, but it obviously didn't cross their minds."

Respectful listening is key to hearing stories



WIRADJURI Elder and artist Paul Constable Calcott has depicted the story of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with

Disability in a stunning new artwork. Titled *Respectful Listening*, the artwork illustrates the journey of seven Commissioners, carrying a message stick across the country, to collect stories from people with disability, their families and communities.

The artwork shows the different ways the royal commission will gather people's stories, through private sessions, public hearings and informal yarnning circles.

Uncle Paul, who lives with disability, said the colours in the artwork represent the diverse communities across Australia, including the desert, coastal and hinterland regions, as well as the Torres Strait.

"When I was approached to develop an artwork for the royal commission, I saw it as a huge honour, and a wonderful opportunity," he said.

"To get to play some small part in this whole process is huge for me and I hope the artwork encourages all Australians with a story to tell about violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability, to come forward.

"I have depicted the royal commission as a safe place for people to tell their story. That's why I used the shields, because the shields protect you from harm, and the royal commission is somewhere you will be safe and protected to tell your story."



Wiradjuri artist Paul Constable Calcott. Picture: Sam Hagen, Moonshaker Media

The chair of the royal commission Ronald Sackville said the commissioners are all deeply moved by Uncle Paul's very beautiful depiction of the royal commission's task.

"Uncle Paul has captured the essence of the commission's responsibilities more powerfully than mere words," he said.

"We hope that his wonderful painting will inspire people with disability, particularly First Nation people, to tell us their stories."

Uncle Paul said the artwork shows First Nations communities that the royal commission is culturally safe and that it does want to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The artist has coordinated many local and international exhibitions showcasing

artwork by First Nations People with disability. Last year, he took the *Culture is Inclusion* exhibition to the United Nations Palais De Nations in Geneva.

Uncle Paul has worked in the disability sector for nearly four decades and is the national training and resource development manager with the First Peoples Disability Network.

Meanwhile, the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability has published its latest issues paper.

The emergency planning and response issues paper seeks feedback about what can be done to improve the safety and wellbeing of people with disability during similar emergencies in the future.



Respectful Listening.

It also asks what should be done to ensure people with disability are not at risk of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation during emergencies.

Mr Sackville said all Australian governments have a responsibility to uphold the rights of people with disability during emergencies.

"The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic our country is facing comes just months after the summer bushfire crisis. Both of these events have had a profound effect on the Australian population," he said.

"We already know that people with disability can be severely affected by emergencies and may be at a higher risk of experiencing violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation at these times."

We need more support, says Disability Network

By DARREN COYNE



INDIGENOUS people with disabilities and their carers are doing it tougher than most during COVID-19 restrictions.

Not only have they not received any extra funding from the Federal Government's \$213 billion stimulus package, many are struggling with social isolation, placing increased pressure on their carers needing respite.

First Peoples Disability Network (FPDN) chief executive Damian Griffis told the *Koori Mail* that many Indigenous people were already living in poverty, and "when you have a person with a disability sometimes it's hard just to get out of the house".

Almost 30% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people report they have a disability or a restrictive long-term health condition, and nearly half suffer one or more chronic conditions.



Debbie Lee, regional coordinator of First Peoples Disability Network, Libby Brown from Aboriginal Counselling Services and Rashad from the AI-Ihsan Foundation.

"Often people with disabilities need more than one person. Those with severe disabilities might need two or more people to support them," Mr Griffis said. "What's often

not understood is that having a disability can be quite expensive, especially with medications, and it's especially hard when their usual activities are now nonexistent.

"Having access to that extra payment is critical because the needs of carers have also increased."

But while Mr Griffis said he was disappointed at the lack of recognition in the Federal Government's stimulus package, FPDN had been busy working on delivering other practical measures.

"We've been advocating for serious, meaningful communication for families, more than just brochures and flyers, things like sign language communication. We've also developed a film for deaf people, done by a deaf person," he said.

Mr Griffis said FPDN had also partnered with the Sydney-based Muslim charity Al-Ihsan to deliver 1400 care packages to NSW South Coast Aboriginal communities cut off from support following bushfires and floods.

He said FPDN had also been working with Professor Cameron Stewart from the University of Sydney, and Professor Jackie Leach Scully from the Disability

Innovation Institute at UNSW, to develop principles and recommendations regarding the ethical decision-making should a person with a disability end up in hospital with COVID-19.

"We're tracking well, but we still have concerns that marginalised people are being affected and we think these guidelines will be important for the future," Mr Griffis said. "We have seen scenarios play out overseas where a point system has been used to determine who is worthy of treatment and prioritising individuals' level of care. People who are disadvantaged often score lower on those point ranking systems, and it is those same people who miss out on receiving appropriate medical attention and support."

"Our fear in Australia is that First Peoples with disability who are already experiencing higher levels of disadvantage and are extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 will be triaged out of the health system or be provided with inadequate support."

Hayley smiles again after finding the light at the end of the tunnel

By NICK PATON



TUBBA-Gah (Maing) Wiradjuri woman Hayley Ryan is known for her charming smile, magnetic personality and captivating music performances in her home town of Dubbo, so when the coronavirus pandemic hit, Hayley found herself in a lonely and dark place. And so it wasn't long before depression set in.

But being the strong, resilient woman she is, Hayley wasn't going to let the social distancing restrictions bring her down. Instead, Hayley is making a social comeback thanks to her savvy tech skills and commencement of new one-on-one visits and outings with her carer.

Hayley has cerebral palsy, a physical condition affecting her muscle movement combined with psoriatic arthritis, which causes painful inflammation of the joints.

As her carer, advocate and biggest supporter, Hayley's mum Deb Ryan said Hayley's brother Thomas Newman does an amazing job providing Hayley with her main care.

"But her joints have become so painfully swollen she is no longer able to walk without assistance," Deb said.

"This means Hayley has had to transition to using a wheelchair over the past two years, which is something Haley was really hesitant to do at first."

Ms Ryan said that even though she is certain Hayley will one day walk again, it took quite some time for Hayley to build up confidence to use

her new wheelchair.

"It was through her involvement with her care provider's group meet-ups, programs and activities that really helped to bring Hayley out of her shell," Deb said.

Breakthru is a not-for-profit provider of programs to address mental health, employment, homelessness and training needs as part of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) throughout NSW, Queensland and Victoria and have supported people with a disability for over 25 years.

"Hayley was loving getting out to meet up with her friends, peers and all the staff at the programs she was involved in at Breakthru, especially the amateur photography course she was undertaking with them at the time," Deb said.

"So when the coronavirus hit and everything was suddenly put on hold, Hayley was absolutely crushed."

"We are so just so blessed to have Breakthru on board because they have been working so hard with Hayley and me to make sure that we are still supported and coping ok during the crisis. Even though Hayley is supported by her family and community there are always times when a little extra assistance is needed to help get Hayley through the day."

"So through some negotiating with Breakthru we have been provided with a wonderful carer, Sharon Mailisi, who Hayley absolutely adores."

Ms Ryan said the one-on-one meet ups Hayley has been having with her carer Sharon have helped Hayley to rebuild her confidence and

remain socially connected.

"To see Hayley come out of such a negative zone where everything was a 'no', to her now getting out every day with Sharon even just for lunch, or even for Hayley to do some shopping, is just amazing," she said.

"We can often take these things for granted but Hayley loves to just get out and participate with her community."

Ms Ryan said Hayley loves technology and has been using her computer and phone to stay in contact with her friends and community while she is isolated.

"She's got more knowledge about technology, iPhones and computers than me!" Ms Ryan said.

"Hayley has been communicating with her friends over the phone and she has also been communicating through text messages with support people from Breakthru."

Hayley is always searching for the light at the end of the tunnel and Ms Ryan said one of the biggest highlights of the year for Hayley is Breakthru's end of year concert.

"Hayley's performance in last year's concert was incredible and she has been practising her song, *Any Man of Mine* by Shania Twain, for this year's concert for six months now, and when she found out the concert wouldn't be going ahead, she was absolutely devastated," Ms Ryan said.

"But this is just one of many other important events that have been put on hold around the nation, and Hayley is seeing this opportunity as a positive rather than a negative, because it just gives her a couple of extra months to perfect her next performance piece."



Hayley Ryan and her brother Thomas Newman.



No toilet paper? Why not try a reusable alternative: Old face washers, odd cotton socks and rag made from old torn up sheets, towels or old cotton clothing will do the job, and, just like babies' nappies, they go into a hot wash (65°C) for at least ten minutes and they're good to go again.

The bottom line on

By JILLIAN MUNDY



WHILE the current COVID-19 toilet paper panic buying phenomenon has led to plenty of puns and mirthful memes on social media, it has also led to anxiety, blocked sewage systems and the questions – do we even need toilet paper and is it even about toilet paper?

Generations of our ancestors lived over tens of thousands of years without the modern 'luxury', and still today many countries wash rather than wipe.

The *Koori Mail* spoke with Aboriginal woman Heidi Lethbridge, a provisional psychologist from Hobart, about her thoughts on the panic buying.

"Psychology would say it's anxiety, and anxiety is increased because it's all around us, fear and fear for the unknown, change, uncertainty," she said.

She said these feelings can make a person behave in a certain way without thought.

"We have mirror neurons

where we pick up feelings from others," she said. "The best way to explain it is when you watch a movie and cry.

"It's also ignoring the white elephant in the room. We are powerless to this virus. It's out of control. We feel out of control and want to control what we can control."

And her advice to those who have found themselves panic buying?

"First is to be aware that you are doing it and that you are being driven by anxiety, and pause before you respond," Heidi said.

With social distancing measures in place it is only common sense to avoid going from shop to shop to find items you desire. And for most items there are alternatives – even for toilet paper.

Larrakia woman Nicole Bancroft, who had just come out of quarantine in Melbourne after returning from Thailand, where she was teaching English, explained that Asians were not stocking up on toilet paper.

Not because they were

resistant to panic buying, but because they use the 'bum gun' – a purpose-designed hose – to clean with water rather than toilet paper.

"If anything they were panic buying rice and masks and hand sanitiser," she said.

The 'bum gun' used in many Asian countries is similar to a spray gun accessory that can be attached to a garden hose. They are fitted with a stainless steel hose to the toilet taps of most toilets.

Ms Bancroft has visited more than 25 countries in the past five years.

"When I first arrived in India, I said, 'There's no toilet paper.' People told me to use the gun. I was a bit puzzled and put two and two together. I soon got used to it," she said.

"Most places in India have squat toilets. There's a bucket. You splash yourself and your pour water into the squat toilet. Toilet paper blocks up the sewerage.

"And there are not enough trees to make toilet paper, it is so over populated."

And of course there is the French bidet, but the Japanese have taken it a step or two further.

"In Japan they have it even fancier, a seat that plays music, the 'TOTO' set up, rainforest music, front and back sprayers, a little adjustable stick that comes out of the toilet and even a drying function," Ms Bancroft said.

So iconic is the TOTO set up that it warrants its own museum in Fukuoka, Japan.

In the absence of bum guns and TOTO in Australia, some people have turned to good old newspaper (not the *Koori Mail*, we hope!), tissues, paper towel or baby wipes. While they might do a fine cleaning job, remember they are a BIG NO-NO for sewage and septic systems.

Toilet paper is made from short fibres (that is why it tears so easily) that once added to water untangle quickly into a kind of sludge and move through pipes easily, unlike wipes or paper towel, which are designed to be strong.

Following the weeks of sustained shortages of toilet

paper, one of Australia's largest water utilities, Sydney Water reported a recent increase in blockages in the wastewater system, caused by a rise in non-flushable items such as wet wipes.

Darren Cash, manager of Sydney Water's customer hub, says flushing alternatives to toilet paper can have serious consequences for public health and the environment.

"We're concerned because we've seen a 22% rise in blockages for March caused by non-flushables such as wet wipes and tissues," he said.

"The build-up of wet wipes, facial tissues and paper towels along with fats, oils and grease, which people pour down the drain, can cause blockages and what we call fatbergs, which can result in overflows into local waterways and homes.

"Even though wet wipes might state that they are flushable on their packaging, the reality is that they don't break down. And even though facial tissues might be made from fine materials, they also don't break down."



Newspaper, once read, is a well-known toilet paper alternative, while phonebook paper is reportedly a softer option, but neither should be flushed. Sydney Water reports a rise in the use of alternatives – especially wet-wipes, facial tissues and paper towels – is causing an increase in wastewater system blockages.

toilet paper crisis

Sydney Water estimates 75% of wastewater blockages involve 'flushable' wet wipes, equating to 500 tonnes of flushed wet wipes needing to be removed each year at a cost of over \$8 million. By all indications this year will be a record breaker.

Mr Cash said blockages can also be closer to the source too.

"One Sydney resident had a plumbing bill of \$16,000 to repair a problem caused by flushing wet wipes," he said.

And for those who may not have heard it – only three Ps can be flushed down your toilet: pee, poo and (toilet) paper.

Mr Cash said all alternatives to toilet paper should be disposed of in the bin.

Reusable alternatives

Unless, of course, you turn to something reusable – old face washers, odd cotton socks, rag such as old torn up sheets or towels, or even custom made dampened cotton wipes. (Cotton is best as it absorbent and can withstand hot temperatures for washing.)

Ask anyone who has used

cloth nappies for a baby and chances are they will be more than keen to share their laundry routine and tips, to apply to your reusable toilet paper alternatives.

And for any germaphobes, the *Koori Mail* even spoke to the Laundry Association Australia, who represents companies including those who provide laundry services to hospitals.

They explained that under the Australian Standard for Laundry Practice (AS/NZS 4146:2000), thermal disinfection meant washing in water at a minimum of 65 degrees celsius for a minimum of ten minutes, which is achievable with most modern domestic washing machines that have their own water heater. (For safety reasons domestic hot water heaters and cylinders are set to deliver water at a slightly lower temperature.)

Caught short

Most of us have been caught short of toilet paper at some time in our lives and there are many alternatives: You could strictly stick to the sequence of 'a shit, shower and shave', or use the

pages from the phone book if you still have it delivered (they're a bit softer than newspaper). But what ever you decide, remember the popular memes suggesting cheese or Johnny cake to block yourself up are just for a laugh. Please do not take them literally.

Gamilaroi woman Tracy Hardy, who is an accredited practising dietitian and nutritionist from the Sunshine Coast, said people should not risk being 'bunded up'.

"It may increase the risk of creating longer term problems down the track, which might even lead to more toilet paper being used," she said. "A better idea is to keep it regular."

Ms Hardy said stress, which of course is common during this COVID-19 pandemic, can cause diarrhoea or constipation, and that it is important to strive to eat a diet with a daily intake of fibre, lots of water, have regular exercise and lots of sleep.

"One of the many benefits of a healthy diet is a healthy bowel movement, which are regular movements," she said.

She said for some people that

is daily, others it might be every second day – there is no one size fits all. Ms Hardy has some concerns about possible insecure access to nourishing foods.

"I'm not saying it is going to happen. We have to buy smart, and think about what is going to keep us healthy. Frozen is fine, so is canned, but fresh is ideal," she said. "More than 70% of immune tissue lives in the gut. We have to fuel them to keep them happy and healthy."

"It's really important to eat lots fibre – fruit, veggies, nuts, seeds, and things like beans – chick peas, lentils, beans – add them to your soup and salads. Lots of fibre and lots of protein."

Ms Hardy suggested planning meals with what is accessible, and cooking bulk to reduce the amount of time spent in shops.

While many shops are still struggling to keep up with the demand for some grocery items and needing to place purchase limits on them, at least for toilet paper the bare shelves should soon be a thing of the past.

One of Australia's biggest supplier of toilet paper, Kleenex

now has their production at their mill in Millicent, South Australia, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with a team of 350 workers rotating over three shifts a day in an effort to meet demand.

And recently, Woolworths chief executive Brad Banducci said toilet paper supplies were improving but not back to normal.

"It continues to improve as demand tapers, with 'only' 11.5 million rolls sold this week (versus 15 million last week and 20 million the week before) and lots more coming," he said.

But, it seems that panic buying is not just happening domestically – and the practise could have even more serious outcomes. As the *Koori Mail* went to press reports were surfacing that hospitals in Australia and internationally are stockpiling medicines needed to ventilate COVID-19 patients. With an interrupted supply chain many hospitals fear they will run short.



This article is supported by the Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas.

“Our take is that if you’re an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander health professional, it’s not just a profession. Our ancestors called us into health and we have a very, very strong obligation to ensure we are taking care of our communities.”

– Dr Mark Wenitong



Kabi Kabi man Dr Mark Wenitong: “Our ancestors constructed our customs and culture around us surviving.” *Picture: Brian Cassey*

We are survivors

By **CHRISTINE HOWES**



COMMUNICATING the risks of COVID-19 to remote communities across the Torres

Strait and Cape York has been a challenge for health services such as Apunipima Cape York Health Council, Dr Mark Wenitong says.

But, the Kabi Kabi man, who is the public health advisor at Apunipima, said, with the help of a good communications team, they were doing their best and had received some good feedback.

“From the start of this we’ve wanted to get out some messages of hope, as well as all the scary virus information,” Dr Wenitong said. “We were trying to also re-assure: ‘Don’t all worry. You know what? We have been through this before. We’ve been poisoned before, they’ve introduced diseases, we’ve been shot at, we’ve had our children stolen, we’ve had our land taken. We will get through this as well’.”

Mark said, although social media wasn’t always the best way in to communities, it was a work in progress.

“I’ve done some material

that’s a bit more national as well, though that was pretty generic around how to keep your wellbeing while in lockdown,” he said.

“One side is about trying to get out some clear socio-cultural messaging to our community, rather than just a data update.

“A lot of this is translating what is best practice in mainstream public health into practical solutions in remote communities and where there is less infrastructure for response.

“Social media isn’t always the best penetration in remote areas, so we’ve been doing some high rotation on community radio, and in Cape York there’s a number of communities we did door-to-door education, before there was a risk of doing this.

“Luckily we got in most of that community-based work well before, and it was mostly through community health workers, who are about 30% of our staff.”

Mark said hitting the right note was a balancing act.

“We have a whole lot of ways of getting out more detailed messaging as well, mostly around social distancing, hand washing and restricted entry to communities – ‘don’t stuff up your own community’, kind of

thing.

“Some of the harder ones have been around sorry business – how do you tell people this is not going to be forever?”

“I think in one of the messages we did it was as blunt as, ‘If everyone turns up to a funeral there might be three more funerals straight afterwards because of the contacts there’.

“We’ve got to be really careful about that, and I’ve had to go out on a limb sometimes regarding customary practice.

“Our ancestors constructed our customs and culture around us surviving, not just for the sake of culture, so they wouldn’t tell us to go and put our entire community at risk. They would say ‘hold off until it was safe’ – because that’s the way our survival works for us, but it’s so sensitive and hard to do because we care so much for our lost loved ones.

“But remembering, it’s not forever.”

However, he said, the messages had to be strong.

“There has to be some strong public health messages, and it’s not going to be to everyone’s liking all the time,” he said.

“We sweat on that, trying to get balance, but we’ve had

generally good feedback.

“The national material has been easier; they’re more messages around hope, resilience and culture and I think that’s been well-received.”

Mark said another consideration – which was not always considered to be ‘essential’ in terms of flying in and out of locked down communities – was mental health and wellness.

And, he said, supporting staff in communities had also been challenging.

“Our take is that if you’re an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander health professional, it’s not just a profession,” he said.

“Our ancestors called us into health and we have a very very strong obligation to ensure we are taking care of communities.

“These messages – which are more a call to arms kind of thing, such as ‘we’re not the ones who run away when there’s a pandemic on’ – were a bit hard to message because we knew people are worried and even health staff were a bit scared, particularly our frontline staff.

“That’s a hard gig, especially when you don’t have the Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) resources and the things that give you confidence you can

manage a pandemic safely.

“You’re still expected to be first in line for your community and you can’t close up shop if you’re a health service.”

Mark said community-based frontline staff deserved to be acknowledged.

“We directly addressed that in one of the videos,” he said.

“We say, ‘Community-based Indigenous health professionals and health workers have been managing a bigger epidemic than this for the past 20 years around chronic disease, where we’ve lost many of our old people, and where our life expectancy isn’t even reaching the risk age for the rest of the population for this pandemic.’

“We know these community-based healthcare workers understand that, and they’ve been dealing with these lack of resources and high mortality rates, including those of close relatives, for a long time.

“These are not the fly in/fly out staff that often get the accolades, but the ones who do 24/7 and don’t get breaks away.

“They really are our heroes.”



This article is supported by the Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas.

Energy-saving campaign delivered with humour



COMEDIAN Sean Choolburra has teamed up with the Energy & Water Ombudsman

NSW (EWON) to raise awareness of energy and water issues among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in NSW.

"I know from going out to community that the mob is really doing it tough when it comes to energy bills," Sean said. "I decided to do the campaign with EWON because I wanted the mob to deal with energy issues, especially really high bills."

The #Mobmatters campaign provides tips on how to save electricity, gas and water around the home and talks about the support available for people having trouble paying their bills.

It also explains how EWON can help people who have trouble solving issues with their energy or water provider.

The campaign is

particularly relevant during COVID-19 as household incomes fall and energy use increases as a result of families working and schooling from home and winter setting in.

Energy & Water Ombudsman NSW Janine Young said EWON's Aboriginal Community Engagement Officer came up with the idea of asking a well-known Aboriginal person to act as an 'ambassador' for EWON.

"We saw how well Sean was received in community when he was an MC for events we were doing in rural and remote areas.

"We also thought humour would help get our messages across to communities, so Sean seemed like the perfect person," Ms Young explained.

#Mobmatters campaign material includes postcards featuring Sean and key messages about energy and water, which community organisations can order online and distribute to their

clients. Sean also recorded Community Service Announcements aired by community and Indigenous radio stations around the state. The announcements and postcards are available at ewon.com.au/mobmatters.

Campaign messages include:

- Rug up in winter to reduce heating costs.
 - Use energy saving lights bulbs and turn lights off when you leave a room.
 - Consider using fans instead of air conditioning to save energy and money.
 - Avoid large debt and disconnection by making regular payments on energy and water accounts.
 - There is a range of support available to help with energy bills, including government rebates and payment assistance and provider payment plans.
- "Hopefully if the mob hears the messages, they'll make changes in the home or contact EWON for help," Sean said.



Sean Choolburra has teamed up with the Energy & Water Ombudsman NSW to raise awareness of energy and water issues affecting mob.

COVID-19



Stephanie Halliger
Aboriginal Health Practitioner, Western NSW

Help keep our people safe from COVID-19. Don't gather in big mobs.

Sharing our culture is important. But so is keeping our people healthy and safe from Coronavirus. So for the time being, please don't gather in big mobs, even for Sorry Business. By doing this, we'll help keep our people and especially our Elders safe. And together, we will save lives.

> HELP US SAVE LIVES

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



Corporates respond to food supply concerns



FOOD parcels are now being delivered to remote Aboriginal communities following an urgent plea from a coalition of 13 Northern Territory Aboriginal organisations.

Supermarket giant Coles has teamed up with organisations such as the Northern Land Council, St Vincent de Paul and Larrakia Nation in Darwin, and the Central Land Council, Tangentyere Council and Purple House in Alice Springs to supply the parcels.

Together they have been delivering care packages to more than 2200 community members impacted by the COVID-19 crisis across the Territory.

Northern Land Council chief executive Marion Scrymgour said the organisation was proud to work with Coles to bring essential items to communities at Beswick (Wugularr) and Elliott.

"Making sure residents of Aboriginal communities stay on country and don't have to leave biosecurity areas to shop in regional centres has been a priority for the NLC," she said.

"This action by Coles is exactly the right kind of corporate support for our remote communities and the NLC applauds Coles and its staff for this initiative."

Larrakia Nation chief executive Robert Cooper said the donation would benefit many of their families and clients.

"Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation has been heavily involved in keeping our people and our clients safe, healthy and secure since the outbreak commenced," Mr Cooper said.

Purple House – an Aboriginal-owned and run health service – chief executive Sarah Brown also welcomed the support for patients and families.

"We are all so grateful to Coles for this generous support. With road closures food security has become a significant issue for people out bush," she said.



Northern Land Council staff members Jake Long and Ashleigh Yanner with care packages donated by Coles.

"This donation of healthy food and cleaning products will take pressure off families, service providers and community stores and allow remote residents to stay home, stay safe and hopefully stay COVID free."

Coles NT team members prepared the care packages, which include fresh and tinned produce, pasta, rice, biscuits and breakfast cereals. Ten thousand litres of spring water plus toilet paper, infant nappies and sanitary items were also being delivered.

Coles regional manager Daniel Clegg said his team was passionate about supporting remote Indigenous communities who were severely impacted by COVID-19.

"The current situation in remote parts of the Northern Territory is critical and we wanted to do everything we could to provide some relief and support to those lacking access to

essential supplies," Mr Clegg said.

"Unfortunately, we know that many in the communities have been unable to leave their homes to access essential food and groceries at these times."

Mr Clegg said Toll Logistics, Blackwoods and Colemans Printing at Alice Springs were also instrumental in supporting the initiative.

Recently, the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance chief executive John Paterson had warned that stores were running out of fresh food within three days of deliveries.

Mr Paterson said independent suppliers were struggling to get what they needed for remote stores.

"We want an agreed proportion of these essential goods set aside for the independent suppliers," he said.

"This can't be solved through

donated goods. It needs a systemic response from government."

The coalition of health services, land councils, and other Aboriginal organisations also asked for a 20% point-of-sale subsidy of essential food, cleaning and hygiene products, as well as winter bedding and clothing.

Meanwhile, residents in Gunbalanya, NT, have begun harvesting fresh produce from a greenhouse that was installed last year as a partnership between the Northern Territory Department of Education, and DICE, an Indigenous owned and operated company that services the construction industry throughout Australia.

DICE delivered a greenhouse to Gunbalanya Independent Public School last year and the first crops were planted in October.

DICE provided a horticulturalist and trainer to give full-time support, training and manage the garden and help teachers shape the curriculum to teach students biology and nutrition around the garden.

DICE managing director Raymond Pratt said the company was committed to improving health outcomes for Aboriginal people in remote communities.

"While this technology has been rolled out in other remote north Australian communities and in Canada, the USA and Israel, this is the first program of its kind to include a business component for students," he said.

"The sky really is the limit. This project can easily be replicated across northern Australia; it just takes some time and some investment."

"I am so proud of what we have been able to help the people of Gunbalanya achieve."

GET THE FACTS ON IMMUNISATION

Protect our mob, vaccinate our children.

Melissa, Indigenous Health Nurse and Mum to Bethany

Hear Melissa talk vaccinations and get the facts at

medicalmums.com.au



Notice of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Investigation and Invitation for Registrations of Interest – NSW Wild Dog Fence Extension Project

The NSW Government (Department of Regional NSW) is proposing to undertake Aboriginal heritage investigations between Hungerford and Mungindi along the Queensland and New South Wales border, in advance of construction works associated with the NSW Wild Dog Fence Extension Project. Contact details for the proponent are:

Liz Mathieson – Senior Environmental Scientist
Public Works Advisory – Department of Regional NSW
Email: liz.mathieson@finance.nsw.gov.au
Phone: (02) 9273 3674

Registrations are invited from Aboriginal individuals and organisations who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the location, significance and management requirements of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the area, and who wish to be involved in the consultation process. The consultation will be used to inform the Aboriginal heritage investigations and to obtain any approvals that may be required for the development.

Registrations of interest should be provided by no later than 15/05/2020 to Mr Reiner Mantei of Extent Heritage: (post) Level 12, 344 Queen Street Brisbane 4000; (email) rmantei@extent.com.au or (phone) 0422 486 468.

Coronavirus
(COVID-19)

KEEP OUR MOB SAFE, WASH YOUR HANDS.

**CORONAVIRUS IS A SICKNESS THAT CAN
SPREAD FROM PERSON TO PERSON.**

TO STOP THE SPREAD:

- Cover a cough with the inside of your elbow instead of your hand
- Where possible wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds – do this after you cough, sneeze, go to the toilet and before you make any food
- Avoid touching your face with dirty hands – especially your eyes, nose and mouth. This is where the virus can enter your body
- Remember if you feel unwell, stay at home



WE CAN ALL STOP THE SPREAD IN OUR COMMUNITIES

**IF YOU ARE
FEELING
UNWELL
YOU CAN...**

Call your local **medical service, health clinic** or **someone you trust.**

Call the 24 hour **National Coronavirus Helpline** on **1800 020 080.**

Find out more information about **coronavirus** by visiting **australia.gov.au**



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Australian Government

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra.



Victor Harbour Football Club with Hugh Tripp circled.

Three cheers on the return of 'Skewey'

By PETER ARGENT



WHEN war broke out in Europe in 1914 many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who tried to enlist were rejected on the grounds of race.

A talented local sportsman from the South Australian seaside town of Victor Harbour, some 84km south of the city of Adelaide, Hugh 'Skewey' Tripp, whose Aboriginal heritage came from his father, Ephraim, was one who slipped through the enlistment process, perhaps because he initially listed his next of kin as his mother.

Hugh enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on December 8, 1914, just before his 23rd birthday.

Tripp was a Ramindjeri man from the Ngarrindjeri nation, with both his dad and Uncle Bernie also highly respected local sportsmen from the Raukkan (Port Macleay Mission) settlement.

Eventually upwards of 1000 Indigenous people fought in World War I.

Hugh was signing up to serve in the 10th Battalion as part of its second reinforcement, which after two months of training, left from Melbourne on the *Clan Macgillivray* at the start of February 1915.

During the landing at Anzac Cove, the 10th Battalion came ashore as part of the initial covering force that went into battle at around 4.30am.

Of all the troops who landed that day, it was the 10th Battalion that penetrated the greatest distance inland and they were heavily involved in establishing and defending the front line of the Anzac position.

They quickly became part of the celebrated ANZAC spirit during the three days and nights of desperate fighting in those desolate mountains at ANZAC cove.

By the middle of September continual fighting had meant that the 10th Battalion had suffered 711 casualties, including 150 killed.

Hugh recalled he served in the trenches for 68 days, taking part in three charges against Turkish positions, but injuries took their toll on him

and by the middle of August he was on his way back to Australia on the *Themistocles*.

His battalion was eventually evacuated from Gallipoli in November, and by the following May they were fighting in France.

In August 1915, the local Victor Harbour community learned of the 'first of the district boys to fall', the popular Jack Bruce, who had been one of the 10th Battalion's 1st Reinforcement.

A month later on Tuesday, September 14, South Australian newspapers reported that Private Hubert Tripp, the first wounded soldier to return from the war, arrived by the midday train today and received an enthusiastic welcome.

The station was crowded. The school children headed by their drum and fife band, carried a large banner with the word 'Welcome' inscribed on it.

As the train drew into the station the band played *The Soldiers of the Flag*.

Private Tripp was met by the president of the Progress Association who assured him that they were all pleased to welcome him home again.

Three cheers were given for the soldier, and he was escorted to Mr Humberstone's car which was decorated with bunting.

In company with his mother, Tripp was motored to his home and he was given an official welcome at the Town Hall that evening.

Before he was discharged from the army in February 1916, he became a recruiting sergeant.

Also a noted sporting talent, Tripp played SANFL league football for both South Adelaide and West Adelaide, and patriotic games when he returned from service.

His is among the names engraved in pavers which are part of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial at the Torrens Parade Grounds, Adelaide.

It is believed his nick-name 'Skewey' was given by long-time journalist at the *Victor Harbour Times* and former captain of the Victor Harbour football and cricket teams, Jim Grosvenor, as Tripp had learnt to 'skew' aside, to turn and twist at top speed to get away from larger opponents'.



Hugh Tripp
Picture: South Australian Library

● Information for this article was primarily garnered from noted South Australian sports historian John Althorp's publication called *Skewey* about the life of Hugh 'Skewey' Tripp, with his written consent.

This well researched book was originally published for the 2015 Anzac Day football match in SA's Great Southern Football League between Victor Harbor verses Encounter Bay on the 100th anniversary of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli.

RAAF members honour past sacrifice at Anzac service

By ALF WILSON



A WOOMERA held pride of place during a quiet and small Anzac Day memorial service in Townsville.

The coronavirus pandemic prevented large parades for 2020, but members of RAAF Base Townsville held their own private reflections, with a special acknowledgement of Australia's Indigenous diggers.

More than 1000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people served in World War I (1914–1918) and around 70 fought at Gallipoli.

At least 3000 Aboriginal and 850 Torres Strait Islander people served in World War II (1939–1945) and Indigenous soldiers have fought in every Australian conflict since.

They continue to serve today in a diverse range of roles: front line and behind the scenes.

Townsville's 383 Squadron provides the resources and equipment that help get combat aircraft into the air and accomplishing their missions.

Fittingly, the Squadron's emblem is the woomera and Wing Commander Alan Brown,

who is the commanding officer, told the *Koori Mail* that it is used often.

"The idea behind the woomera is 'pushing things forward' which is particularly apt during such trying times," he said.

Wing Commander Brown joined the Air Force in 1989 as a trainee technician and has deployed extensively throughout his 31 years with the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

He has a particular passion for Indigenous Australia, introducing an engagement strategy aimed at inspiring and raising awareness among young Indigenous Australians about the many and varied career opportunities with the ADF.

"We visit a lot of places talking to kids and always take the woomera. It's an ancient tool that makes an Aboriginal spear go faster and, as we have jets, the kids relate to that," Wing Commander Brown said.

Flight Lieutenant David Williams is Indigenous liaison officer with 27 Squadron at RAAF Base Townsville.

Originally from Mount Isa, he is a proud Mitakoodi man with family heritage

coming from Kalkadoon and Waanyi mobs.

"Anzac Day for me is a very significant day for all Australians to stop and remember our men and women who have served Australia in many ways," he said.

"I will be remembering my great-grandfather who was a Kalkadoon warrior and who fought in WWII.

"He is an inspiration to me because he saw a lot of hardship in his time in Defence, including not being able to celebrate coming back home or march with his mates. Through all those hardships he continued to serve and protect his country just like many other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women.

"I wear my uniform with pride because of him, because of many other service men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect this beautiful country."

Flt Lt Williams told the *Koori Mail* that Reconciliation Week is coming up very soon and the theme 'In this together' is more relevant than ever.

"We are all going through an uncertain time right now but we can all stand strong and proud while remembering those who have served Australia," he said.



RAAF Base Townsville No 27 Squadron Wing Commander Mathew Green, 27 Squadron Indigenous liaison officer Flight Lieutenant David Williams and No 383 Squadron Wing Commander Alan Brown stand ready to honour Australia's Indigenous diggers on ANZAC Day 2020. Picture: Ken Wilson, Department of Defence

QUIT FOR YOU. QUIT FOR YOUR FAMILY.



For support to quit smoking call



Communities get behind hand washing campaign and the message goes viral



A SERIES of videos produced in conjunction with Skinnyfish Music and featuring prominent NT

musicians including members of Saltwater Band, Ripple Effect, B2M and Nabarlek has gone viral, including dance song *Wash Your Hands* featuring Elcho Island's Manuel Dhurrkay, which has blown up after being released less than two weeks ago.

In what is looking to become one of the most effective Territory public health campaigns ever, the video was viewed more than 45,000 times in a single weekend since its release, while the larger campaign featuring self-produced messages in five different languages from across the Territory has been seen by 50% of the territory population across Facebook alone.

"I wanted to give the message through the music," Manuel told the *Koori Mail*.

"Make sure that we were spreading the message about washing your hands, helping other people in the community in Arnhem Land, central Australia, and other parts of the Territory."

Not-for-profit organisation One Disease was founded by philanthropist and medical



Manuel Dhurrkay has written a song that has an important message: *Wash your hands*.

practitioner Dr Sam Prince and recognised the threat posed by COVID-19 early, partnering with Darwin's Skinnyfish Music to provide both freedom and support to remote Indigenous communities to build the campaign. The communities created their own content with strong recognition of local languages combined with a

granular digital campaign which ensured each message was targeted to specific regions of the territory for maximum impact.

One Disease chief executive Michelle Dowden said that the reach of the campaign was massive.

"Over 100,000 views of our videos across the campaign

and a viral hit with Manuel's catchy *Wash Your Hands* video is a result we can all be proud of," she said. "Grassroots messages that are engaging and created from the communities themselves are a key component of the success of this campaign. This handwashing clip ticks the boxes for an incredibly effective

health campaign and is actively and innovatively contributing to spreading the message across remote Australia."

Manuel said he hoped people would sing his song and dance while they were at the sink washing their hands.

"People across the Top End love music that's good, music that makes you feel like you have energy. We want people to feel like they want to do something about this virus out here," he said.

"We can be serious with the message but also we can have some fun while we're doing it. Lots of the communities like hearing Yolngu music, singing and telling stories. They listen to it in a different way."

Skinnyfish Music managing director Mark Grose said that they were proud to be involved with the campaign.

"A true community campaign is just that, a campaign largely designed and delivered by the target community," he said.

"This is exactly what the Hand Washing campaign has delivered, a community campaign. It is a bottom-up campaign that trusts the voice of the community and not a top-down campaign that relies on expert opinion being disseminated by talking heads."

There is a link to Manuel's song *Wash Your Hands* on the *Koori Mail's* Facebook page.



Seeding Grants 2020

Calling all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations Seeding Grants for research applications

The Lowitja Institute Seeding Grants aim to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to transform their ideas and aspirations into concepts

- that can be researched
- that meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and
- that result in improvements in health and wellbeing outcomes within a generation.

We are offering Seeding Grants of up to \$40,000 to help small to medium Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations develop their ideas into research projects. The Seeding Grants are the first step to express an interest in the Lowitja Institute Grant Funding Round in July 2020.

The seeding grants will fund ideas that focus on the Lowitja Institute Research Agenda themes:

- Empowerment
- Sovereignty
- Connectedness, and
- Cultural safety and respectful systems in the health sector

While a successful seeding project does not guarantee additional Lowitja Institute funding, it will provide the resources necessary to develop a strong proposal which may be used to seek funding from other sources.

If your organisation has a great idea and the passion and wants to make it happen, then it's time to apply for a Seeding Grant.

A full information pack is available at:

<https://www.lowitja.org.au/page/research/seeding-grants>

You can also contact alex.zurawski@lowitja.org.au if you have any questions.

Seeding grant applications close **Friday 22 May 2020**.

Appointment to VCAT a first



GUNDITJMARA woman Michelle Gardner has become the first Aboriginal woman to be appointed to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

Ms Gardner has held a range of roles in Aboriginal policy and legal organisations during her more than 30-year career.

For seven years, she served at the Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW, leading a team responsible for the conciliation of complaints and public awareness of anti-discrimination law.

She was previously the Aboriginal programs manager at the NSW Department of Environment, developing policy to engage Aboriginal communities and implement cultural heritage initiatives.

In 2006, Ms Gardner was appointed as presiding tribunal legal member at the NSW Mental Health Review Tribunal and in 2009 she began presiding over hearings regarding social security and child support at the Social Security Appeals Tribunal.

She also took on a role as senior legal member of the NSW Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal, determining guardianship applications in 2014.

Victorian Attorney-General Jill Hennessy said that Ms Gardner, who is an Aboriginal woman from the Gunditjmara nation in western Victoria, was a perfect fit for VCAT, which is a tribunal that hears and decides civil and administrative legal cases.

"Michelle Gardner brings wide range and depth of experience to her new role and this appointment is an important milestone – we must continue to ensure more Aboriginal and Torres



Gunditjmara woman Michelle Gardner.

Strait Islander people are in senior positions at our courts and tribunals," Ms Hennessy said.

Ms Gardner is one of several new appointments and reappointments to VCAT. She joins other new members Mary Cameron, Chris Thwaites and Brook Hely, while Bernadette Steele and Karina Shpigel have been reappointed.

"With decades of legal and tribunal experience between them, these new members are perfectly suited to preside over the matters heard at VCAT," Ms Hennessy said.

"I congratulate all of the appointees and re-appointees and thank them for their contribution to what is considered to be Australia's busiest tribunal."

Sacred artifact returned to TOs



SACRED
Aboriginal artefacts have been returned to their Giya traditional owners by property owners in an ongoing effort to restore integrity and show respect for First Nations peoples.

Earlier this year, Giya Elder Aunty Patricia Brimble coordinated the return of one sacred object with the Giya/Gia Kaiyy Official Women's Business Aboriginal Corporation board of directors.

Aunty Patsy, and her children Vicky, Rita and Jamie collected the object.

The item is one of a number being returned as part of an ongoing effort between property owners and the Giya traditional owners throughout the Birri Gubba Nation in Queensland.

"We thank the landowner Mr Mills for his honesty and respect to us. It means everything. On behalf of the Giya tribe ancestors and Elders past, present and emerging ... this is an emotional and significant moment," Aunty Patricia said.

"We are still here, our sovereignty has never ceded and our ancestors watch over us always. We look forward to one



Giya/Gia traditional owners (left) Vicky Brimble, landowner Mr Mills, Jamie Brimble, Aunty Patricia Brimble and Rita Brimble.

day securing a keeping place which may involve public access but for now, the artefacts I have in my possession as an Elder and Giya traditional owner are in a safe, secure and private location until further notice."

Aunty Patricia said the artefact would one day be returned to country for future generations to enjoy and learn from.

The artefact find prompted Giya/Gia Kaiyy Official Women's Business Aboriginal Corporation director Rita Brimble to contact repatriation project leaders from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) for

more support in the ongoing efforts to promote, preserve and protect Giya artefacts on country.

"We are very grateful and wish to acknowledge the good work of the North Queensland Land Council representatives and Northern Australia Archeologists in ensuring these artefacts found their way back to bona-fide apical ancestors and Giya/Gia traditional owners," Rita said.

"We are also very hopeful that a proposed project we have on the table could result in an innovative repatriation and cultural program with assistance from the Federal Government."

#MOBMATTERS with Sean Choolburra



Cosy in and keep your bills down

Put extra clothes on before you crank up the heating, set the air conditioner between 18-21 degrees and only heat the room you're using so your winter bill doesn't blow you away!

For more information, tips and tricks visit:
ewon.com.au/mobmatters



Energy & Water
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 **centrelink**

medicare

child support

COVID – 19 Government Payments

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If you've lost your job or can't work and need to apply for a payment, the fastest and easiest way to claim is online.

If you already have a Centrelink Customer Reference Number (CRN), you can claim online with Centrelink through your myGov account.

If you don't have a CRN, go to my.gov.au to get one.

You can establish your identity and get a Customer Reference Number (CRN) using your myGov account.

You don't need to visit a service centre.

If you already get a payment from us

The Australian Government is offering more financial assistance.

It includes the Economic Support Payment or the Coronavirus Supplement.

If you get a payment or card that makes you eligible, you don't need to do anything. If you're eligible, we'll pay you automatically.

JobKeeper Payment

You may be able to get JobKeeper Payment from your employer. Ask them if they've registered for this payment before you claim a Centrelink income support payment. If they have and you're eligible, your employer will pay it to you.

If you're getting a Centrelink income support payment and your employer starts paying you JobKeeper Payment, you must report that income to us. If you don't, we'll pay you too much and you'll have to pay it back. You may need to cancel your Centrelink income support payment to avoid a debt.

For more information

Go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/covid19

Call the Indigenous Centrelink Call Centre on Freecall **1800 136 380**



A series of pictorial story panels depicting the oral history of the Taribelang Bunda is prominently displayed around the streetscape of the Indigenous Wellbeing Centre, Bundaberg.

Telling past truths starts the healing



THE region of Bundaberg, central Queensland, was the scene of bloody massacres of First Nation people in the 19th century.

After a slaughter by mounted soldiers at Burra-ya-Bung (Many Dead), now known as Paddy's Island, the oral histories passed down from the ancestors to today's traditional owners and Elders say the Burnett River ran red for days and bodies floated to its mouth.

But for the generations after, acknowledgement and even discussion around the massacres was difficult.

Even into the 20th century, Taribelang Bunda people who spoke of it, or practised their language and culture, were taken from their families, often never to see them again.

Now, through Aboriginal community-controlled organisation Indigenous Wellbeing Centre (IWC), around its large health and wellbeing complex, the history of Bundaberg as handed down by the region's ancestors is being told.

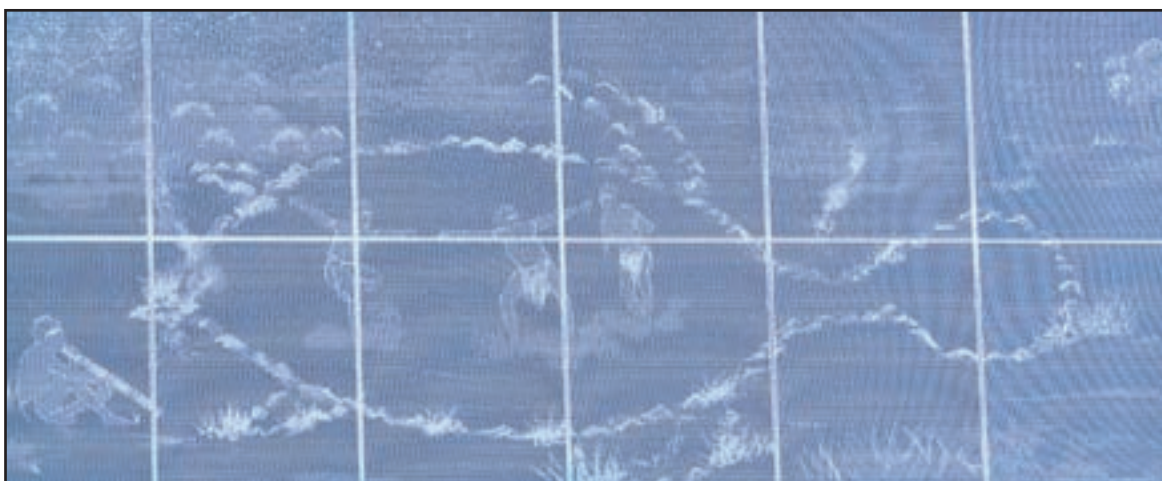
The oral histories are told through 11 pictorial story panels which together measure some 80 metres wide and three metres high.

The display wraps around the building's entire streetscape, and on March 17 was lit up.

"This is a beacon of hope and light, taking us away from a dark past that has been wrapped in trauma and half-truths," Uncle Willy Broome, a Taribelang Bunda Elder, said.

The work has been undertaken with traditional owners Uncle Willy Broome, Uncle Wayne Mothe, Uncle David Broome, Uncle Jason Brown, Auntie Cheri Yingaa Yavu-Kama-Harathunian (now deceased) and the Taribelang Cultural Aboriginal Corporation's (TCAC) Byron Broome and Nicole Tiger.

Each of the colours – aqua for



These panels tell of the Boora Boora rings in an area now known as Mon Repos.

"For the first time in my lifetime, the Taribelang Bunda have a voice about our true history, and are able to honour our ancestors for everybody to see."
– Uncle Willy Broome

the ocean, ochre for the rich Bundaberg soil, deep red for the blood that stained the ground and filled the Burnett River – were chosen by the Elders.

"For the first time in my lifetime, the Taribelang Bunda have a voice about our true history, and are able to honour our ancestors for everybody to see," Uncle Willy said.

"How can we have reconciliation without truth? There has never been recognition of the blood that has been shed. When we talk about the massacres, it was



Work on the pictorial screens was undertaken by tradiitonal owners and Elders from the region.

women, children and babies who were slaughtered. That is the truth and it is time to recognise this.

"It's like a fire – when a fire goes through it burns everything in its path. The old trees that remain standing have scars, and that's what the Aboriginal people are left with. The scars of history are with us today. The truth being told is an important part of the healing."

Each of the stories is told inside the building, on plaques created by the Elders.

IWC general manager Wayne Mulvany said: "This entire process

and opportunity has been one in which much emotion and tears have come to the fore, with an outpouring of long-suppressed pain and suffering carried by the traditional owners/Elders.

"During the course of the consultations, it has been very evident that a great weight has been lifted from the First Nations custodians of this region.

"We believe this is a first for Australia – a pictorial and written history of the stories of this region as told by the Elders."

The Elders involved in the

project said the historical display honoured their people.

"This is an opportunity to reconcile to creator spirit and to family, past, present and future," Uncle Jason Brown said. "The ancestors will be looking down and proud. What IWC is doing is such a blessing to families and our communities. This is humungous."

Uncle Wayne Mothe said: "This is the telling of the truth by us, the traditional owners, and that is its real value.

"Finally, the Elders are being listened to", he said. "It is time the message is heard so we don't lose our real history."

Uncle David Broome said: "I feel very pleased that the reality about the traditional peoples is being recognised in the community. IWC has taken it onto themselves to involve us in what is happening here and presenting the truth about the area and its history. It's a visual recognition as well. It's here for everyone to see."

Plaques and the original artworks from which the screens were created also are on public display within the complex.

Byron Broome and Nicole Tiger of the TCAC deliver Bundaberg cultural tours that include the IWC complex, which also houses the largest permanent collection of Indigenous artefacts in the region. They are incorporating the historical display into those tours.

"I am very proud to be a part of this, and thank IWC for letting the truth out in such a different, honest and high-profile way," Mr Broome said.

"It is going to change a lot of perceptions in the community for the better. It's good to see community working with community to get such an outstanding result.

"This information and education going up now is going to see us through the next generations, and showcases the true stories of this region."



Australian Government

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Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra

Danny Eastwood's view



A YARN WITH...



Noel Gertz

Gugu Badhun man, Upper Burdekin River

Favourite bush tucker?
Black bream or sooty grunter fish caught in sandy or rocky streams.

Favourite non-Indigenous food?
Prawn fettuccine.

Favourite drink?
Lemon, lime and bitters.

Favourite music?
Anything from the 70s, especially Rod Stewart and the Bee Gees.

Favourite sport?
All sports: rugby league, AFL, cricket and soccer – missing it all at the moment.

Favourite read?
Anthropological essays of the birth of blended cultures like the Cajun people.

Favourite holiday destination?
Cooktown region.

Favourite movie?
Any movie with Denzel Washington or Morgan Freeman.

What do you like in life?
Seeing young people succeed by growing in their chosen career or sporting endeavours.

What don't you like in life?
People who try and blame somebody else.

What person would you like most to meet?
My late great-grandfather Leandrew Illin.

Which people would you invite for a night around the campfire?
All of my old mentors from my childhood in Malanda and my early work days. Plus my Elders past and present.

Who/what inspires you?
Those who acknowledge the community or circumstances they come from and who are willing to contribute back into it.

What would you do to better the situation for Indigenous people?
Create more employment opportunities in the private sector.

Quote



"So what this college will do ... is give our people the opportunity to choose the college that celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity, and our culture, in an atmosphere based upon our value systems."

Professor Michael McDaniel.
on his vision for an Indigenous College at UTS

● See page 30

Unquote

More support for disability needed

AUSTRALIA'S seemingly successful response to the COVID-19 outbreak so far should not give anyone a false sense of security.

The experience of pandemics throughout history has shown that the initial outbreak, although contained, can be followed up by a second, even more deadly, outbreak.

That's why measures being taken by the First Peoples Disability Network, and academics at the University of Sydney and the University of NSW are so important to ensure that everybody is treated fairly and with respect.

In other countries medical staff have used a points system to determine who will be treated. Such decision-making does not bode well for people with disabilities.

First Peoples Disability Network chief executive Damian Griffis said the framework developed by the group would help guide governments at all levels on the appropriate way to deal with patients with disabilities.

"We're tracking well, but we still have concerns that marginalised people are being affected and we think these guidelines will be important for the future," Mr Griffis said.

"Our fear in Australia is that First Peoples with disability who are already experiencing higher levels of disadvantage and are extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 will be triaged out of the health system or be provided with inadequate support."

At this stage, however, Mr Griffis said



it was the practical measures, such as the delivery of food parcels, which would help those in the greatest need.

Not surprisingly, it is community-based charities and groups such as the Muslim charity Al-Ishsan that have stepped up to plug the gaps left by the Federal Government's response to the crisis.

But that doesn't let the Government off the hook.

More needs to be done to support our most vulnerable, and an increase in payments consummate to what others are receiving, would be a fair and reasonable start.

As Aunt Janelle Burnes said: "Carers are usually older and they take on whoever needs their help, but we didn't even get a mention from the Government about how they could support us."

"The virus might be here now but our challenge as carers started the day we started working with these kids."

Those are not the words of someone asking for a hand-out. They are words which could come out of the mouths of carers across the country. These are the people battling on their own front line of the COVID-19 crisis.

Often they are doing it alone. Let's make sure they are not forgotten.

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).

Award win provides dream project funds

By NICK PATON



YAWURU Bunuba entrepreneur Cara Peek from Broome in Western Australia has just been

named as the winner of the 2020 WA AgriFutures Rural Women's Award for her development of targeted programs honouring the Kimberley's Aboriginal pastoral industry heritage.

In keeping with the current coronavirus social distance measures, the awards were announced via a special broadcast on ABC's *Country Hour* on April 3.

Ms Peek will receive \$10,000 in seed funding, which she said will be put toward the cost of strategic and business development plans and content, so that she can begin to work on her latest and greatest brainchild, the Saltwater Academy. Ms Peek will now go on to represent Western Australia at the national award.

"I was so excited to have even been named a finalist of the prestigious AgriFutures Rural Women's Award," she said.

"When I found out I had actually won the award, I was absolutely thrilled. And I was surprised too, because I was running alongside some very savvy and high achieving women in the industry."

Ms Peek is a native title solicitor by day and has lived in Broome for the past 12 years. She co-founded The Cultural Intelligence Project, an initiative set up to help business become more culturally inclusive and aware.

"The cultural intelligence project largely came about due to the lack of outstanding opportunities for mob in our communities, and the lack of opportunities in the broader Australian society," Ms Peek said.

"We work with all different kinds of companies and organisations, and we advise on how to best approach situations which will have the best possible outcomes for Aboriginal people."

"Cultural intelligence as a concept is the common thread of everything that we do."

Empowering Aboriginal people to improve their social, emotional and economic wellbeing is something Ms Peek is passionate about and that's why she founded Saltwater Country, a not-for-profit organisation that focuses on the somewhat untold tale of Aboriginal stockwomen and



Cara Peek will use proceeds from the 2020 WA AgriFutures Rural Women's Award to build Saltwater Academy, honouring the Kimberley's Aboriginal pastoral industry heritage.

Picture: Jalaru Photography

stockmen in the Kimberley.

"At Saltwater Country, we believe the methodologies and opportunities utilised as part of the many programs and events we facilitate and administer could expand across many other Indigenous communities around Australia, especially those that are considered to be rural and remote," she said.

"We want to create a right of passage and a pathway for Aboriginal people, from volunteer to employee, and all the steps in between. This is how the concept of the Saltwater Academy was born."

Saltwater Country is responsible for the world-famous Rhythm and Ride Rodeo among many other events, and Ms Peek said the aim of the Saltwater Academy is to get mob trained up in the all the different aspects of events and media relating to the industry, equipping people with skills in photography, film, lighting, sound and culture.

"We are also currently working alongside other Indigenous organisations to help us build up the educational content of the Academy," Ms Peek said.

"So we are looking at what are the types of skillsets we have as an organisation, and what are the skillsets of partner Indigenous organisations, and how can we combine these skillsets to build skill and capacity locally."

"An avenue like this really does pave a pathway for paid work experience, paid employment and many other types of remuneration for Aboriginal people."

The Saltwater Academy, Ms Peek said, will be a comprehensive set of multifaceted programs that

target all different kinds of skills that are required in all Aboriginal communities.

"The academy will be relevant and tied to events that mob love, like rodeo clinics or sport clinics, and their involvement in these programs will lead them onto a path of paid work with us, which will transition to paid work elsewhere within the industry once they're all trained up and ready to go," she said.

"We are hoping the Saltwater Academy will provide a platform for mob who want to be able to stay on country and work in their own town or their own region, but the program also has the capability to support those who are interested in taking up roles elsewhere in Australia or with our partners in America, Canada and Brazil."

The WA AgriFutures Rural Women's Award is supported by the WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Westpac, CBH Group and the Rural, Regional and Remote Women's Network of Western Australia. The Awards acknowledge and support the vital contribution women make to rural industries businesses and communities.

"Anyone who has anything to do with a start-up business or a not-for-profit knows how hard it can be to secure and then sustain funding so the \$10,000 I've been awarded isn't so much a personal win, but a win for our entire community and will be used in a way to leverage further development to build the Salt Water Academy," Ms Peek said.

"But taking home this award also gives us the opportunity to collaborate and connect with organisations and individuals who are interested in investing in this type of concept, or someone who might want to team up and become involved as a field partner."

Ultimately, the Saltwater Academy will be an organisation and service for Aboriginal people and a critical pathway to their success.

"So we don't have any time to waste," Ms Peek said.

"I'm the type of person who is constantly reading and trying to pick up and learn new things and I think education is everything."

"But it's also important to spend a lot of time with your community and ask a lot of questions like I do with the strong Aboriginal women I have around me."

"Because asking questions, and listening deeply, is the only way you will learn."

Beat the virus blues with the Merindas

By ALI MC



FOR anyone wanting a spark to see them through the current crisis of COVID-19, look no further than the new album by The Merindas, *We Sing Until Sunrise (Ngangk Ngoorndiny Ngala Warangka)*.

A mix of electronic pop with a dance-hall feel, alongside hip hop and R&B influences, this long-awaited debut album follows the launch of the single *Before Daylight*.

Yet as touring full-time musicians, The Merindas have found the last few weeks tough, not least having to cancel an extensive national tour.

The Merindas had just performed shows in Sydney and Adelaide when social distancing and lockdown laws forced them off the road, an experience they say was "soul crushing".

Not only were gigs cancelled, but also educational workshops in schools, at a youth conference and visits to both women's countries.

Yet as Candice Lorrae – one half of the duo – points out, safety is their first priority.

"We work in music to support our families and the last thing we want to do is put our families at risk," she said.

The hard-working duo of Nyoongar Ballardong Whadjuk woman Kristel Kickett (from Tammin, Western Australia) and Candice Lorrae of Jawoyn and Thursday Island heritage (born in Darwin) began after the two met at the AbMusic program in Perth in 2012.

"When the *Sapphires* film came out in Perth there was a premiere at Luna cinemas," Candice said.

Nyoongar Radio was hosting one of the openings and Candice was asked to put together a show featuring five Motown songs to open up the film.

"So we went all out," Candice explains.

"We made costumes, we went to the hairdressers, we worked out moves. Because you can't perform Motown without the costumes and the dance, right."

"It kind of took off for us and we sold out our first show."

After going through a number of line-up changes, Candice and Kristel decided to remain a duo, as both felt they had the same vision. In particular, they wanted to write original music, and not just keep doing Motown covers.

They then moved to Melbourne "to start fresh with our music" and "we've been strong ever since," says Candice.

Originally called 'The Motown Girls', they decided to change their name to the Merindas, the word 'Merinda' meaning 'beautiful woman' in Eora language.

As well as performing over 600 shows and supporting big names such as Brandy and Craig David, The Merindas also



This article is supported by the Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas.

The Merindas new album *We Sing Until Sunrise (Ngangk Ngoorndiny Ngala Warangka)* is available now on CD via their website.

aspire to inspire women through their music.

"I want to bring up other women and set a bar where we want to dominate in this (music) industry," says Kristel. "We want other women to feel inspired by us and keep lifting each other up."

"When women help each other we are unstoppable."

While both women love Motown, they are also sure to infuse their own cultural stories in their music.

"We sit together and spend hours having conversations and writing," says Candice.

"We sit and think about stories we were told as young people, and think about the messaging, or things that we are passionate about. It comes naturally and organically to write in our language."

Both women also come from musical families, with Kristel saying, "I grew up in a music family. I've always grown up around music, so it's always been a part of me since I was little. It's the same with Candice – we both grew up listening to girl groups, R and B, but all different genres."

"We had very similar childhoods where we would get all our friends and cousins into a living room and put on concerts for family," adds Candice.

("I'd be) the big bossy-boots trying to run the girl group and choreograph dance moves to Spice Girls, TLC and Destiny's Child.

performed together, they have now decided not to do that any longer.

"At the moment we are dealing with distancing and the safety of our families. As a duo it's really hard to make the decision whether we should be catching up."

While the online gig, they said, was fun, it is certainly not the same as performing live.

"It's not the same as when you are on stage and singing live in front of an audience," says Kristel.

"My goal was I wanted to travel the world with our music, and live life to the fullest through music. While doing this whole (online) video thing is great because it is keeping us positive and keeping us sane while this whole thing is happening, it is not the same feeling."

While many artists are struggling with the loss of opportunity and income, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists it is even more difficult given that the arts is a significant income earner for many communities.

"The Merindas are just a bunch of big kids prancing around in costumes," she laughs. However, the current Covid-19 crisis has made it very difficult for the Merindas – and other artists like them – to continue to perform and earn income.

And as a duo, as Candice points out, they cannot even catch up, due to the new social distancing rules. Despite putting on one online show where they

"We live from gig to gig," says Candice. "Because we did it full time and we risked everything to do it full time and we were building it up."

Candice is quick to point out that there are many people impacted by Covid-19 in the arts industry – including the venue owners.

However, The Merindas are still going ahead with the release of the album and ask people to still get online and support the group.

They also encourage people to support music by making a purchase online, and suggest that if your workplace is having a Zoom conference, why not book an artist to perform.

As Kristel explains, "We've been lucky enough to have some people that we've really built relationships with who have offered us some good opportunities during this time. So we are pretty lucky for them supporting us still."

"Music is healing," adds Candice. "So for anyone having boring old web conferences, bring an artist in at the end of it!"

The Merindas new album *We Sing Until Sunrise (Ngangk Ngoorndiny Ngala Warangka)* is available now on CD via their website www.themerindas.com

The album is set for a full digital release on May 29.

"I want to bring up other women and set a bar where we want to dominate in this industry. We want other women to feel inspired by us and keep lifting each other up. When women help each other we are unstoppable."

– Kristel Kickett, The Merindas



Prisons not safe

Families call for prisoner release

We represent the families of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have been murdered in prisons or police custody.

We have lost our loved ones due to police or prison officer violence, shootings, neglect and/or failure to provide medical attention, and systemic and direct racism.

We are the families left behind due to Black deaths in custody in this country.

We also represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and people who have loved ones and children in adult and youth prisons right now that we fear will contract COVID-19 and we fear for their lives.

This is an open letter from us to police, prisons and governments about what they need to do URGENTLY to prevent COVID-19 Black deaths in custody during this pandemic.

We have seen across the world that COVID-19 is spreading through prisons like wildfire. People in prison and staff are dying. Across the world, governments in the United States, United Kingdom, Indonesia and Iran have released prisoners in order to contain the spread of COVID-19.

We know that our people are more vulnerable to contracting and dying from COVID-19. We fear that a Black COVID-19 death in custody is only a matter of time: the risk is compounded by the mass incarceration of our people and the high rates of Aboriginal deaths in custody.

Far too often, our people have died in custody because their health issues have not been taken seriously due to racism. Prisons are not safe. Consequently, our people are 'at risk' during this pandemic and must be released.

We call for all Australian governments to immediately:

Get mob out of prison

1. Release all First Nations adults and children from prison.
2. Release those who are most vulnerable to contracting COVID-19 or who would be severely impacted by it, including:
 3. First Nations women who are pregnant and mothers with babies in prison;
 4. First Nations victim/survivors of family violence, particularly women, children and young people;
 5. Our Elders and elderly First Nations people, particularly those with respiratory illnesses, diabetes, or heart conditions;
 6. First Nations people with disability;
 7. First Nations people with chronic health issues, immuno-suppressed conditions including HIV and AIDS; and
 8. First Nations people who are innocent, on remand or imprisoned



The families of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have died in custody, including Aunty Leetona Dungay, mother of David Dungay Jnr, are calling for First Nations people to be released from prison during the COVID-19 pandemic.

awaiting a sentence until their court cases are finalised.

9. Allow imprisoned First Nations people to have access to their families, lawyers/services and support persons. If in-person visits are not available then all other options (video, phone, etc) must be provided for free.

10. Allow full access to Custody Notification Services for all First Nations people, without exception.

Stop criminalising mob

1. Prevent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from going into prison and being trapped in the quagmire of the criminal legal system during this time by declaring a moratorium on warrants and arrests for six months and for police and the courts to rely on non custodial options like cautions or diversionary programs.
2. Police must not be given extra powers during this pandemic, a global health crisis requires a health response, not a criminal one.
3. Police must not over-police First Nations communities with COVID-19 related fines, especially for remote mob. Instead, we demand that fines be replaced with strengthened and properly funded community health promotion and education campaigns.

Care and protect mob

1. Where prison officers or any person in prison has tested positive for COVID-19, there must be mandatory testing of all people in that prison with priority given to First Nations people.
2. Provide full and appropriate medical care, preferably outside of prison, especially for First Nations people who have symptoms or are

suspected of having COVID-19.

3. First Nations people who remain imprisoned and are most at risk, those with illness, asthma, disability or mental health issues, or have a family history of risk factors, must be given priority for COVID-19 testing and treatment.

4. Spithoods and restraints must not be used on First Nations people in custody when receiving medical care or treatment for any condition.

5. Any transportation to medical care must involve the deep cleaning of vans and surveillance of transfer.

6. PPEs to be worn at all times by prison officers during the pandemic.

Support mob back into community

1. Ensure transparency and community accountability when releasing First Nations people by making sure the powers to release do not sit with one person but rather an independent board whose decisions can be reviewed and appealed if necessary.
2. Ensure that our communities can follow all relevant community protocols that apply on the release of an imprisoned First Nations person.
3. All First Nations people released from prisons must be provided culturally safe social, medical, mental health support, welfare, income support, and other help to allow them to properly re-enter their communities after the trauma of prison.
4. First Nations people must be allowed to recover and heal from the trauma of being imprisoned in their own communities and with

their families. All of the families and communities receiving their loved ones back home must be supported and resourced to do so.

5. When First Nations people do not have families, communities or homes to return to, they must be properly housed in adequate, good quality facilities like hotels, public homes, or good quality transitional homes.

6. Provide mental health supports for First Nations communities, both for imprisoned people and people in the community; including appropriately identifying 'at risk' people by promptly making and/or responding to notifications of concern for people's welfare.

7. Implement all of the recommendations into the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody around the country.

This includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are being detained in immigration detention, and our people overseas in prison and who need help to come home.

More than 400 of our family members and friends have died in custody since the end of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. Prisons are crowded, violent, unsafe places, more so during a global pandemic.

As we are seeing COVID-19 deaths can be prevented by taking bold and brave measures. Being imprisoned during a global pandemic is likely to be a death sentence to our imprisoned people. Our governments must act now, we will not leave anyone behind.

Caroline Andersen, mother of Wayne Fella Morrison
Latoya Rule, sibling of Wayne Fella Morrison
Buster Morrison, brother of Wayne Fella Morrison
Ella Russo, sister of Wayne Fella Morrison
Patrick Morrison, brother of Wayne Fella Morrison
Apryl Watson, daughter of Aunty Tanya Day
Belinda Stevens, daughter of Aunty Tanya Day
Warren Stevens, son of Aunty Tanya Day
Kimberly Watson, daughter of Aunty Tanya Day
Ray Thomas, father of Raymond Thomas
Debbie Williams, mother of Raymond Thomas
Aunty Carol Roe, grandmother of Ms Dhu
Aunty Leetona Dungay, mother of David Dungay Jnr
Christine Dungay, sister of David Dungay Jnr
Cynthia Dungay, sister of David Dungay Jnr
Ernie Dungay, brother of David Dungay Jnr
Paul Silva, nephew of David Dungay Jnr
Jodie Reynolds, mother of Nathan Reynolds
Toni Reynolds, grandmother of Nathan Reynolds
Taleah Reynolds, sister of Nathan Reynolds
Makayla Reynolds, sister of Nathan Reynolds
Rosemary Roe, Aunty of GJ Roe and family currently in prison
Ronald Roe, brother of GJ Roe
Audrey Roe, cousin of GJ Roe
Helen Corbett, co-founder and chairperson of National Committee to Defend Black Rights,
Aunty of GJ Roe and Aunty of Ms Dhu
Janine Kelly, Yamatji filmmaker, Aunty of Cherdeena Wynne and Ms Dhu
Donna Moody, Aunty of Cherdeena Wynne & Ms Dhu, cousin to Warren John Cooper
Carolyn Lewis, grandmother for Cherdeena Wynne & Ms Dhu, Aunty to Warren John Cooper
Cecelia Maree Kelly, grandmother for Cherdeena Wynne & Ms Dhu, Aunty to Warren John Cooper
Rhonda Collard Spratt, grandmother to Cherdeena Wynne & Ms Dhu, Aunty to Warren John Cooper
Nikeeta Dorizzi-Kelly, Aunty to Cherdeena Wynne & Ms Dhu, cousin to Warren John Cooper
Kerry Roe, Aunty to Ms Dhu & Cherdeena Wynne, cousin to Warren John Cooper
Tsheena Cooper, sister of Cherdeena Wynne & cousin of Ms Dhu, niece to Warren John Cooper
Marisha Cooper, sister of Cherdeena Wynne & cousin of Ms Dhu, niece to Warren John Cooper
Claudia Wynne, sister of Cherdeena Wynne & cousin of Ms Dhu, niece to Warren John Cooper
Karen Wynne, sister of Cherdeena Wynne & cousin of Ms Dhu, niece to Warren John Cooper
Charlize Cooper, sister of Cherdeena Wynne & cousin of Ms Dhu, niece to Warren John Cooper
Gary Cobbo, Uncle of Tolita Cobbo
Tereek Conlon, nephew of Tolita Cobbo
Tolita Conlon Cobbo, niece of Tolita Cobbo
Peta Conlon Cobbo, niece of Tolita Cobbo
Tarneen Onus-Williams, family currently in prison
Naomi Murphy, family currently in prison
Sherri Lyle, family currently in prison

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



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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

Ceremony to sing a beloved uncle home

By WOOLOMBI WATERS

HOW do you even begin to explain to non-Aboriginal people that the last true language speaker you have left in your family has just passed?

His ochre was brought up from home in Toomelah near Boggabilla in north-west NSW for a final ceremony as family and friends sang our dearly beloved Uncle Reg/Roy Knox home, led by Buddy Hippi (Knox), his great nephew.

Known in his early years as Reginald Roy Knox (McGrady), Uncle later settled in Logan, Queensland, more than 40 years ago, where he became known by immediate family and community as Uncle Reg. But he was always known as Uncle Roy back home in NSW and in particular by his Toomelah family.

We are blessed to have many traditional Gomerioi/Gamilaraay/Kamilaroi dancers and language speakers today – yamma nginda Gomerioi winnunguuldah dhirriaa yumbuli – but we have had to relearn how to speak our language and to practise our culture after the evils of colonisation.

This Old Fella, he was born speaking Gomerioi and had to learn English. He was the last gayaangal (child) rolled in the ash, covered in the charcoal while buried in the sands of Boobera lagoon, traditional way – proppa way, after he was born.

How do you compensate this loss? No remuneration could ever compensate for what we felt on Monday, April 20. An entire nation woke up in mourning after hearing the news our beloved Uncle had passed away the day before.

The tributes starting flowing immediately as grief poured out on social media with heartfelt testimonies from family, friends and community across Australia. This included many non-Indigenous students whom Uncle had taught art to in schools across south-east Queensland. Such was his influence and acceptance.

The comparison of so much love conveyed is in complete opposition to what we observe with people hoarding food, essential items and turning on one another in our current crisis.

How would this mob have survived if they had suffered the way our mob did? These people have privilege and wealth today.

But 90% of our people died through disease, poison and the guns brought by the colonisers.

For this is when our Uncle was born. There is a famous old photo taken at Boomi with the survivors of this atrocity. Uncle's mother, my great Aunty Carrie, is standing out front with my



Reginald Roy Knox (McGrady), known as Uncle Reg by some and as Uncle Roy back home in NSW, is revered as the custodian and last true speaker of Gomerioi language.

grandfather and his brother held in the top hand corner by their mother Amelia and grandmother Florence Wightman.

To then try and say it happened so long ago, when we only danced a few weeks ago for my Uncle, who was born from this time, only maintains the hurt, the trauma we feel today.

Rather than fend for themselves and hoard possessions, our mob shared all that they had, built communities based on hard work, love and caring for one another and from this our Uncle was born and carried his legacy. We know his knowledge and his love have passed on and with his passing we have been left with the hurt

and grieving and pain these intruders built.

But as did our Old People, we will continue to survive and we will build on our Uncle's legacy, and in his memory we will continue to find strength, love and compassion.

Uncle Reg/Uncle Roy was raised in Toomelah, along with my grandfather, his first cousin-brother Len Waters. My grandfather would go on to become a war hero, a fighter pilot; Reg/Roy Knox, a world-famous artist who taught tens of thousands of children of all colours and races and religions, never judging a single soul. His artwork now hangs in the Vatican in Rome, where we have Leonardo da Vinci,

Michelangelo and Reg/Roy Knox all hanging out together as the old masters.

And during his passing we had politicians and governors-general messaging the family their personal condolences.

Uncle was formally recognised as Logan City Citizen of the year, NAIDOC Aboriginal Elder of the year and our knowledge-keeper and last true Gomerioi language speaker.

He built bridges to cross the chasms of race, colour and creed to bring us all together as people and carried love as his philosophy. He would always say, "We can't go back into the past but we can use our experiences to build a better future together and we should

He built bridges to cross the chasms of race, colour and creed, to bring us all together as people, and carried love as his philosophy.

all move forward together."

Uncle never showed any hate, never asked you for ten dollars you didn't have, but would let you know he could change the ten into a fifty on the horses – many an electricity bill and car rego was paid this way.

He would never raise his voice in anger and we are blessed in carrying on his legacy.

He was softly-spoken, loving, caring and understanding in carrying the grace and dignity of his Elders.

As a young man growing up in Toomelah, Uncle became the custodian of our language.

He was destined to become an Elder (a term we use all too often today) and he carried this title with the highest calibre and would always say "I am just Reggie Knox, an old Blackfella from Toomelah, 4th-grade dumb" to inspire others to make the most of what they were given.

"You learn for you," he would always say.

His grandson Laroi, 13 years old, said to me as we painted up, getting ready to dance to send his Poppy home: "Poppy was no myth Uncle. He was a legend and as a legend he will live on in our hearts forever."

For now, he is still with us and with every memory contained within the tears of our heart we hold onto the thousands upon thousands of years his love represented, the ways of our old people – and we will hold onto those memories and simply say we love you and we thank you and safe journey home.

Ngiyani ngiima yilaadhu yalagiiirray ngiyani gimiyandi gaalanha yilaalu-gi gi (We are here today as we were yesterday and will be forever) Uncle Reg/Uncle Roy Knox.

● Woolombi Waters is a regular Koori Mail columnist.

Judith Neilson Institute
for Journalism and Ideas
This article is supported by the Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas.

3D image for illustrative purposes only



HAVE YOUR SAY

on proposed changes to the Fitzroy Basin Water Plan

The Queensland Government wants to maximise the benefits of the **Rookwood Weir** project by bringing this new infrastructure into the region's water planning framework.

Rookwood Weir is a critical piece of water infrastructure for Central Queensland and we're committed to working with the community to make it a success.

Your input is essential to ensure the water associated with the weir supports local agriculture and urban needs into the future.

In light of current social distancing requirements, the Queensland Government is implementing some new and innovative ways to engage with the Fitzroy community.

Visit www.dnrme.qld.gov.au or call 1800 822 100 to find out more and help shape changes to the Fitzroy Basin Water Plan.

Submissions close 5pm Friday 12 June 2020.



For fast facts on what's happening with Rookwood Weir, call 1800 423 213 or visit www.sunwater.com.au/projects/rookwood-weir-project/

Palm travel confusion as state relaxes restrictions

By ALF WILSON



PALM Island residents are still subject to travel restrictions because of the coronavirus pandemic, despite the Queensland Government relaxing some rules from last Saturday, May 2.

However confusion existed over the regulations, according to some residents and family members living on the mainland.

The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council clarified the situation after the Queensland Government relaxed rules which allowed mainlanders to travel 50km from home from Saturday while still adhering to social distancing.

"The community needs to be aware that Palm Island is controlled by the Commonwealth Biosecurity determination," the Council said.

"This means that the current travel restrictions and the movement of boats must remain



Palm residents who travel to and from the mainland by ferry face a 14-day quarantine before returning.

in place. We understand that this could be confusing for community residents however please be assured that we are working with the Queensland Government to

ensure the messaging relating to the Indigenous Communities is very clear.

"As we, Palm Island residents, live in a smaller designated area,

travelling 50km is going to take us outside the designated area.

"If this happens, you will need to go into quarantine for 14 days at your own expense before you

can come back home.

"Which of course you may not want to do."

Palm Island has a permanent population of about 3000 with many others living at Townsville and places like Ingham on the mainland.

Edward Seaton lives in Townsville but used to travel regularly by ferry to Palm Island, where he was born, to visit family and friends.

"I can't go back there under the current circumstances and if I did I would have to quarantine for 14 days.

"A lot of people are in the same situation," Mr Seaton told the *Koori Mail*.

Palm Island Council further advised that if you are a Palm Island resident and wish to return there from the mainland you would need to undertake a 14-day self-quarantine/isolation prior to being allowed to return.



This article is supported by the Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas.



KRMCMC is delighted to announce that we have been joined by the following Aboriginal clinicians:



Louise Moore
Aboriginal Health
Practitioner



Hannah Moore
Aboriginal Health
Practitioner



Sonya Cameron
Credentialed Diabetes
Educator

The team brings a wealth of experience to the Centre and will enable us to extend our health services within the local Aboriginal community.



Notice of an Application for Registration as a Registered Aboriginal Party

Name of applicant: Bangerang Aboriginal Corporation
Date received: 6 April 2020
Public comments due: 28 May 2020

The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council has received an application by the Bangerang Aboriginal Corporation for registration as a Registered Aboriginal Party for the area shown on this map. If registered, the applicant will be responsible for making key decisions about cultural heritage protection and management under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. In determining whether to grant this application, the Council must consider:

In determining whether to grant this application, the Council must consider:

- whether the applicant is a native title party;
- whether the applicant has traditional or familial links to the area;
- whether the applicant has historical or contemporary interests in, and expertise in the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in the area;
- the existence of any grant of land by government in fee simple to an Aboriginal body in the area;
- whether the applicant has entered into a land and natural resource management agreement with the State in the area; and
- any other relevant matter.

The Council invites written comments on this application, which can be sent to:

Office of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council
Level 3, 3 Treasury Place, East Melbourne Vic 3002
vahc@dpc.vic.gov.au | 03 7004 7198

The applicant will be advised of comments received.



FR1670



WALGETT ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE LIMITED

CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI) FROM ABORIGINAL ARTISTS OR DESIGNERS

Who we are

Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service (WAMS) Limited a major provider of medical services to Aboriginal communities in Walgett and in surrounding areas.

Artwork concept

The WAMS Directors wish to commission an artwork by local Aboriginal artists for promotional purposes such as program brochures, posters and other materials for example the WAMS Annual Report, website and logo design for WAMS uniforms. The artwork should capture aspects of WAMS services including the communities served by WAMS, rivers, local food, wildlife and the theme of health.

Submitting an EOI

Artists are requested to submit concept designs on A3 size paper by either post, email or text and include:

- An overview of their work
- And/or supporting statement describing the artwork as part of the EOI

Due Date: 30 June 2020 by COB

Successful submission

The successful submission selected to be the most appropriate entry, will be eligible to receive a fee of \$3000 GST inclusive (\$1000 payable to the artist on acceptance of the design and \$2000 payable to the artist on delivery of the final artwork). Please note that all finished artwork being the artwork for which the stated fee is paid is the property of WAMS.

Please submit all applications to:

Christine Corby
Chief Executive Officer
Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited
37 Pitt Street, PO Box 396, Walgett NSW 2382

or via email:

Email: ChristineC@walgettams.com.au

Enquiry contact:

Christine Corby
Phone: (02) 6820 3734
Mobile: 0418 212 230

Terms and conditions in relation to the commission artwork:

- The value of the fee to the successful applicant is \$3000 as per the agreed contract terms being: \$1000 payable to the artist on acceptance of the design and the balance of \$2000 payable to the artist on delivery of the final artwork.
- The project will require the artwork to sign and contract outlining the approved use of the artwork.
- The legal title to the artwork (ownership) will be vested in WAMS.
- WAMS will permit the artist to use the artwork for their own personal business activities but not as part of their website/logo.
- The artist agrees that the artwork will not be reproduced, sold or used by any other entity.
- The artist will be formally attributed as the artist of the artwork where possible.
- No further payment will be made to the artist other than the commission payment.

Unsuccessful EOIs submitted:

- The EOI will be available for collection by the artist or nominee within one month of the successful EOI being selected.
- In the event that the EOI is delivered to a contact address by Australia Post, postage will be at WAMS expense.

Early learning program supports kids on country



ABORIGINAL children in the Northern Territory are gaining new insight into traditional practices

like hunting, local medicines, ceremonies and language, thanks to Save the Children's Play2Learn program, which is now being delivered remotely.

Many family groups from Wadeye have moved to remote sites across traditional homelands to meet new social-distancing and travel restrictions and reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19.

To ensure children keep taking part in the vital early learning during this time, Save the Children has adapted its program by providing individual family groups with tablets for photos, songs and videos, as well as education kits with pencils, paper and games.

The program is being delivered by four local Aboriginal women who work for Save the Children and have returned to their homelands.

The women are all studying a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and helped modify how the program will be delivered, and what it will include.



Gwendaline Kolumboort teaches three-year-old Miriam a practical lesson about healthy eating.

Gwendaline Kolumboort works for Save the Children in Wadeye, and is delivering the Play2Learn program on country to the children in her family group.

She has been supporting the children's fine-motor development and hand-eye coordination through drawing with thin pencils, and has also incorporated rhymes

and songs in language in the sessions.

"I want to thank Save the Children for helping me to teach the kids here so they can keep learning," Gwendaline said.

Save the Children NT director Noeline Swanson said the program adaptations meant that children were continuing to learn and take part despite the disruptions from the coronavirus.

"It's fantastic that we are able to keep providing this vital service for Aboriginal families in the NT," she said.

"The kids love the program and are really enjoying attending remotely.

"They are still able to take part in games and activities, but at the same time we have been able to adapt the program content to incorporate life on-country, such as by tasting bush tucker, building a hut from branches and leaves and going for a bush walk.

"While there is so much grim news around coronavirus, this is a positive story showing how technology can support Indigenous Australian children connect to country, family and culture during a very difficult time."

The adapted program is consistent with the Early Years

Learning Framework and reflects the natural environment of the homelands. It includes activities such as going hunting, taking part in ceremonial life, talking about tradition medicines and valuing language skills.

The Play2Learn program has also been adapted on Groote Eylandt, which is in lockdown to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

There, Save the Children is using online platforms to post educational content about the program, and making weekly phone calls to families to continue engagement and support wellbeing.

The organisation is also preparing packs for families which include reading books, crayons, playdough and games, which are being delivered through community health clinics.

The Play2Learn program is Save the Children's largest Early Childhood Care and Development program in Australia and has been running for more than 30 years.

Run by trained early childhood staff, the program runs free playgrounds to help young children learn to play, socialise, establish routine and prepare for school.



South Batemans Bay Link Road

You are invited to provide feedback on the review of environmental factors and concept design until Sunday 24 May 2020

Have your say:



Use the online feedback form at nswroads.work/sbblr



PO Box 477 Wollongong NSW 2500



southbatemansbaylinkroad@transport.nsw.gov.au

Online Q&A session

Join us on Facebook Live for an online Q&A session with the project team:

Friday 8 May 2020, 12:30pm – 1pm



Follow NSW Roads for updates and event invites.



Want to learn more about the project?

Visit nswroads.work/sbblr to view the latest project update, concept design and review of environmental factors.

Contact Us

@ southbatemansbaylinkroad@transport.nsw.gov.au 1800 549 159



Willie 'Bomba' King by Jason McNamara. Willie 'Bomba' King is a local Ipswich resident. This portrait tells us who he is, where he is from, and what he does. Willie is a traffic controller, and the use of his STOP/SLOW sign was a great way of introducing his Indigenous heritage and showing just some of his happy-go-lucky personality. My style of portraits invites the viewer to ask questions as they discover more and more about the subject.



Nova Gina takes a smoke break by Elize Strydom. I met Dunghutti man Dallas Webster at his apartment in Parramatta. Over four hours, I photographed the transformation from Dallas to his alter ego, Nova Gina. It's an exhausting process and Dallas needed a few smoke breaks. We chatted about what it's like to be a gay Aboriginal teenager in regional Australia. "This is not a life I ever considered possible," he said. "But now that I'm here, I believe I've established a name for myself and should take advantage of the platform and raise awareness about the issues that really matter to me."



Mario Walarmerpui by Ben Searcy. Mario Walarmerpui is an accomplished and innovative Tiwi carver who lives in Pirlangimpi, a remote community on Melville Island in the Northern Territory. 3000 kilometres from home, Mario has been waiting in a room – abuzz with preparations and anticipation – to stage a Pukamani Ceremony for the opening of the 2019 Tarnanthi Festival in Adelaide. Visiting Melville Island a few months earlier, I had observed the enormous power and stature that performing traditional dance gave the Tiwi Islanders I met. I wanted to capture that energy in a series of behind the scenes portraits, before and after the dance.



Matilda (Ngambri/Ngunnawal) by Brenda L Croft. 'There was one Eora woman who the British officers found very striking, and a little frightening too.' Aunty Matilda House is a Ngambri/Ngunnawal Elder from Canberra. *Matilda (Ngambri/Ngunnawal)* is part of a series, *Naabami (Thou shall/will see): I am/We are Barangaroo*, honouring Cammeraygal woman, Barangaroo (c. 1750 – 1791), wife of Wangal man, Woollarawarre Bennelong (c. 1763/4 – 1813). Renowned for her standpoint as a staunch First Nations woman, Barangaroo determined how she would live and die on her peoples' lands during a time of immense upheaval and overwhelming change for Eora and surrounding clans. Her spirit continues to inspire and inform contemporary First Nations sovereign women.



We were cold by Ben McNamara. We were driving from Kintore to Kiwirrkurra in the Central Desert region, looking for a roadside campfire where our mates were cooking for the night. "Is that one – way up there?" Wheeler asked, peering through the darkness in the middle of the night. "Kinda looks like two." Fifteen minutes down the road, we pull up... to a bushfire. 'WHEEEEEELERRR!!', Lorna yells, surprised to see us. "What's going on Lorna?! What's with the fire?" Lorna stops, and looks at us like we must be completely stupid. "We were cold."



1967 by Dave Laslett. Taken from Dunjiba by Miss Cook, Alby Hunt travelled 800 kilometres by train to Port Augusta, and was placed in Umeewarra Mission. A striking child, Alby was taken by missionary Mr Waitman to the township to be photographed by the government. On that day, Alby literally became the poster child (as pictured in his hands) for the 1967 Referendum. While the referendum would go on to initiate significant change in Australian society, in 2019 Alby reflects on the past 52 years and wonders if anything has really changed.



Lenny, by Karen Waller. Lenny Willis was born in the Tarcoola hospital in 1956. His mother, Gracie, a Yankuntjatjarra woman, married his father, Tommy, the son of Irish immigrants. With his ten siblings, Lenny lived on Bon Bon Station until the late 1960s. Today, Lenny lives in Kingoonya and works on Wilgena Station as a contract musterer. In this harsh outback environment in the north of South Australia, I discover in him a warmth and generosity of spirit.



Wonder by Klarissa Dempsey. This portrait is of my daughter Tayla. High-spirited, mischievous, intelligent, curious – these are some of the words that come to mind while thinking of her. Tayla always asks questions and needs to know the ‘why’; I love that about her. I love that she is one of the kindest souls you will ever meet, with the most caring heart. This moment was captured on country homelands, where Tayla spends her time playing endlessly with her brothers and sister and cousins, riding bikes, walking to the creeks, playing with the dogs and being carefree.



Yukultji and Yalti with their family by Ben Mcnamara. Yukultji and Yalti are members of a group referred to as ‘the Pintupi Nine’, believed to be the last Indigenous Australians to come into contact with the ‘outside’ world following European settlement. The group was still pursuing a traditional hunter-gatherer lifestyle, consistent with that lived by their ancestors for tens of thousands of years, when they came to media attention in October 1984. This photograph was taken in Pintupi country on Lake Mackay, a salt lake 100 kilometres long in the middle of the desert on the Western Australia-Northern Territory border.

Portrait show snaps a picture of diversity

By RUDI MAXWELL



FOR Gurindji/Malngin/ Mudpurra photographer Brenda L Croft, taking a portrait comes down to one important thing. Trust.

So when Croft began shooting a big project based around honouring Eora woman Barangaroo one of the women she wanted to capture was Ngambri/ Ngunnawal Elder Aunty Matilda House.

“For this project I was mainly working with people who I love and respect,”

Brenda told the *Koori Mail*.

“I’ve known Aunty Matilda for a long time. She worked with my father.

“It’s really important that people completely trust you. That’s about people knowing what you’ve done, seeing how you’ve worked over a long period of time.

“With the technology I was using for the photo of Aunty Matilda, it was really close and intimate, so you have to have a relationship with the person you’re photographing. It shows, I think, in the final picture.”

Croft’s intimate and arresting picture is one of the 47 finalists in this year’s

National Photographic Portrait Prize, run – this year only online – by the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra.

The 2020 finalists contain numerous Aboriginal photographers and also subjects.

Renowned Aboriginal photographer and curator Nici Cumpston was also one of the judges.

“It’s great to see a lot First Nations representation,” Croft said.

“That art award is a real mix. You see commercial photographers, artists, sports photographers, documentary makers. It’s a real crossover, not just fine artists. The

portrait of Adam Goodes is really amazing. Christian Thompson is always striking and there are quite a few finalists by artists from the APY Lands, it’s a really good mix.

“I just felt completely honoured that Aunty Matilda said yes and I’m so pleased for her that the picture made the finalists.

“She’s a senior Elder from the Canberra area. She turns 75 this year and I can’t think of a better present for her.

“I always give proper copies to the people I photograph.

“The people you photograph are what makes the image.”

College proposal is an initiative in excellence



By NICK PATON

PLANS to build Australia's first Indigenous residential college at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) are already in motion and now a \$1 million grant from the City of Sydney will help the project spring to life.

Wiradjuri Professor Michael McDaniel is the visionary behind the ground-breaking concept and as pro vice-chancellor, Indigenous leadership and engagement, at UTS, he said the Indigenous college will not only be Australia's first, it also be the most comprehensive of its type in the world.

"The college will be a purpose-built, world-class, \$100 million facility with accommodation for up to 250 students," Professor McDaniel said.

"And because all colleges have a commitment to diversity, this college will be open to non-Indigenous and international students also."

But the most important aspect of the college, Prof McDaniel said, is that Indigenous students will be the priority and make up the majority.

"As we know, Indigenous people are significantly underrepresented in higher education and one of the many barriers for many students, particularly those who want to relocate so that they can attend a university which may not necessarily be within a short commute distance from their home, is being able to secure affordable and safe accommodation," Prof McDaniel said.

"And so at its very simplest, the UTS Indigenous residential college will help to break the back of a major barrier for Indigenous people's participation in higher education, and that's to provide them with world-class accommodation in an environment which celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity and culture at its core.

"But the college not only guarantees cost-covered accommodation for every Indigenous student, a living allowance will be provided to them as well."

Lord Mayor Clover Moore said the city of Sydney was proud to support such a globally significant project.

"We know that higher education has major flow-on benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people," she said.

"For Aboriginal students wishing to study, the lack of affordable accommodation is a major barrier. This new Indigenous college will not only provide this accommodation, but celebrate our Indigenous heritage and create equal access to opportunities."

Like many colleges linked to academic institutions around Australia, there will be more on offer from the college than just accommodation.

"The college will have a thriving cultural life and social life and there will be increased academic support offered to all students," Professor McDaniel said.

"And that is above and beyond the support already being provided



The Indigenous residential college at UTS will be a purpose-built, \$100 million facility with accommodation for up to 250 students.



Wiradjuri Professor Michael McDaniel is the visionary behind the ground-breaking concept.

by UTS's Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research."

Prof McDaniel told the *Koori Mail* one thing he would also like to see incorporated into the college is the maximisation of student participation in internships with community organisations and the public and private sectors, which he said will help to expand opportunities for employment.

"But beyond graduating, we also want to ensure students remain part of the college community which will allow for continued support in their development, their success, and their networking throughout their professional careers," he said.

"And the important thing to emphasise is that, even though the Indigenous residential college will have the capacity to house up to 250 students living there, every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student studying at UTS

will have the opportunity to become a member of the college also," he said.

"That means all Indigenous students at UTS will be able to access facilities, services and support offered by the college."

Professor McDaniel said the college will also be linked to senior Indigenous people from around the country who are able to support the work of the college and act as Elders and mentors in relation to the students.

"This is more than just a building," McDaniel said.

"This is a community. And it's a community for life.

"The purpose of the community we are going to form is to contribute to the development of a fully inclusive Australian nation, one in which Indigenous people thrive, and which has at its heart, a celebration of Indigenous identity and culture.

"We're hoping that in decades to

come, we will have thousands of members of this community, occupying significant positions across the country, both Indigenous and non Indigenous, all working toward the realisation of this vision."

There are hundreds of Indigenous students currently enrolled in universities throughout Australia.

"So we know our people are interested," Prof McDaniel said.

"But a college is about more than just a scholarship and a bed in a substantial facility. What colleges are normally about is also a celebration of a particular community's identity, culture and heritage.

"Whether that be faith-based, gender-based or ethnicity-based, most colleges celebrate an identity."

If you are an Indigenous student currently at college, McDaniel said it would be reasonable to assume that you're occupying a place within a college that doesn't have the celebration of your people's identity culture and heritage at its heart.

"And even though these colleges do provide wonderful opportunities, I can't help but imagine that our people must have a sense of occupying the margins of someone else's heritage in the various colleges that exist," he said.

"So what this college will do for the very first time in Australian history, is give our people the opportunity to choose the college that celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity, and our culture, in an atmosphere based upon our value systems.

"Which is both nationally significant, and a national first, but it's also incredibly important in

terms of the success of our students."

Rather than taking what has traditionally been in many parts of education a deficit-based approach, by placing identity and culture at the heart of this educational experience, the college will be taking a strengths-based approach.

"This is not an equity initiative, this is an excellence initiative, and it's an initiative which has arisen out of consultation and the wishes of our own people," McDaniel said.

"But at the same time we acknowledge that what we are trying to develop is a society in which our people flourish, and working hand in hand with non-Indigenous Australians to achieve that.

"This is not a local college, and while the college is under the auspices of UTS, the college will have a national focus."

McDaniel said Indigenous consultation undertaken by UTS so far has taken on different forms at many different levels and has involved initial input by Indigenous students and staff at UTS. The project has received support and leadership from the Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council, and has engaged around 50 senior Indigenous people from around the country.

"We've received nothing but unanimous support from everyone involved in the project and while the college will be part of UTS, it will be led entirely by Indigenous people and we envisage that in time this will help to create an Indigenous advisory board," Prof McDaniel said.

The UTS Indigenous Residential College is due to open to students in 2025.

Exhibition goes online to reveal new works from our top emerging artists



DESPITE galleries being closed due to coronavirus, people have the opportunity to experience a varied collection of artworks by 120 Aboriginal emerging artists from Western Australia at the Fremantle Arts Centre 2020 *Revealed* exhibition online.

Revealed is an annual program funded by the WA Government, which showcases Aboriginal art through an exhibition, art market and program of professional development for artists and art centre staff.

This year's *Revealed* events had to be cancelled to protect public health and the safety of the artists involved, many of whom travel from remote communities.

The 2020 *Revealed* exhibition features Noongar artists from metropolitan Perth and the South West alongside artists from WA's remote and regional art centres. They were selected by an expert curatorial panel.

Each artist created new works for *Revealed*, which spans a breadth of styles and mediums including painting, installation, video, textiles, photography, print media, jewellery, carving and sculpture.

Artist Cora Lynch said being part of last year's *Revealed* program had a lasting impact on her career.

"It's opened my eyes to the arts industry and opportunities as an Aboriginal artist," she said. "I have gained some inspiring friends and mentors as a result."

Fremantle Arts Centre has waived all gallery commission on *Revealed* sales, ensuring that 100% of profits return to the artists and art centres.

The *Revealed* catalogue and detailed instructions on how to purchase artworks are available at fac.org.au.



Martumili artist Lornma Linmurra makes art in Warralong community. Picture: courtesy of Martumili Artists

Truth pictured through an Indigenous lens



AFFIRMATION is a major exhibition that explores truth-telling through a First Nations lens online at the Koorie Heritage Trust.

First Nations people, their stories and images have been obscured and manipulated throughout history. *Affirmation* empowers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to tell their own stories, capture their own truths, and express themselves through their own lens.

The exhibition brings together some of Victoria's most exciting multi-disciplinary Indigenous photographers: Paola Balla (Wemba Wemba, Gunditjmarra), Deanne Gilson (Wadawurrung), Tashara Roberts (Dja Dja Wurrung, Yorta Yorta, English and German) and Pierra Van Sparkes (Pibbulman). Each artist will explore the concept of truth in the context of place, ancestral identity and cultural pride.

Paola Balla's powerful *Mok Mok* series enacts a version of Mok Mok in performative photography – she is a woman; both spiritual and physical, powerful, free and fearless.

"As Aboriginal women, we are at the intersection of colonial injuries including our gender/s, race, class and social positioning," Paola said.

"By subverting various forms of art and



The Mok Mok Cooking Show II, 2016, by Paola Balla.

resistance, we create and recreate strategies to respond and express 'survance', healing and daily acts of resistance and repair."

Deanne Gilson's practice looks closely at

the objectification of Aboriginal women by the male colonial gaze and how this has affected Aboriginal women and what was known as traditional women's business. Artworks look

at colonial disruption of loss of family, culture, language, traditional women's practices and how this continues to impact Aboriginal women today.

"My artwork aims to show the history of place and memory, as this is part of my DNA," Deane said.

"It acts as a tool to bring back women's business, the importance of passing down traditional marks and performing ceremonies, along with showing the brutal actions of the colonial men, who abused all of my women. Not one of them escaped the actions of what followed on from the first fleet.

"I am taking back my strength, performing ceremony through my art practice and keeping my culture alive today. I am a proud Wadawurrung woman and challenging those that didn't want us to exist."

Along with the online video exhibition, the *Affirmation* catalogue is also available online at:

<https://koorieheritagetrust.com.au/whats-on/exhibitions/affirmation/>

There will also be a free live zoom exhibition tour on Wednesday, May 13, starting at 2pm with KHT curatorial manager Gail Harradine and chief executive Tom Mosby. KHT will also be hosting a free zoom artist panel discussion at 2pm, on Saturday, May 23.

Therapists learn to use creative play in novel approach to addressing trauma



A NEW course at Charles Darwin University focuses on the healing power of art, music, play and dance.

The Graduate Certificate and Diploma in Creative Therapies will teach students how to apply creative healing practices from Indigenous and cross-cultural perspectives when working with people who have experienced trauma.

The course follows the success of the 'Turn 'em around' healing model, developed by CDU lecturer and researcher in the College of Health and Human Sciences Dr Michelle Moss and Larrakia artist and healer Anthony Duwun Lee.

The model used art and play therapy tools, including 12 handmade Indigenous marionettes, to raise awareness about child trauma, safety and to help communities talk about tough issues.

Dr Moss said the new Creative Therapies course would draw on the success of the 'Turn 'em around' model, blending Western approaches with Indigenous healing practices to help alleviate the impact of trauma in some of Australia's most disadvantaged communities.

"Indigenous people in Australia have experienced trauma through colonisation and dispossession, with significant impacts on people's connection to country, language, culture and identity," Dr Moss said.

"This ongoing cycle of trauma is having devastating effects on remote communities, creating greater disadvantage and poorer health and wellbeing outcomes.

"We know standard methods



Larrakia artist and healer Anthony Duwun Lee and Charles Darwin University's Dr Michelle Moss with the 'Turn 'em around' marionettes that have inspired a new creative therapies course.

of therapy do not work for many Indigenous people.

"This course aims to change the way care is delivered by training highly skilled Indigenous and non-Indigenous creative therapists."

Dr Moss said the course would teach students how to harness creative tools to connect, nurture, and educate. She said

creative therapy could be delivered through a range of methods, including art, music, play, dance and storytelling.

"The course has been developed collaboratively with Indigenous knowledge holders who know how to deliver care and therapy in a way that works in remote communities," she said.

"All the teaching and study

units will be supported by Indigenous knowledge and healing practices, and we encourage as many Indigenous students as possible to apply.

"We want all our future students to know that this course will provide an accessible way for people to begin higher education study. If you're interested, let's have a yarn and make it happen."

The Creative Therapies graduate certificate and diploma have been designed for people working in health, community services, justice, education, as well as those who work in Aboriginal and cross-cultural communities.

The course will be delivered flexibly online and is scheduled to begin in semester 2.

Leonie is one step closer to being fully qualified

By ALF WILSON



PROUD Aboriginal mother of three Leonie Johnston is a step closer to becoming a fully qualified social worker, thanks to a placement at the Salvation Army's Townsville

Recovery Services, as part of her Social Work (Honours) degree with Central Queensland University.

For most of her adult life, Leonie has been working as a de facto social worker, with a passion for helping Indigenous people who are struggling with drug and alcohol addiction and mental health issues.

Leonie was among the inaugural recipients of the Northern Queensland Primary Health Network Social Work Scholarship, which provides funding to support CQUni Social Work students doing their field placement with an accredited not-for-profit organisation specialising in alcohol and other drug issues.



Leonie Johnston is studying to become a social worker.

She said she learnt a lot about her Aboriginal culture from the Ngadjonji Elders of the Malanda area, near Cairns, but is still disappointed that she left school at the end of Year 10.

"Back then it was not considered important for girls to gain an education and, as the oldest girl, I was expected to go into the workforce," Leonie said.

Due to her family moving to Mount Isa, Leonie's first paid role was as a liaison officer for the local Healy State School, where she encouraged others to progress their education.

She then started a teaching degree but felt she did not have enough support to complete it.

Leonie continued with a range of roles, providing support and encouragement for Aboriginal people.

These included teacher aide roles, disability support roles, and roles with a mental health rehabilitation unit.

"I went to remote communities to assess people and then brought them to the rehabilitation centre and then back to their community, sometimes months later, so I had to keep in touch with their community and set up meetings so they were not too homesick

and had access to the skills, services and medications they needed longer-term," she said.

Leonie is now pursuing her passion to become a fully-fledged social worker and acknowledges she may have to step aside from her busy volunteer roles on several community boards to see the degree through to completion.

The mum-of-three is also guiding her own children in the early stages of their own career journeys.

Her eldest daughter looks like following a similar path, as she is already a coordinator with the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

"One positive these days is that Indigenous people now have more health service options to help close the gap in life expectancy," Leonie said.

"Pursuing my qualification as a social worker will help me with the big picture of helping Aboriginal people to close the gap in all areas of their lives."



Yorta Yorta man Cormach Evans, the founder of Ngarrimili.

Ngarrimili offers helping hand



VICTORIAN Indigenous business incubator Ngarrimili is offering to support First Nations businesses during the COVID-19 crisis.

Meaning 'to dance' in Wadawurrung, Ngarrimili was established to nurture and support business and entrepreneurship opportunities amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Victoria.

Yorta Yorta man Cormach Evans, the chief executive and founder of Ngarrimili (and also Strong Brother Strong Sister), a business that works with Aboriginal young people at risk, said that one of the many strengths of Indigenous businesspeople is their willingness to help one another.

"We would like to express our respect and gratitude to the First Nations Business community and highlight the determination and excellent support we all have continued

to provide to one another throughout this time," he said.

"You are not in this alone, Ngarrimili is here to support you and will continue to support you as we move through these challenging times. We value you, your business, your vision, your strength, your pride, your communities and families and all the incredible work you continue to create and deliver.

"Are you a First Nations business owner, artist or creative in Vic that would like a bit of extra support with

everything that's going on?" Cormach posted on Facebook.

"We have experienced First Nations professionals available to provide you with free, confidential wellbeing support and business coaching.

"Whether it's just to have a yarn or to look at how you can adapt your business to meet the changing times (or anything in between!).

"Email us at info@ngarrimili.org.au or call 0432244460 to have a chat about what might work for you. "Stay well."



Barayamal chief executive Dean Foley.
Picture: Lauren Trompp

Barayamal runs programs online



AS Australian entrepreneurs adapt their business models to a world of remote working and disruption, Barayamal is taking its business accelerator

programs online to continue supporting First Nations entrepreneurs.

The Barayamal Virtual Accelerator has launched and is designed for First Nations people who are interested in learning how to take their business to the next level and take control of their future. It's self-determination through First Nations entrepreneurship.

Dean Foley, First Nations entrepreneur and Barayamal chief executive, said that the digital economy has the potential to be a gamechanger for First Nations people and communities.

"Barayamal programs are about inspiring and supporting the next generation of First Nations entrepreneurs," he said.

"It's essential to keep supporting First Nations entrepreneurship development in this disruptive and fast-changing global economy because there will be new opportunities arising from these challenging times that can benefit our communities. Traditional or grassroots First Nations Entrepreneurship can change the world for the better."

Support for businesses moving to work online



INDIGENOUS Business Australia (IBA) is offering online assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses who need a helping hand adjusting to working remotely.

IBA is running a Remote Working Webinar, which will be facilitated by Gamilaroi designer and founder of Relative Creative Dr Tristan Schultz.

"Working online due to COVID-19? Needing to run workshops remotely?" an IBA spokesperson said.

"To offer additional support as we get used to working remotely and what this means for business, Indigenous Business Australia is excited to announce that we are running a Remote Working Webinar, designed by Relative Creative and facilitated by Dr Tristan Schultz.

"We have a number of sessions, limited to 30 Aboriginal and/or Torres

Strait Islander participants per session.

"Never before have we all needed to rapidly learn remote ways of working. COVID-19 has ruled out getting together face-to-face, but if you're anything like we are, the work must go on: the thinking, mapping, designing, collaborating, facilitating and strategising projects, programs, models, events and ways through wicked problems.

"We now need to come together online to do this work. After all, amidst our everyday lives being transformed the rest of our concerns, ambitions and battles rage on."

The 3-hour webinar will include:

- Principles of remote working – how to make the best out of the online space.
- People – who is involved in a session and what roles will they play.
- Facilitation tools – what is available and what tools suit different situations.
- Strategic tools – ensuring your work

maintains criticality.

● Examples of remote working.

"This webinar is designed for anyone with an existing foundational understanding of using online communication tools. If you can use email, you're ready enough for this," said a spokesperson from IBA.

There will be sessions on Thursday, May 7, from 2-5pm (EST) and Monday, May 11, 9am-midday (AEST).

The webinar is designed for anyone having to make the switch from face-to-face collaboration to working with people online.

Dr Tristan Schultz will host the session with support from Indigenous Business Australia.

A Zoom link will be provided on the day of the event.

To register go to <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/remot-e-working-webinar-with-relative-creative-tickets-102865118338>



Dr Tristan Schultz is facilitating a Remote Working Webinar for First Nations businesses.

Translation an effective way to convey COVID-19 advice to Torres Strait Elders



MERIBA Ged Ngalpun Mab (MGNM), meaning 'Our shared place, our pathway together', is an

Indigenous organisation based in the Torres Strait Islands helping the local community stay safe by translating important COVID-19 health messages into the languages of the Torres Strait people.

Elders on Erub Island have been the first to receive social distancing advice and hand hygiene recommendations in their traditional language.

As a member of the Torres Strait Disaster Management Committee, MGNM is supporting initiatives that will help protect vulnerable communities from the COVID-19 virus.

MGNM manager Peter Pilot-Wakaisu said that local solutions were required to keep the community safe from current health risks.

"Caring for our community is important to us, especially during tough times.

"We saw an opportunity to help our Elders access critical information that protects them and their community," he said.

"We have visited homes to explain social distancing, good hand hygiene and other measures that can stop the spread of coronavirus.

"We also delivered gift bags including some essentials like hand sanitiser, toilet



MGNM activity supervisors Fred Kiwat and Louisa Kiwat and MGNM engagement officer Jermaine Baker.

paper, and soap."

MGNM engagement officer Jermaine Baker and activity supervisors Louisa Kiwat and Fred Kiwat have been the driving force behind the Erub Elderly Community Gift Bag Project.

Jermaine said that Elders were grateful for the information and kindness they had received.

"We researched coronavirus health advice provided by governments

and health authorities and translated the information to traditional language," he said.

"Our Elders know how important it is to keep our distance, even though it is difficult to give up some traditional greetings for now.

"The gift bags are a way for us to say we care, and ensure our Elders are left with relevant information after we have left.

"Some had tears in their

eyes and were thankful for the chance to understand how they can keep safe."

The Erub Elderly Community Gift Bag Project was coordinated by MGNM staff in collaboration with donations from the Ged Erub Trading Homeland organisation.

It is one of the initiatives resulting from the Torres Strait Disaster Management Committee.



Erub resident Mrs Sailor receives a gift bag from MGNM activity supervisor Louisa Kiwat.



Louisa Kiwat offers Erub Island local Mrs Stephen information about keeping safe.

New research seeding grants aim to empower



A Research Seeding Grants program has been launched by the Lowitja Institute that will put research into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community hands.

Lowitja Institute CEO Ms Janine Mohamed said, "The Lowitja Institute, since its birth some 23 years ago, has wanted to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations to transform their ideas into research that meets the needs of, and is led and held by, their communities."

The Lowitja Institute Research Seeding Grants program is offering up to \$40,000 to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations. The grants will enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations the opportunity to

develop their research agenda and go on to attract research funding.

"This grants program reflects our new strategic plan and research priorities as we realise a long held dream of becoming a community-controlled national health research organisation," Ms Mohamed said.

The Seeding Grants will focus on the Lowitja Institute Research Agenda themes:

- Empowerment
- Sovereignty
- Connectedness, and
- Cultural safety and respectful systems in the health sector.

The Seeding Grants are the first step to express an interest in the Lowitja Institute Grant Funding Round in July 2020. A successful seeding project does not guarantee additional Lowitja Institute funding,

however seeding projects may be used to seek funding from other research funding sources.

In light of the COVID-19 public health emergency, applicants will need to consider a realistic timeframe for their project and address current public health guidelines and social distancing protocols in developing their project proposal.

Applicants are encouraged to adopt new ways such as online platforms to facilitate the development of their Seeding Grant applications.

Live drop-in Q&A sessions will be held from April 29 to May 8 (registrations at EventBrite).

A full information pack is available from the Lowitja Institute website or email alex.zurawski@lowitja.org.au

Applications close Friday, May 22, 2020.



Lowitja Institute CEO Ms Janine Mohamed.

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Mother and son team paints town centre



MOTHER and son Edie Buodoon Ulrich and Danny Geegoo Ulrich have teamed up to show shoppers in Kalgoorlie a snapshot of the local Aboriginal culture.

Last month Coles unveiled two artworks by Edie and Danny at the Hannans Boulevard Shopping Centre.

The two artworks will breathe new life into the centre, with a bright and vibrant landscape piece on the external windows, and a mural on the outside of the centre featuring the portraits of an Aboriginal man and woman.

Danny Ulrich said he was inspired by his mother to become an artist from the age of 12, and the inspiration for these artworks came from growing up in the Goldfields.

"My mother created the landscape artwork, by taking inspiration from the nature that surrounds us, and I drew inspiration from my family members when painting the mural of the two faces," he said.

"This mural is a reflection of the history and pride the Aboriginal people have, especially in Kalgoorlie.

"It will tell a story of our past and future so it's an honour to have our artwork displayed in the Centre."

Coles Indigenous Engagement Advisor Martin Taylor said the artwork is part of a wider Coles initiative to reinvigorate the shopping centre, which recently started offering short term and low-cost leases to small businesses and community groups, allowing them to trial new concepts and work spaces.

Mr Taylor said the project was a significant acknowledgement of local Aboriginal culture in the Goldfields region.

"It's important that our stores and team members are connected to the cultures in the communities in which we operate," he said. "Aboriginal art is such a great cultural gift and Coles is excited to celebrate that culture with these two amazing pieces of art."

Coles has Indigenous artwork across all its Northern Territory supermarkets, with further artworks displayed at the Broome and Mount Isa stores.



Artist Danny Geegoo Ulrich and Coles Kalgoorlie manager Josh.

"My mother created the landscape artwork, by taking inspiration from the nature that surrounds us, and I drew inspiration from my family members when painting the mural of the two faces."

– Danny Geegoo Ulrich

Coles is now recognised as the largest private-sector employer of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with more than 4,800 team members working across the country. The company has committed to further increase its Indigenous workforce to more than 5,500 team members by 2023.



Edie Buodoon Ulrich created a vibrant landscape for the shopping centre window.

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

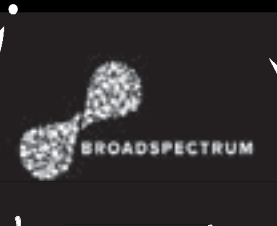
**Koori Mail – Our ABC audit means our readership is guaranteed.
No other newspaper aimed at the Indigenous market can offer this!**

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We're Hiring

.....

BroadSpectrum invests in employment parity for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders.

As an essential services provider, we are continuing to hire people with all different types of experience and skills. Apply today or contact our Indigenous employment team at iepi@broadpectrum.com for support or information.

.....

<https://jobs.broadpectrum.com/>
 <https://www.facebook.com/BroadpectrumIEPI>



Child Protection Practitioners



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.



Health
Justice Health and
Forensic Mental Health Network

Aboriginal Mental Health Worker

Location: The Forensic Hospital, Malabar NSW
 Employment Status: Permanent Full-Time/
 Permanent Part-Time
 Salary: \$54,220 - \$79,857 per annum
 Enquiries: Kevin.Brown@health.nsw.gov.au

Closing Date: 13 May 2020

Applications must be lodged electronically. Please go to healthnswgov.referrals.selectminds.com and search Job Reference Number REQ162520.

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

I work FOR NSW



Clinical Nurse Consultant - Grade 2

Department: Hunter New England LHD
 Integrated Chronic Care for Aboriginal People
 Narrabri Community Health Service
 Enquiries: Margo Carberry (02) 6799 2903

This is a targeted Aboriginal Position.
 Preference will be given to applicants of Aboriginal descent. Exemption is claimed under S21 of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977*. Aboriginal applicants must demonstrate Aboriginality in addition to addressing the selection criteria.

Closing Date: 30 June 2020

Applications must be lodged electronically. Please go to healthnswgov.referrals.selectminds.com and search Job Reference Number REQ162756.

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

I work FOR NSW




Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer Program Coordinator

- NSW Police Force
- Clerk Grade 9/10
- Aboriginal Identified Role
- Performance & Program Support Command
- Parramatta
- Ongoing Full-Time

The Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer Program Coordinator is to coordinate and develop the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer Program, as a key mechanism for responsive and effective service delivery to Aboriginal communities. This role also acts as the conduit between the local and corporate in identification of risks, policing and community needs, emerging issues, strategies and priorities towards an integrated and responsive approach to police and Aboriginal communities.

Essential requirements for this role:

- Aboriginality and a sound knowledge of Aboriginal heritage and culture;
- Current Drivers Licence (clear driving record for 6 months); **and**
- Current Working with Children Check (WWCC) clearance.
- Demonstrated experience in program initiation, development, implementation and review.
- Experience in negotiating with complex and multiple stakeholders.
- Experience in developing and managing strategic projects within budget and timeframes.
- Experience in working with Aboriginal communities, organisations and stakeholders.
- Tertiary qualifications in a relevant discipline or equivalent experience.

For further assistance in completing your application please contact the **Aboriginal Employment Team** on (02) 8835 9021 or via email: haboriginal@police.nsw.gov.au

Applications Close: Sunday 17 May 2020
 Please contact Kelly Rose on (02) 9768 0705 for any role enquiries.

For the targeted questions, a downloadable role description, information package and to apply, please go to *I Work for NSW* (iworkfor.nsw.gov.au) and search for Requisition Number 00007PX3.

I work FOR NSW



Aboriginal Health Worker (Identified) - Family Support Worker - Port Macquarie Base Hospital

Department: Mid North Coast Local Health District
Employment Type: Temporary Full-Time (May 2020 to 29 July 2022)
Position Classification: Aboriginal Health Worker
Remuneration: \$54,220 - \$79,857 pa
Hours Per Week: 38
Enquiries: Narelle Cochrane on Narelle.Cochrane@health.nsw.gov.au

To provide flexible, holistic and culturally sensitive health services to Aboriginal clients and the community to achieve better health outcomes and better access to health services for Aboriginal people within the Mid North Coast Local Health District.

Applicants for this position must be of Aboriginal descent through parentage, identify as being Aboriginal and be accepted in the community as such. All applicants must supply either a letter of Aboriginality signed under the common seal from a recognised incorporated Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Community organisation such as Land Council or Elders group, Aboriginal Medical Service or a letter on letterhead from a Local Aboriginal Land Council demonstrating membership of the Council.

An applicant's race is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised under Section 14(d) of the *NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977*.

Closing Date: 5 May 2020

Applications must be lodged electronically. Please go to healthnswgov.referrals.selectminds.com and search Job Reference Number REQ155898.

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

I work FOR NSW



Aboriginal Engagement Coordinator (Identified)

- Permanent Full Time
- Wollongong or Shellharbour Campus
- Senior Education Officer - \$119,913 - \$122,881 plus superannuation and leave loading

TAFE NSW is committed to creating a diverse, inclusive and flexible workforce, which reflects the community and the customers we serve. We recognise that Aboriginal employees enhance our workforce diversity and improve the services we deliver, particularly for Aboriginal communities.

The Aboriginal Engagement Coordinator, in collaboration with a diverse range of stakeholders, provides advice and support to ensure local TAFE NSW initiatives, programs, products and services meet the needs of Aboriginal communities and students. This includes supporting the development of culturally appropriate courses and subjects to ensure genuine and authentic Aboriginal content and ensuring cultural integrity.

Note 1: This is an identified position in accordance with Section 14 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977. Applicants selected for an interview will be required to provide "Confirmation of Aboriginality" documentation at interview.

Note 2: To apply please visit www.iworkfor.nsw.gov.au – enter job reference number 00007PUD

Enquiries: Jason Lonesborough, Senior Manager Aboriginal Engagement, on 0447 181 177

Closing Date: Friday 22 May 2020



Aboriginal
Affairs



Assistant Project Officer

- Clerk Grade 5/6
- Temporary full-time until 30 June 2021
- Position number and location: 199667 – Mascot
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander candidates are encouraged to apply

Total remuneration package: \$104,561 p.a. Package includes salary (\$85,488 - \$94,327 p.a.), employer's contribution to superannuation and annual leave loading.

Aboriginal Affairs NSW works alongside Aboriginal people and communities to make sure their voices are heard and their interests represented in government. By leading and influencing policy change in government, we support the long-term social, cultural and economic aspirations of Aboriginal people in NSW. Our agency works closely with Aboriginal communities and our staffing reflects the diversity of these communities. Over 50 percent of our staff, including senior leadership, identify as Aboriginal. We are also committed to providing a culturally safe and supportive workplace with flexible working arrangements for all staff. To learn more about our work visit www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au

About the role

The Assistant Project Officer assists in a range of project research, analysis, reporting, implementation and administration activities, to support the delivery of the Directorate's projects and work programs, in line with established project plans, objectives and ongoing governance mechanisms.

The role works across all program areas in the Directorate to support the smooth and effective functioning of the Directorate, and the coordinated delivery of projects relating to NSW Governments commitments under OCHRE and Unfinished Business as they relate to social policy, healing, reparations and family records for Stolen Generations and Aboriginal communities.

How to apply

If you are interested in this role please apply online and include, a covering letter (maximum of 2 pages) and your resume (maximum 5 pages) in either Word or PDF format which clearly details how your capabilities, knowledge and experience can contribute to the success of the Directorate. Please also include the name and contact details of two referees. Please address the pre-screening questions and essential requirement. We are looking for you to demonstrate your competence in the focus capabilities as outlined in the role description in your answer, so please develop your response with this in mind.

Note: it is a requirement that all candidates submit their applications online via iworkfor.nsw

No paper based, email based or late applications will be accepted.

Pre-screening questions:

1. The Assistant Project Officer is required to assist in the coordination and implementation of multiple projects involving multi-disciplinary teams. Please provide an example of your project management experience working collaboratively within a team environment. (300 words maximum).
2. The Assistant Project Officer requires an ability to analyse and communicate project data and information to internal and external stakeholders using sensitivity and discretion as required. Please provide an example of your experience in analysing and communicating project information both in writing and verbally, to a range of audiences. (300 words maximum).

Essential Requirements:

Demonstrated ability to communicate sensitively and effectively with, and understand issues impacting on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The selection process will include a range of assessment techniques to assist in determining your suitability for the role.

Applications Close: 20 May 2020

Enquiries: Sita Balshaw (02) 8362 6642 or by email to sita.balshaw@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au

To apply online please visit iworkfor.nsw website and refer to the following keywords: 199667

I work
FOR
NSW

BLZ_KH0125



Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership in Social and Emotional Wellbeing, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

**INTERESTED IN SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING,
MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION?**

APPLY NOW

SENIOR POLICY AND RESEARCH OFFICER
identified position

POLICY AND PROJECT OFFICER
two positions

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

CANBERRA BASED

Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia began operating in late March 2020. The new Indigenous led and independent organisation aims to be a national inclusive representative Indigenous voice, leader and advocate for system-wide changes to approaches to our social and emotional wellbeing, mental health and suicide prevention.

go to www.gayaadhuwi.org.au

**APPLICATIONS WITH CURRICULUM VITAE MUST BE RECEIVED
BY 5.00 PM AEST, 18 MAY 2020.**



MANAGER, CASEWORK INTENSIVE FAMILY WORKER FOSTER CARER REVIEW & ASSESSMENT WORKER

Ngunya Jarjum's vision is that all Aboriginal and Torres Strait children and young people are looked after in safe Aboriginal and Torres Strait families and communities and are raised strong in spirit and identity, with every opportunity for lifelong wellbeing.

The Office of the Children's Guardian has recently awarded Ngunya Jarjum five years accreditation giving great stability and further growth opportunities. To support this growth Ngunya Jarjum is looking to further expand our team.

These positions are identified for Aboriginal people and exemption is claimed under 14d of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.

Manager of Casework (Out of Home Care)

As part of the Out of Home Care (OOHC) team, your focus will be managing, guiding and supporting a casework team to provide support and supervision to children in Ngunya Jarjum's permanency support program (PSP) and to achieve quality outcomes for the children placed with the service. Key objectives include to:

- Ensure case practice is delivered to a high professional standard and in a manner that promotes culture, safety, welfare and wellbeing, family and community connections of children placed in Ngunya Jarjum's care;
- Ensure services are delivered in line with established Ngunya Jarjum policies and procedures, Office of Children's Guardian (OCG) standards and in compliance with the relevant legislation in NSW;
- Work in a manner that ensures sound community networks and fosters and maintains positive interagency relationships.

You will need qualifications in Community Services or a related discipline or be willing to obtain this within 12 months of commencement. Extensive experience in managing PSP in an Aboriginal community environment and demonstrated ability to engage & work effectively with Aboriginal people and communities are also required.

Intensive Family Worker (Family Preservation)

As part of the Gumaguy ('family') team your focus will be providing support to families to achieve quality outcomes for children living at home with their parents. The key objectives of the role include:

- Engage with and work alongside of families toward change, addressing safety and risk concerns affecting the children.
- Ensure case practice is delivered to a high professional standard and in a timely manner that promotes the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children living with their families.
- Provide on-call support to vulnerable families as required, intensive and regular in-home visiting services.
- Support the family to build and identify strengths, advocate and link families to appropriate services.
- Work closely with community networks and maintain positive interagency relationships.

You will need a Diploma Community Services or be willing to obtain this within 12 months of commencement. Experience working in a permanency support program environment or related industry and strong casework skills are essential.

Foster Carer Review & Assessment Worker (Out of Home Care)

In this role you will be providing high-quality carer reviews and assessments. Key objectives include to ensure:

- reviews and assessments are culturally appropriate and completed to a high professional standard;
- Documentation is managed in accordance with Ngunya Jarjum system requirements;
- Education is provided to team members on carer support and compliance practices.

Experience in the child protection sector with excellent understanding of standards, legislation and Office of Children's Guardian (OCG) requirements is essential. Experience in foster carer reviews and assessments will be highly regarded.



THARAWAL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Positions Vacant

A POLICE CHECK, WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK AND DRIVERS LICENCE ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL POSITIONS. TO BE CONSIDERED, ALL APPLICANTS MUST OBTAIN A COPY OF THE POSITION DESCRIPTION AND ADDRESS THE SELECTION CRITERIA IN WRITING

For more information please email: TharawalAMS@tacams.com.au

ALL APPLICATIONS CLOSE 5PM 22ND MAY 2020

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Full-time fixed term contract. Salary negotiable, based on experience.
Minimum 3 years' experience in senior management in a health environment.
Knowledge of health and social issues impacting Aboriginal people.
Extensive experience of managing staff, budgets and programs.
Aboriginality is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised under 14 (d) of the Anti-Discrimination Act (1977).

MANAGER SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELLBEING TEAM

Full-time fixed term contract with the possibility of extension.
Minimum 2 years' demonstrated experience in management, preferably the health sector.
Preferably demonstrated experience and knowledge in the AOD and Mental Health Sector, particularly with issues relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
Aboriginality is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised under 14 (d) of the Anti-Discrimination Act (1977).

ABORIGINAL MENTAL HEALTH WORKER

Full-time fixed term contract with the possibility of extension.
2 years+ demonstrated experience and a tertiary qualification.
High level of knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal young people and their communities.
Demonstrated experience in providing culturally appropriate, recovery orientated, evidence-based assessment and interventions.
Aboriginality is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised under 14 (d) of the Anti-Discrimination Act (1977).

SENIOR ABORIGINAL YOUTH WORKER

Full-time fixed term contract with the possibility of extension.
2 years+ demonstrated experience and a tertiary qualification.
High level of knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal young people and their communities.
Aboriginality is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised under 14 (d) of the Anti-Discrimination Act (1977).

PSYCHOLOGIST

Fixed term contract, 3 days per week. Salary negotiable, based on experience.
Ability to provide high quality, culturally appropriate and safe engagement, assessment, treatment and support to young people and their families.
Ability to provide evidence-based counselling interventions for young people.

ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS NURSE

Fulltime fixed term contract with the possibility of extension.
Registered Nurse with current AHPRA registration.
Demonstrated high level of knowledge and understanding of drug and alcohol issues specifically for Aboriginal people and their communities.

ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT/DATA ENTRY OFFICER

Fixed term contract, 3 days per week.
Demonstrated experience in data entry.
Demonstrated experience in customer service.
Ability to complete accurate data entry and writing.
Professional and friendly phone manner.



Thungutti Local Aboriginal Land Council

Exciting Management Role with Great Benefits!!! (Salary up to \$80,000.00 plus Salary Sacrifice benefits)

Are you looking for an exciting new challenge and have a desire to work directly with community members in a rewarding and fulfilling career? The Thungutti Local Aboriginal Land Council (TLALC) are searching for an experienced and committed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who can take the organisation in a positive direction and accomplish a number of key projects that will secure the financial future of the TLALC. This role requires a person with key organisation and planning skills and an ability to multi task You will be surrounded by a supportive and committed Board and Membership and have access to great salary benefits including salary sacrificing. The TLALC are one of the region's largest land owners and have unlimited potential in terms of economic and social development opportunities. For information on the position and to obtain a recruitment package please contact the contact officer Ken Craig on 0265 672 050 or tlalc.lot8@gmail.com to obtain further information.

"This is an Aboriginal Identified Position. Aboriginality is a genuine occupational qualification as authorised by Part 2, division 2, Section 14(d) of the Anti-Discrimination Act, 1977"

Applications marked "Confidential" and posted to:
The Contact Officer
Post Office Bellbrook NSW 2440 or e-mailed to above address.

Applications close: 20 May 2020



AGENCY FOR
CLINICAL
INNOVATION

Project Officer, Leading Better Value Care

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 an organisation passionate about delivering improved health care.
- Lead the ACI support role for the NSW Health Leading Better Value Care initiatives, primarily those with a diabetes focus
- Flexible Working Organisation based in Chatswood and will be moving to state of the art, agile offices in St Leonards in mid-2020.

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>

What you will be doing

This role will predominantly work with the Diabetes and Endocrine Network which supports a range of NSW Health system wide initiatives to improve the care of people living with diabetes. You play a key implementation support for the diabetes related Leading Better Value Care initiatives. In addition, this role will work flexibly to support other key initiatives in the system focused on improving patient care.

A copy of the full position description can be accessed online.

We are looking for

- A self-driven person, experienced in working in a multi-disciplinary team with great time management skills.
- Experience working in a health system with a focus on systems improvement
- Interest and experience in improving diabetes care across the continuum of care
- Sound project management skills
- Excellent communication and stakeholder management skills

Employment details

Employment Type: Permanent Full-Time
Position Classification: Health Manager Level 3
Remuneration: \$113,735 - \$129,658 pa
Hours Per Week: 38
Requisition ID: REQ162534

How to apply

Please refer to details on how to apply and selection criteria by accessing the link below.

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 permanent position and requires **full working rights in Australia**. If you currently hold a temporary visa that allows you to live and work in Australia, you may be eligible for employment opportunities in line with the conditions of your visa..

Closing Date: 11:59pm 20 May 2020

If you would like more information on this role please contact Kate Lloyd, Stream Manager, Chronic and Long Term Care on 0467 603 578.

Applications must be lodged electronically. Please go to healthnswgov.referrals.selectminds.com and search Job Reference Number REQ162534.

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

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NSW

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or call 02 6622 2666**



ABORIGINAL RANGER PROGRAM

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

EXTENDED TO 29 MAY 2020

The Aboriginal Ranger Program is a \$20 million, five-year investment by the McGowan Government.

The program is assisting Aboriginal communities to develop and implement successful and sustainable Aboriginal Ranger employment programs to provide jobs, protect the environment and provide social and economic benefits to Aboriginal people in regional and remote areas.

Applications are still open for funding under Round 3 of the program and Aboriginal organisations are invited to apply.



Guidelines and an expression of interest application form for Round 3 can be accessed from: dbca.wa.gov.au/aboriginalrangerprogram

2020_37 0120

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Koorie Engagement Support Officer - ES 1.4

Salary Range: \$84,394 to \$99,507

1 Fixed Term Position – South-Western Victoria Region

The Victorian Department of Education & Training is seeking a suitably qualified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to work in South-Western Victoria Region in the position of Koorie Engagement Support Officer. The position is based in Ballarat and will support schools and early childhood services in the Central Highlands Area. Successful applicants will be part of the regional Koorie Education Workforce responsible for the implementation of the Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan 2016-2026.

The role includes facilitating and supporting the delivery of programs for Koorie children and young people from early childhood to school completion. Successful applicants should possess strong leadership skills to ensure the successful delivery of educational support services. They will be required to provide advice to schools, kindergartens, families and the Koorie community on strategies for improving educational outcomes for Koorie children and young people.

Applicants must have a high level of understanding of Koorie education and community needs, and knowledge of Koorie culture. Suitable qualifications are desirable.

This role is an identified position and is available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants only. **VCAT exemption # A195/2009**

Applicants are encouraged to apply on-line via the Recruitment Online website at **www.education.vic.gov.au/schooljobs**

Please refer to Job Opening **1190129**

Applications close: **Thursday, 14 May 2020**

Contact Chris Mackenzie : Service Support Manager

Email: **mackenzie.chris.j@edumail.vic.gov.au** Ph: **03 4334 0533 or 0417 551 544**



FR1732

Aboriginal Mental Health Professional (Transfer of Care) Permanent Full-Time

Department: South Western Sydney LHD
Remuneration: Dependant on Qualifications (SW/OT/COUN Lvl 1/2, RN or PSY)
Enquiries: Ann Baker on 0459 871 540

In this role 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: 31 May 2020

Applications must be lodged electronically. Please go to healthnswgov.referrals.selectminds.com and search Job Reference Number REQ159634.

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

BLZ KH0126

I work FOR NSW



WATER NSW LOWER MURRAY GROUNDWATER WATER SOURCE

An application for a WATER SUPPLY WORKS APPROVAL has been received from: **LONGREACH RURAL PTY LTD** for a bore (proposed diameter 375mm) on Lot 24 DP756509, Parish Barrabu, County Wakool for irrigation and stock purposes. (Application No. A23242).
Objections to granting of this Approval must be registered in writing to Water NSW, 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 Regulation Officer South.
KH0114

WATERNSW MARYVALE GEURIE CREEK WATER SOURCE

An application for a NEW WATER SUPPLY WORK APPROVAL has been received from **HOLCIM (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD** for one existing quarry (excavation) which intercepts surface water run-off (136 megalitres), located on Lot 222 DP 1247780, Parish of Dubbo, County of Lincoln. (Ref: A023199).
Objections to the granting of the above approvals must be forwarded to WaterNSW, PO Box 1018, DUBBO NSW 2830 or 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.
Rob Kardell, Water Regulation Officer North.
KH0105

WATERNSW UPPER NAMOI ZONE 4 NAMOI VALLEY (KEEPIT DAM TO GIN'S LEAP) GROUNDWATER SOURCE

An application for a NEW WATER SUPPLY WORK AND USE APPROVAL has been received from **S W AND C J HUNT** for Two (2) existing Groundwater Works/Bores on Lot 2 DP31263 to be used for Irrigation, Horticulture and Commercial purposes on Lot 2 DP31263 and Lot 1 DP1120610, County of Nandewar, Parish of Burdigate. (A020643).
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 and specify the grounds of objection.
Any queries please call 1300 662 077 or email the above.
Ben Hutt, Water Regulation Officer North.
KH0124

WATERNSW HUNTER REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE

An application to for a WATER SUPPLY WORK AND USE APPROVAL has been received by **JONATHAN DEAN & KRISTY LEE FITZGERALD** for a 65 mm centrifugal pump on Lot 3 DP 1177474 for the purpose of irrigation.

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to WaterNSW PO Box 2157 Dangar NSW 2309 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. (A023463)

Any queries please call 1300 662 077 or email the above.

Paula Douglas Water Regulation Officer, Coastal.

KH0120

WATERNSW HUNTER REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE

An application to for a WATER SUPPLY WORK AND USE APPROVAL has been received by **PAUL BERNARD & ELAINE URSULA KAUTER** for a 50 mm centrifugal pump on Lot 8 DP 1088883 for the purpose of irrigation.

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to WaterNSW PO Box 2157 Dangar NSW 2309 or email to customer.helpdesk@waterNSW.com.au within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address to specify the grounds of the objection. (A023462)

Any queries please call 1300 662 077 or email the above.

Paula Douglas, Water Regulation Officer Coastal.

KH0121

Transport for NSW

Aboriginal Heritage Hillsborough Road and Chadwick Street upgrade

Transport for NSW invites Aboriginal people and Aboriginal groups who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and places for Hillsborough Road and Chadwick Street to register to be consulted.

Transport proposes to upgrade the intersection of Hillsborough Road and Chadwick Street including installing traffic lights. The project will also involve widening Hillsborough Road between the Newcastle Inner City Bypass and Barker Avenue at Hillsborough.

The proposal may result in Transport for NSW:

- Applying for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) under Part 6 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, and/or
- Undertaking investigations in accordance with the *Code of practice for archaeological investigations in NSW 2010*, and/or
- Undertaking an environmental impact assessment under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.

To register your interest, please contact: Kate Hagan
Kate.Hagan@transport.nsw.gov.au
(02) 4908 7534
Locked Bag 2030, Newcastle NSW 2300.

Registrations must be received by phone or in writing by 25 May 2020.

BLZ SB1334

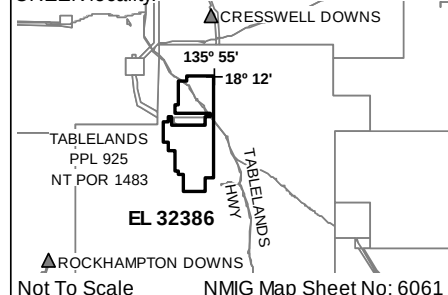
NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION LICENCES

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

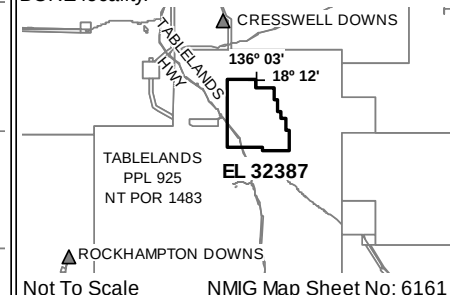
The Honourable Paul Kirby MLA, the Northern Territory Minister for Primary Industry and Resources, C/- Department of Primary Industry and Resources, GPO Box 4550 DARWIN NT 0801, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth) of his intent to do an act, namely to grant the following exploration licence applications.

Applications to which this notice applies:

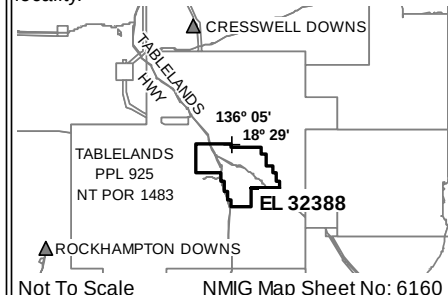
Exploration Licence 32386 sought by BAUDIN RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 618 455 593 over an area of 250 Blocks (815 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the CORELLA CREEK locality.



Exploration Licence 32387 sought by BAUDIN RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 618 455 593 over an area of 250 Blocks (815 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the PARADISE BORE locality.



Exploration Licence 32388 sought by BAUDIN RESOURCES PTY LTD, ACN 618 455 593 over an area of 250 Blocks (814 km²) depicted below for a term of 6 years, within the BOREE locality.



Nature of act(s): The grant of an exploration licence under the *Mineral Titles Act 2010* authorises the holder to conduct activities in connection with exploration for minerals for a term not exceeding 6 years and to seek renewal(s). The term for which it is intended to grant the mineral exploration licences referred to in this notice commences from the date of grant. Further information about the act may be obtained from the Department of Primary Industry and Resources, GPO Box 4550 Darwin NT 0801 or Centrepoint Building 48-50 Smith Street Darwin NT 0800, telephone (08) 8999 5322.

Native Title Parties: Any person who is, or becomes a "native title party" within the meaning of the *Native Title Act 1993* is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2, Division 3, Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act 1993*. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries concerning becoming a native title party should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, GPO Box 9973, Melbourne VIC 3001, or telephone (03) 9920 3000.

Expedited Procedure: The Northern Territory Government considers that the acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure as defined in section 237 of the *Native Title Act 1993*. The exploration licences referred to in this notice may be granted unless an objection is made by a native title party to the statement that the act is one which attracts the expedited procedure. Such an objection must be made to the National Native Title Tribunal within 4 months of the notification day.

Notification Day: 6 May 2020

FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA
NOTICE OF HEARING OF APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

Federal Court Proceedings NSD 520 of 2019

Gwen Dallis Barker v Santos Ltd

Notice is hereby given that the hearing of the Application for approval is on 28 May 2020

FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA
OPT OUT NOTICE AND CLASS ACTION NOTICE

Federal Court of Australia proceedings NSD 520 of 2019

Gwen Dallis Barker v Santos Limited

1. Why is this notice important?

This class action proceeding has been commenced in the Federal Court of Australia by Gwen Dallis Barker (“Barker”) against Santos Limited (“Santos”).

If you are a Wongkumara person who has at any time acted as a casual CHO on projects conducted by Santos Limited, you should read this notice carefully.

This notice contains important information about:

- (a) The class action against Santos Limited. Section 2 below explains what a class action is. Section 3 explains what this class action is about. Section 4 explains how to tell whether you are a group member represented in the class action (“Group Member”). Section 5 below explains who will be paying for the class action.
- (b) Your rights to “opt out” of the class action. Section 6 below explains what opting out means. Section 7 below explains how you can opt out of this class action.

Barker and Santos have agreed to settle this class action on terms which are at this stage confidential, save that the Court has said that the settlement will mean that Group Members will be entitled to make individual claims for payment as described in further notices to be issued at a later date.

The Federal Court has ordered that this notice be published. Any questions you have concerning the matters contained in this notice should not be directed to the Court. If there is anything in this notice that you do not understand, you should seek legal advice.

2. What is a class action?

A class action is a legal proceeding that is brought by an Applicant on their own behalf and on behalf of a group of other people against certain respondents. The Applicant and members of the group of other people must have similar claims against the respondents.

Group members are bound by any judgment or settlement in the class action unless they have **opted out** of the proceeding. This means that *unless* you opt out:

- (a) You may be able to participate in any settlement process and receive any settlement payments provided for if the proceeding is settled, or share in any Court-awarded damages if the class action is successful;
- (b) You will be bound by the dismissal of the case if the class action fails; and
- (c) You will not be able to sue about the matters that are the subject of the class action in separate legal proceedings.

3. What is this class action?

This class action concerns members of the Wongkumara People who have served as casual Cultural Heritage Monitors (“CHOs”) between about 2010 and 2019, on certain projects conducted by Santos in various locations in Queensland or New South Wales.

Under the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (“CHMP”) and Ancillary Agreement entered in 2010 (and amended in 2015) between Santos and certain endorsed parties on behalf of the Wongkumara People, persons acting as casual CHOs may have been entitled to be paid sums by way of travel allowance in addition to their ordinary daily pay for cultural heritage monitoring work.

In this class action, Barker alleges that she and other Wongkumara persons were employed by one of four companies (Interactive Community Planning Pty Ltd, Ochre Cultural Heritage Management Pty Ltd, Sandlewood Aboriginal Project Ltd and Ochre Community Consulting Pty Ltd) to act as casual CHOs for Santos, but were not paid the travel allowance amounts to which they were to be entitled under the CHMP and Ancillary Agreement.

Barker further alleges that Santos misled those companies by failing to advise them that casual CHOs were entitled to travel allowance amounts if they were “travelling more than two hours (one way) from home location to Brisbane”. That is alleged to have constituted misleading and deceptive conduct under s 18 of the Australian Consumer Law (Cth), by which conduct Barker and other casual CHOs suffered loss (being the amount of the travel allowance to which they were entitled but were not paid).

Barker further alleges that Santos made certain promises, to the effect that travel allowance would be paid in accordance with the terms of the Ancillary Agreement, which were and are enforceable by casual CHOs as third party beneficiaries under section 55 of the *Property Law Act 1974* (Qld).

Santos has not filed a Defence in the proceeding.

4. Are you a group member?

You are a group member in this class action if:

- (a) you were employed or contracted by any of:
 - (i) Interactive Community Planning Pty Ltd;
 - (ii) Ochre Cultural Heritage Management Pty Ltd;
 - (iii) Sandlewood Aboriginal Project Ltd;
 - (iv) Ochre Community Consulting Pty Ltd

as a Cultural Heritage Officer, for the purpose of conducting cultural heritage surveys and/or assessing whether cultural heritage clearance should be granted to Santos Limited for the undertaking of certain works pursuant to the Wongkumara Cultural Heritage Management Plan and Ancillary Agreement; and

- (b) you conducted such works as a casual Cultural Heritage Officer between the dates of 20 August 2010 and 8 April 2019; and
- (c) to perform such works, you were “travelling more than two hours (one way) from home location to Brisbane”; and
- (d) for any of these field placements, the pay you received did not include pay for an additional two days’ work, to compensate you for having to embark on such travel.

If you are unsure whether you are a group member, you should contact Eddy Neumann Lawyers on 02 9264 9933 or email en@eddyneumann.com.au or seek your own legal advice without delay.

5. The costs of the class action

The parties and the Court have not yet determined who will pay the costs of the class action. The parties remain in negotiation, but if there is no agreement between the parties then the Court will determine the question of costs at the same time as it determines whether to approve the settlement of the class action.

However, group members are not individually responsible for the legal costs of the class action. Only the Applicant or Santos (or both) will be responsible for those costs.

6. What does “Opt Out” mean?

The Applicant in a class action does not need to seek the consent of group members to commence a class action on their behalf or to identify a specific group member. However, group members can cease to be group members by opting out of the class action. An explanation of how group members are able to opt out is found just below.

7. How can you opt out of the class action and what will happen if you do?

If you opt out:

- (a) You will be at liberty to bring your own claim against Santos, provided that you issue Court proceedings within the time limit applicable to your claim. If you wish to bring your own claim, you should seek your own legal advice about your claim and the legal costs involved and the applicable time limit prior to opting out.
- (b) You will not be bound by, or entitled to share in any benefit of, any order, judgment or settlement in the class action.

If you do not wish to remain a group member you must opt out of the class action.

If you wish to opt out of the class action, you **must** do so by completing a “Notice of opting out by group member” in the form attached to this notice and marked “A”, then returning it to the New South Wales District Registry of the Federal Court of Australia by email at nswdr@fedcourt.gov.au. **IMPORTANT:** the notice you send must reach the Registry by no later than 4pm on 12 May 2020, otherwise it will not be effective.

Each group member seeking to opt out should fill out a separate form.

You are totally free to make up your own mind whether to give an opt-out notice or do nothing. You can also take advice about your options and the information contained in this Notice. Further information can be obtained by contacting Eddy Neumann Lawyers as set out above or any other lawyer of your choosing.

In deciding whether or not to opt out of the class action, you should know that the main terms of the proposed settlement are that:

- (a) Group members will be entitled to make a claim individually to a nominated Settlement Scheme Administrator (who will be appointed by the Court) who will evaluate each individual claim.
- (b) If the Administrator is satisfied that the person is a group member who was not paid travel allowance to which they were entitled, Santos will pay an amount equal to the travel allowance that was not paid.
- (c) If the individual claimant is dissatisfied with the Administrator’s decision, they may seek a review of the decision by an independent Queen’s Counsel or Senior Counsel agreed upon by the parties.

If you decide to **remain a group member** then you should NOT complete the form which is annexed and marked “A” and headed “OPT OUT NOTICE”.

If you **oppose the proposed settlement** and wish to express your opposition so that the Court may take it into account, you should contact Eddy Neumann Lawyers on 02 9264 9933 or by email at en@eddyneumann.com.au. You should ensure that you do so by no later than 4pm on 12 May 2020.

Further information

If you wish to obtain copies of relevant documents, including the originating application and statement of claim in the class action, you can do so by contacting Eddy Neumann Lawyers on 02 9264 9933 or by email at en@eddyneumann.com.au, or by contacting a District Registry of the Federal Court (see <http://www.fedcourt.gov.au>) and paying the appropriate inspection fee, or by inspecting the documents that are available for free on the Commonwealth Courts Portal at:

<http://www.comcourts.gov.au/file/Federal/P/NSD520/2019/actions>.

Please consider the above matters carefully and, if there is anything of which you are unsure, contact one of the persons whose contact details are set out earlier in this Notice. You should not delay in making your decision.

“A”

Opt out notice

No. NSD520 of 2019

Form 21
Rule 9.34

Federal Court of Australia
District Registry: New South Wales
Division: General

Gwen Dallis Barker in her own right and in her representative capacity

Applicant

Santos Limited

Respondent

To: The Registrar
Federal Court of Australia
New South Wales District Registry
Law Courts Building
184 Phillip Street
Sydney NSW 2000

_____[name], a group member in this representative proceeding, gives notice under section 33J of the Federal Court of Australia Act 1976, that

_____[name] is opting out of the representative proceeding.

Date: /04/2020

'Mickey O' picks his top 10 all-time players

By PETER ARGENT



SYDNEY Swans great Michael O'Loughlin made his AFL debut 25 years ago this month.

In his 303-game career, O'Loughlin played in three grand finals (1996, 2005, 2006) and won one premiership (2005).

The man they call 'Mickey O' was named in the AFL 1904-2004 Indigenous Team of the Century and is a 2013 Indigenous All-Star.

The anniversary of his debut gave him cause, when asked, to name his best 10 Indigenous players and who had inspired him.

"This was a tough task," he said. "This is a mix of players, in order that I have personally watched over the years and played against; they are the ones who inspired me as a player and as a spectator.

"But there must be a few special mentions among them.

"These include Nicky Winmar (St Kilda, Western Bulldogs), Darryl White (Brisbane Bears/Lions), Derek Kickett (Essendon, Sydney), Michael McLean (Footscray, Brisbane Bears), Wilbur Wilson (Central District) and Chris Lewis (West Coast).

"They all had a big impact on me as a kid growing up and in a few cases as opponents."

O'Loughlin's Top 10

1. Gavin Wanganeen (Essendon):

Pure class with a capital 'C'. He was from the same local community football club as me, the Salisbury North Football Club, in the northern suburbs of Adelaide. He was one of my favourite players growing up and



Revealed! Retired AFL great Gavin Wanganeen has been rated the best player by a former fellow AFL great, Michael O'Loughlin.

showed us if we work hard we can also play at AFL level. Gavin just beats 'Goodes' for the number one spot because he was from my neighbourhood.

2. Adam Goodes (Sydney Swans):

He had everything you want in a footballer – size, speed, strength and class. He could play anywhere and he did! I saw him grow from rookie at the Swans to the winner of two Brownlows and a couple of premierships as well. An Incredible player and a true champion.

3. Gilbert McAdam (St Kilda, Brisbane Bears):

My favourite player as a lad, the first Aboriginal player to win a Magarey Medal at home in South Australia. I used to jump the fence with my friends just to watch him play at Elizabeth Oval. A brilliant all-round player.

4. Lance Franklin (Hawthorn, Sydney Swans):

Buddy will go down in history as the best or second best Indigenous player in history. His highlights package is the best going around. There will not be

another player like him for a long, long time.

5. Andrew McLeod (Adelaide):

The best player to ever play for the Adelaide Crows. He is the smoothest player to watch, playing with incredible balance. Andrew could play across the halfback line, through the midfield or up forward and still be the best player on the ground; it didn't matter where he played.

6. Cyril Rioli (Hawthorn):

Like everyone, I loved watching Cyril turn opposition players inside out. His defensive pressure was intense and then that soft touch with his disposals and skills. He was also an amazing decision-maker.

7. Peter Matera (West Coast):

I was lucky enough to play on Peter in my first couple of years at AFL level. He played the game at breakneck speed coupled with amazing skills. Peter is the best Eagles player ever, in my opinion.

8. Michael Long (Essendon):

He was another favourite of mine to watch. Along with his undoubted talent on the field, he was so humble and giving to others. An inspirational player and person.

9. Shaun Burgoyne (Port Adelaide, Hawthorn):

This guy is resilient, tough and classy. I've enjoyed watching his highlights over the years. He is just ahead of his Cyril as one of the best decision-makers among this mob.

10. Chris Johnson (Fitzroy, Brisbane Lions):

He is the best kick among all these players. He killed teams with his run and carry and then executed elite kicking skills, and always to his teammates' advantage. He was also an intense competitor.



Peter Matera.



Chris Johnson.



Cyril Rioli.



Gilbert McAdam (centre) began his V/AFL career at St Kilda before a move north to join Brisbane Bears. At right is football great Nicky Winmar, unlucky to miss being included in Michael O'Loughlin's top 10 all-time players. The player at left is Dale Kickett who has an AFL record of playing for five different clubs which were St Kilda, West Coast, Fitzroy, Essendon and Fremantle. Pictures: Getty Images

Notice of an application for determination of native title in the state of South Australia

Notification day: 20 May 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 19 August 2020. After 19 August 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: Brandon McNamara & Ors and the State of South Australia (Barngarla Southern Eyre Peninsula)

Federal Court File No: SAD26/2020

Date filed: 19 February 2020

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. 2,702 sq km adjacent to the city of Port Lincoln at the south east end of the Eyre Peninsula and includes Liguanea Island, Boston Island, Taylor Island, Thistle Island, Williams Island, Grantham Island, Lewis Island, Grindal Island, Hopkins Island, Smith Island, Little Island and the Sleaford Islands

Relevant LGA: District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula

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

Overreaction from those who should know better

HOPEFULLY by now the issue surrounding the camping and cultural trip that saw Latrell Mitchell and Josh Addo-Carr get raked over the coals is settled.

What we saw last week when it first blew up was a predictable overreaction not only on social media where, sadly, we expect this sort of rubbish, but also in the mainstream news media, where you expect better.

The racist comments directed at the boys was sickening to read. Some in the media don't seem to realise what they instigate with their careless comments. Or maybe they do.

It seems Latrell Mitchell is enemy No 1 for the rugby league media these days and as we have seen they use every method they can to paint him in a bad light, so this turned into a witch-hunt, again. His actions are over-analysed and so any misdemeanour on his part is magnified.

What the boys did up near Taree was break some laws, which they got fined for. And they brought the game into disrepute, which they also got fined for. For me, the story stops there. But there were ridiculous calls to ban them for the season and to even get rid of them from the game – just an extreme overreaction.

I have been down to Coogee Beach in Sydney and there are literally hundreds of people right on top of each other every day. This is way riskier in catching COVID-19 than being out in the bush with heaps of space. But you wouldn't read about it. This is the double standard that gets me.

This lockdown has been a tough time for a lot of people. People are trying to make their way through it the best way possible.

The camping trip came about when some of Latrell's and Josh's cousins and other relations were struggling with everything.

Josh was trying to do a good thing and Latrell was in turn trying to help Josh out. Their families and communities expect that from them as leaders and they always try to step up and be that rock for others around them. In no way at all did Josh think he was putting people at risk when he turned up at Latrell's house. Latrell would not have thought he was putting people at risk either by accepting the boys in.

To be honest I believe that no one was at risk from the trip and chances of coronavirus being spread among the group is way less than any trip to Bunnings or the shops on any day of the week.

I saw Josh a couple of days after this. First thing he said to me was, "Bra, I stuffed up!" and he just wants to get back on the field and make it up to everyone.

Latrell and Josh have paid a huge price for their mistake. Now let's support them and move on to hopefully a big season for both of them.

**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.*



Dean Widders



The Tabulam Turtle Divers senior men's team that played at the 2019 Lismore Knockout. Local football has been given guidelines to follow to make a return to action in July. Pictures: Darren Moncrieff

Country footy given green light to return



THE NSWRL wants grassroots football to resume in July and has released a set of guidelines for local league and club officials to follow.

NSWRL boss Dave Trodden confirmed last week it was also working towards resuming the Ron Massey Cup, Sydney Shield and women's premiership on July 18.

All park football will also be back, ranging from under-6s to open age with 100,000 participants involved across the entire state.

In a statement released last week, the NSWRL outlined the following:

- The decision to kick off a shortened Community Rugby League season and to restart other abbreviated senior competitions will be further reviewed and confirmed by June 1 subject to the existing government advice available at the time.

- The decision took into consideration the NSW Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order 2020 which is currently preventing sport from being conducted and expires at midnight on June 29 (unless

further extended).

- Accordingly, the earliest possible return date is June 30, unless the NSW Government decides to lift the Public Health order earlier.

- The NSWRL Board has agreed to a competition re-start date of July 18, coinciding with the end of the next school holiday period and start of



James Roberts of Cubawee Connections takes a hit-up at the 2019 Lismore Knockout.

Term 3, while allowing a return to training on July 1. This is subject to the status of the public health in the interim.

- (Re Community Football to commence) The 2020 season was originally due to commence April 4 when it was postponed in March. All clubs and leagues are encouraged to continue to take

registrations beyond the traditional June 30 registration cut-off date.

- The start date of July 18 set for Community Football across the state coincides with the end of the mid-year school holidays and start of Term 3. This allows for teams to resume training from July 1.

- Competition formats and the length of the season will be dealt with on a case by case basis accordingly to the particular circumstances of each competition.

The NRL's reserve grade competition will remain cancelled and the top-tier competitions, including NSW Cup, Jersey Flegg, Harold Matthews, SG Ball and Tarsha Gale Cup will not return.

"That means those not in the 17 picked for their NRL teams each week would not have been able to come back and play alongside regular reserve graders.

Logistical issues were also at the heart of the decision, with the NSW Cup draw regularly intertwined with the NRL schedule around home games.

The decision will also take some strain off NRL clubs, who had already accounted for the reserve grade competitions not returning in 2020.

— with AAP

Fifita to miss Broncos' return game



BRISBANE coach Anthony Seibold has refused to speculate on how long David Fifita will be sidelined by knee surgery, only conceding the back-rower will miss their NRL return match in

May.

The Broncos gave no timeline on Fifita's return after last week revealing the Queensland State of Origin forward had recently undergone an operation to repair a lateral meniscus tear.

Speculation is rife Fifita could be sidelined from four weeks up to four

months. But Seibold didn't give away too much, revealing only Fifita would not be available when the NRL returns on May 28 after going under the knife several weeks ago.

"He won't be right for May 28 but I won't give any time frame after that," Seibold told NRL.com.

"He hurt his knee in round 1, and obviously played very well against South Sydney in round 2."

Seibold had no regrets over Fifita opting to take advantage of the coronavirus shutdown to have the operation, saying the decision was made well before the May 28

NRL return date had been finalised.

"It made sense to have the repair done while we weren't playing," he said.

"You have to understand we were talking about the game not getting up and running until August or September.

"Often these repairs are done at the end of the season and we had the time at the time.

"It's great that we're coming back but David will be about seven or eight weeks into his rehab by then.

"We won't put any pressure on David or the medical staff to get him back before he's ready." — AAP



Fremantle's Gemma Houghton was named in her second All-Australian team.



Gold Coast's Kalinda Howarth is an All-Australian debutante.



Madison Prespakis – the best player in the AFLW and now dual All-Australian.
Pictures: Getty Images

Top trio make All-Aussie team



NEWLY-crowned AFLW best and fairest Madison Prespakis headlines the league's fourth All-Australian team named last week.

Prespakis, also named the league's best player in an award ceremony that was live-streamed, due to the COVID-19 lockdown, received her second AA guernsey after a stellar season that saw her win best afield honours in five of the six games in the shortened 2020 season.

The 19-year-old Carlton midfielder who has maternal ties to the Dja Dja Wurrang people of the Kulin Nation is joined by Yinjibarndi woman Fremantle ace forward Gemma Houghton in the honorary team, also her second time. The deadly duo are also joined by Gold Coast and AFLW

debutante, Yuin woman Kalinda Howarth with her first AA jumper.

Prespakis was named as an on-baller in the All-Australian team with Houghton placed in the key-position centre half-forward role and Howarth took her place on the four-woman interchange bench.

It was a surprise selection for Howarth, who had originally joined Brisbane ahead of the 2018 season but didn't play a game.

She stepped away from the AFLW in 2019 to play in the regional Gold Coast competition before joining new team the Suns for 2020.

"I love this club so much, so for me I was happy just to be able to run out in Suns colours every week," Howarth said in a streamed interview.

"I don't play the game for individual

accolades, but I'm really grateful to have been recognised for all the hard work I've put in to get to where I am now.

"I'd like to thank everyone who has helped me on my journey so far; the club, my family, friends and all the Suns members and fans.

"To make All-Australian is a massive honour and I'm thrilled to be named alongside some of the best in the competition."

The 21-women All-Australian team reflects the league's structure of 16 players on the field (instead of the usual 18) and five on the bench (instead of four).

The 2020 team also represents something of a changing of the guard – like Howarth, 11 players in the side are debutantes.

Let's just wipe the 2020 season

WHILE we are still unsure if AFL football will even return this year, what we do know is that, if it does, AFL players will be required to live in 'hubs' – the key plank upon which a 2020 season restart is possible but an idea that was met with hostility and backlash by several players.



Shelley Ware

The proposal was put to 500 players by the AFL Commission via teleconference. Basically, what we know is that the hub will be where the players will be required to live for up to five months, or more should their team make the grand final, and the whole time without their families.

It will be a closed community. There will be three weeks of preseason training, five weeks of games with a reduced list of players to choose from, and games will be in the form of four 16-minute quarters.

If all is going well and there are no cases of COVID-19, the hub size will increase where other contracted players, initially not chosen, will join their teams in the hub.

But that still means players will be without their families, all the while the 'new' players preparing to re-join their teams will be self-isolating while on the outside and will then have to somehow connect with the playing group after two months away from them.

Right now, there are too many players who are against this and I just can't see it happening.

The thing here is that to leave their families for such an extended time such as in this scenario is not what the players signed up for. They signed up to play football but not this. They are even copping it from other sporting professionals, but I won't give that any more space than what's already been given.

Let's face it, most people miss the footy and wish it was back on, me included. We miss those pre-game rituals, the long lines of people at the gate, walking through huge crowds to find your seat, meat pies, cheering on your team, yelling at the umpires because they're obviously favouring the other team because they're beating my boys by 150 points. The fact that none of this is happening is like looking into a void. A lot of the players who don't want to play under the conditions mentioned here are being branded as selfish. That misses the point. This is bigger than the game. Personally, I want them home, to be safe, and we can wipe the 2020 season and start again next year.

**Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide. She appears on AFL.com.au's Colour Of Your Jumper.*



How football looked this year – Round 1 at the MCG. Picture: Getty Images

She'll be ready when the Slammers are

By CHRIS PIKE



VANESSA Michael had decided to sacrifice plenty to join the South West Slammers ahead of the 2020 State Basketball League season, and when games do eventually begin, she will be asked to do even more.

Michael joins the Slammers after playing 172 of her 198 career games with Cockburn Cougars. She felt a need for change at the end of a busy 2019 season.

With plenty of energy still at 33, life brought her to the Bunbury-based Slammers. But that means a three-hour round trip to training and home games. It was something she was prepared to do because she liked what coach Nathan Grover was trying to build.

"I just saw myself and Cockburn going in different directions, which is fine because sometimes change is good and I just wanted to go somewhere I would get plenty of opportunities provided I earned them," Michael said.

"Nathan reached out to me and said there's a spot there with the Slammers if I wanted it. It was a comfortable conversation because there was no pressure nor time limit. He let me come to

him when I made my decision, but it still wasn't an easy one to make. I had to weigh up a lot of different options, but I'm definitely happy with what I have decided to do."

The team was shaping up nicely too with the Slammers signing US imports Brittnei Montgomery and Mari Stewart, and New Zealander Tea Charlton. But the COVID-19 pandemic changed everything and with no idea when, or even if, that trio returns, it means that Michael must step up big time so the Slammers are competitive, should the season get underway soon.

"If we do end up playing this season, it's obviously not going to be easy, and with our team without the imports we might be incredibly small and that will put a lot of responsibility on me," she said.

"But that's fine. I'm ready for that and I'll do the best I can to make us competitive."

"I might not live there (in Bunbury) but I've got my nieces on board already. My brothers, sister-in-law and my dad (football legend Stephen) will be there, along with my friends we have made through basketball."

"They have asked me to let them know when the games are so they can come and support me so bringing an extra crowd to the club will be good."

"Let's just hope it gets to happen this year."



Vanessa Michael made a big decision to join the South West Slammers ahead of the 2020 WA SBL season.

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Knowledge for the next generation of cricketers

By ALF WILSON



COLIN Lamont wants to pass on his experience as a cricketer to encourage more Indigenous youngsters in Tasmania.

With the Apple Isle subject to a stringent lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Lamont has taken steps to keep fit for next cricket season.

He's set up a 20m running track in his back yard at home in Latrobe, a scenic town just off northern Tasmania's Bass Highway.

Lamont, an Imparja Cup representative, was born at Palm Island in far north Queensland. He has played cricket in Queensland, NSW, the Northern Territory and Tasmania. He represented Tasmania in Alice Springs in the early 2000s.

"Obviously, all sport is shut down here and that includes the gyms, and I can't even have a bat in the nets during the off season," he said.



Colin Lamont

"I've made this 20-metre long track and run on it every day just to keep active. It will keep me in shape to play cricket next season."

Next season involves padding up again for Spreyton Cricket Club's B-Grade team in the Mersey Valley Cricket Association.

In the 2019/20 season, Lamont, 46, hit a season-high

70 runs in an innings when many his age might begin looking at lawn bowls and golf as gentle sporting pursuits.

He said he likes what he sees in Tasmanian cricket.

"There are a lot of youngsters in the club and many Indigenous ones around Tasmania who play cricket and more who could," he said.

In Queensland, Lamont and his brother Bernie, 47, played for Norths as juniors and seniors in Townsville and District Cricket Association competitions, and were North Queensland representatives as juniors.

In 1990, they moved to Sydney with their foster family, Phillip and Kerry Lamont. A nearby street where they moved to was called Boomerang Avenue, which they liked.

In Sydney Colin played second and third grade for Gordon and Balmain cricket clubs.

Bernie, then a tearaway right-arm fast bowler and a punishing middle-order batsman, also played A-grade cricket.

Porter recharges for another tilt at history

By DARREN MONCRIEFF



AS the countdown toward the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games* rolls into another year, softball superstar

Stacey Porter will have to contend with two fronts – being a year older, and navigating team selection trials a second time for a berth at a record third Olympics.

Porter is a two-time Olympic medallist and plays in some of the top leagues in the world. She is a mainstay of the Australian women's national softball team, Aussie Spirit, which secured the final spot for the 2020 Games last year and is one of six teams. That roster of teams will remain in place for next year.

The make-up of the Spirit was finalised in February.

However, given the Games have been postponed until 2021, and with a whole bunch of variables to play out in the meantime, Softball Australia recently announced it will revisit the make-up of the Australian team. It will wipe the slate clean and hold national selection trials early next year for its entire contracted players, and that includes Porter.

Mind over matter

How Porter manages that will be a study in mind over matter over the next 16 months.

She turned 38 in March and is a veteran of over 400 national games. She will be 39 when the Tokyo Games roll around in July 2021.

Porter believes this enforced break from the rinse and repeat cycle of travel, playing, practice and recovery has a bright side to it. She was about to return to Japan to take up club duties there when sport, travel and society in general ground to a halt early in March from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Right now she is on a specific training regime tailored to her needs.

"I'm having a break; well, I'm doing training in four-week blocks, but it's still a break,"



Australian softball star Stacey Porter during the 2020 Summer Slam match between Panthers and Emeralds at Blacktown International Sportspark in February. The veteran international has a solid plan in place to be ready for the Tokyo Olympic Games next year. Picture: Getty Images

Porter said, while having a break from training, at her home in Brisbane.

"The training I'm doing is in

strength and conditioning, not skills training, and the hope is that this will give me some longevity.

"It's a rare time for me to be just 'stopping' from everything, but I actually think this can work in my favour because what I've

learned from being a professional for most of my career is that I can quickly figure out what's good for my body and so I'm able to stay in shape."

The goal for Tokyo, of course, is gold.

Softball made its Olympic debut at the 1996 Atlanta Games and was played at the Sydney (2000), Athens (2004) and Beijing (2008) Games where Australia medalled in all – bronze, bronze, silver and bronze.

Softball was dropped for the 2012 and 2016 Games before making its return for Tokyo.

'On my toes'

"I think it's a good thing," Porter said of the selection trials.

"Well, it's a tough thing for the squad to hear, no doubt, and you feel for everyone, but things can change and I think it's the right thing for us to do and that's to put our best team out there."

But that also gives Porter pause for thought.

"It puts you on your toes, that's exactly what it does, and it puts me on my toes, too."

"You can get in a sort of 'comfort mode' but this break has taught me some new limits so I'll have to be aware and on my toes."

"And yes, I will be a year older and there will be all these whipper-snappers chasing you around. We've got a few ages in the squad, from 19-ish onwards, a fair chunk in their 20s and a few older ones."

Australia punches above its weight in international competition. Other countries, particularly the US and Japan, are well-resourced.

"It's no secret that that's where the money is," Porter, who has played in both countries, said.

"We do a bloody good job with the resources that we do have and a lot of it is just love for the game and to play for Australia."

**Although the Tokyo Olympic Games will be held in 2021, it will still badged as the 2020 Games.*

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Houghton honoured but miffed by Freo snub

By CHRIS PIKE



HER team was undefeated and was head-and-shoulders above the rest in 2020, yet just two of its players were rewarded for their stellar season and top form. And star Fremantle forward Gemma Houghton is not that happy about it.

Houghton was one of two Fremantle players chosen in the AFLW's 2020 All-Australian team of 21 players, named last week.

Her selection was due reward for a stunning individual season where she provided the Dockers a focal point up forward and was a constant threat for opposition teams in Fremantle's stunning 6-0 season, halted only by the COVID-19 pandemic that initially shortened the AFLW

season and ended it at the semifinal stage. The Dockers thrashed Gold Coast in the semifinal by 70 points at Fremantle Oval.

While appreciative and happy about her inclusion in the All-Australian team, her second in as many years, Houghton bristled at the aparent snub of Fremantle players by the selectors. That lack of recognition only added to the frustration of missing the chance at the premiership as the only undefeated team.

Of the 12 teams (from 14) represented in the All-Australian side, Carlton, Melbourne and North Melbourne provided three representatives, while Adelaide, Collingwood and Fremantle had two each.

"Individually, and as a group, I think it was our best year," Houghton said.

"Whether or not that's got to do with the four years that we've had to grow and understand how we all play together and

as individuals, I think that made a huge difference and you could see that in our performance.

"It (All-Australian selection) was obviously out of our control, but if we could have it our way, we'd have a lot more girls in that team, including our defenders like Ang Stannett.

"At the same time, what worked in our favour this season was that we had such an even spread. We were strong in our backline, really strong in the midfield with experienced players like Kiara Bowers and Hayley Miller, and then our forward line was well spread.

"That balanced our season and it was reflective on us being undefeated this year."

As for her team not being recognised in some way by the league, Houghton was philosophical.

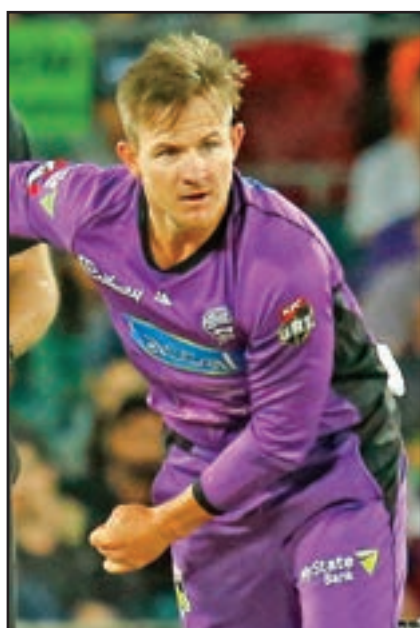
"A lot of people will speak on our behalf and a lot of people felt for us about not being able to get some sort of recognition for the season that we had, but the other teams had their seasons cut short too," she said.

"In those last couple of weeks it probably made us play a little better because we didn't know when our season would get cut short.

"We didn't know if that final (against the Suns) would be our last game or not, so we treated that as our grand final and put everything out there.

"For us to win that game quite comfortably meant that even though we weren't happy the season had to end there, we were still happy with the way performed to finish the 2020 season."

● Top trio in All-Australian team, page 43



D'Arcy Short Picture: Getty Images

Empty stadiums not a worry



BIG Bash blaster D'Arcy Short would welcome the inclusion of national stars in the competition and has no issue with playing at empty grounds if need be.

Short, who last week was named the Hobart Hurricanes player of the tournament, played in what turned out to be Australia's final one-day international of the summer against New Zealand at a vacant SCG before COVID-19 restrictions put an abrupt end to the series.

"It was quite eerie and felt like a practice match. (But) if that's something we need to get our heads around, then we'll do it," he said.

"We're still going to have people watching on TV and we're still going to give 110% whether there are crowds or no crowds."

The 10th edition of the Big Bash, which has yet to set its dates amidst the current uncertainty, looms as crucial for Cricket Australia, with global virus restrictions casting a big shadow on the resumption of international fixtures.

Despite missing the middle third of last summer's Big Bash, Short was the Hurricanes' highest run-scorer with 357 and also took a career-best 5/21 with the ball. —AAP

Ash locked in but D'Arcy falls Short



Ash Gardner drives the ball square of the wicket for Australia at the T20 World Cup earlier this year. Her solid form has earned her a new Cricket Australia contract. Picture: Peter Argent



INDIGENOUS cricket internationals Ash Gardner and D'Arcy Short had mixed

results when Cricket Australia finalised 35 contracts for the 2020/21 season across its men's and women's national teams last week.

The contracts will run for the next 12 months.

Gardner's T20 World Cup-winning year was rewarded when national selectors unveiled a largely unchanged 15-strong women's contract list.

Gardner and the Southern Stars won the T20 World Cup against India in March at the MCG.

The list was selected with an eye to next summer's one-day 50-over World Cup in New Zealand, which is still scheduled to go ahead pending coronavirus restrictions, as the Australians strive to secure the one trophy missing from their silverware cabinet.

But the news wasn't so great for Short.

Selectors made several changes ahead of finalising the men's team contracts and there was no room for Short among the 20 players chosen.

Short, the sixth Indigenous cricketer to represent Australia, has played in eight one-day international and 20 Twenty20 internationals for Australia.

He had made a brief appearance for the Australian team in the aborted tour to South African in March, but selectors opted for others in their final decision.

Edwards posts an Anzac Day winner

By ALF WILSON



JOCKEY Peta Edwards embarked on a daunting weight-loss regime to get

back in the saddle and it has paid handsome dividends.

Just recently at the Ascot racecourse in Perth, Edwards steered King Blitz first past the post to win the Anzac Day Diggers Cup (1800m).

The Queenslander now calls Western Australia home after moving west in 2010.

Throughout her career, Edwards has ridden more than 200 winners across WA.

Among the recent highlights were winning the 2019 Broome Cup (2200m) on Swift Platinum and the 2018 Carnarvon Cup (2000m) aboard Speed 'n' Reef.

But two years ago, none of this was looking likely.

In 2018, Edwards suffered a bad fall at a race meeting in Albany in WA's south-east in which she broke a collarbone and cheekbone. Thankfully, she made a full recovery and is back doing what she loves the most.

One of the only known female Aboriginal jockeys in the country, Edwards shed 30kg to reach her target of 52kg after the birth of her son in 2009.

Her weight had ballooned out to around 85kg.

She spent four years away from the track but had always thought of a return to racing.

"It can be difficult for someone my weight to steer a horse like King Blitz which weighs 490kg," she said after her win at Ascot.

"Some of the horses can weigh more than 600kg.

"It was hard work losing all that weight, but it's been worth it.

"I tell the young jockeys that it might be fun putting weight on, but it is much harder to lose it."

The 36-year-old was born in Charters Towers in north Queensland.



Peta Edwards celebrates with the Anzac Day Diggers Cup (1800m) she won aboard King Blitz in Perth on Anzac Day. Picture: Supplied

Her love of horses began at a young age and she started her career off in Ingham as an apprentice jockey, one of the first Aboriginal young women in the region to do so, with Errol Covell.

In 2000, she moved to Townsville and continued her apprenticeship with Malcolm Reynolds.

In her first year, Edwards rode over a hundred winners in the Townsville area alone,

after which she saluted in races all over north and central Queensland.

In 2010, Edwards moved to Western Australia where she later teamed up with legendary WA trainer Fred Kersley, who had a champion horse by the name of Northerly.

"There are not many female Aboriginal jockeys in Australia so it was a big thing for an Aboriginal country girl from north Queensland to come to

WA," she said.

"I actually used to watch Northerly on television."

The longest price winner in her wonderful career was a 100-1 shot at Bunbury.

Edwards paid tribute to her partner and horse trainer Barry Newnham and her stepfather Phillip Alley, who lives in Townsville.

"Phillip taught me how to ride a horse and bought me my first pony," she said.



The A-League championship trophy – waiting for someone to claim it. File

No asterisks around here

AS three professional football codes work toward a resumption of play, there has been a bit of talk that the eventual premiers should be marked with an asterisk, to which I will say straight-out that that's just crazy talk. The only thing that should be marked with an asterisk this year is this year – 2020* can just get lost already!



Darren Moncrieff

Given they get the go-ahead, the NRL will play its remaining 18 rounds and the AFL will play its remaining 16 rounds, and their grand finals at the end of October. The A-League will play its final six rounds and then a three-week finals series.

It's this scenario that one of my favourite cousins who will remain nameless, but I'll call him 'Piggy' because that's his actual nickname, said that a "proper premiership shouldn't count in this gammon season". But I disagree with my brother Damien (his real name). If the codes do get going again then teams ought to make it count because nothing is proper or gammon with what we're living through. If anything, a 2020 NRL, AFL or A-League premiership will have just as much merit as premierships of the past.

The lockdown has levelled the playing field and all teams will start from scratch – two months without playing, no form guide, players with varying degrees of self-motivation, training in isolation, a time-limited pre-season, fresh and virtually injury-free and full lists to choose from.

I think key to any success here would be smart team management and it would start with clubs poring over the new fixtures as soon as they're released. They will examine what games are winnable, which are 50/50, compartmentalise the season into 'blocks' followed by a close examination of every other team's run of fixtures to get a handle of what they need to do in the limited time they've got. With cost-cutting measures that saw several assistant coaches let go, we will also soon find out just how good those senior coaches really are without an army of help at hand. Thoroughly fascinating. If any of these clubs are making fly-on-the-wall documentaries about this then I will want to see it.

So as professional sport scrambles to hold on to the business model that supports it, it is also banking on the emotional capital that you, me and millions of others have invested when we see our favourite teams playing our favourite games. This is what will be determined as a successful return because if we're watching in huge numbers then the long road to recovery can begin, and maybe another premiership for your favourite team.

**Darren Moncrieff is a Wadjarli-Thakarli 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?
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Dizzy advocates for a shorter BBL season

By PETER ARGENT



INDIGENOUS former Australian Test cricketer Jason 'Dizzy' Gillespie believes at least a week can be sliced from the Big Bash League format ahead of its 10th season.

Gillespie, who led the Adelaide Strikers franchise to the BBL107 title as coach, believes the 2020/21 season fixtures should still retain its eight-team 14-game format but to shorten the length of the season, play games back-to-back

and add in double-headers.

"I think the competition goes a week too long," he said.

"I've long said that I don't mind the number of games being played but having spent a lot of time in the UK and county cricket, where you play a lot of back-to-back games, I can't see why players and teams every now and again can't play on consecutive days.

"If you want to minimise the travel and maximise the cricket, a stand-alone city-based side like Adelaide could, in theory, go and play in Melbourne and Sydney on a weekend and a play against both

teams that play in those cities.

"And also play double-headers at one venue. I wouldn't be opposed to the Adelaide Strikers playing two games in one day at Adelaide Oval.

"It would minimise the tournament going into February. A lot of feedback I've heard from people is that they would like the Big Bash to ideally finish in the last week of January."

Gillespie, who has coached in Zimbabwe and at Yorkshire and Sussex in England, has been touted as a candidate to coach South Australia in the domestic Sheffield Shield competition.



Queen of the track wins with the King



WHEN jockey Peta Edwards saluted the race stewards to win the Anzac Day Diggers Cup (1800m) aboard King

Blitz at Ascot in Perth, it marked another milestone in a career that's been marked by many ups and downs.

The 36-year-old took the big six-year-old bay gelding's earnings up to \$150,000 with the half-length win on the celebrated Perth track.

Last race season, Edwards rode 37 winners and this season she is on track to match that, having saluted 15 times already.

As a teenager, Edwards was one of the first Aboriginal young women to take a riding apprenticeship in Ingham in north Queensland.

Following the birth of her son in 2009, she made the move west and took leave from the saddle.

Happily for her, Edwards' return to racing has seen her add several regional Cups on the WA circuit.

● Full story, page 47



Peta Edwards



We're mad about Maddy



STAR Carlton midfielder Madison Prespakis was self-isolating at home when she learnt what we already knew – that she is the best player in the AFLW.

Prespakis, one of 23 Indigenous women who played in the 2020 AFLW season, has become the first teenager to win the four-year league's highest individual honour.

The 19-year-old burst onto the football scene in her first season last year and won the league's 2019 Rising Star award.

In 2020, Prespakis polled 15 votes to finish three ahead of the next best to win the league's top award.

It capped a spectacular campaign for Prespakis who also won Carlton's best-and-fairest for the second time and was earlier named in the All-Australian team.

Prespakis' Blues were on track for a grand final berth but the AFLW season was called off at the semifinal stage due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prespakis' Aboriginal roots lie with the Dja Dja Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation, from her mother's side, from the area in what is now Bendigo, about 150km north-west of Melbourne.

● Trio win All-Australian honours, page 43

Left: Prolific ball-winner Madison Prespakis was named the AFLW's best player in 2020. Picture: Getty Images

Porter's new plan for Tokyo



THE coronavirus lockdown is working in favour for one leading Australian sporting figure.

Stacey Porter, a mainstay of the Australian women's national softball

team, Aussie Spirit, said time out from her regular schedule has given her a much-needed re-set in body and mind.

The 38-year-old two-time Olympian and International softball star, Porter

would ordinarily be full-steam ahead leading into domestic competition overseas and this year preparing for an intense Olympic campaign.

● Full story, page 45



Stacey Porter Picture: Getty Images

Michael makes switch to South West Slammers, page 44