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I can't breathe

**A mother tells why she marched for Black Lives Matter:
“They held my son down for 10 minutes.”**



Leetona Dungay, the mother of David Dungay Junior, who died in Long Bay Prison, was one of tens of thousands of people who attended Black Lives Matter protests across the country during the past two weeks. Read our stories and see our pictures from around the country, pages 6-7 and 28-45.



Disability Royal Commission calls for Indigenous voices, page 5

INSIDE



Celebrate Mabo Day online

PAGE 8



Prof Dudgeon on impacts of COVID

PAGE 26



World Cup bid strengthened

PAGE 59



Jawai wants NBL to lift their game

PAGE 64

MY FAMILY

Walter Nai (York Island/Hermit Park)

LIFE for me would be very difficult without my family members who

support and help me in so many ways.

In 2012 I became a quadriplegic after a car accident on Yorke (Masig) Island in the Torres Strait and spent six months in hospital.

Because of my disability as a result of the accident I am confined to a wheelchair and I can't live on a remote island.

I am now aged 32 and for some years have resided in a unit at Hermit Park in Townsville.

My brothers Wilfred, Troy and Patrick and sisters Pearl, Sheree and Whitney have been so wonderful helping me out in any way they can.

They come here and clean around my unit, cut the grass out the front, prune my trees and take me shopping.

Warren even takes me fishing regularly down to Ross River near where we live.

It gives me great happiness to catch some bream and even a barramundi from time to time, which makes for good eating.

Before my accident, I used to hunt for crayfish in the Torres Strait. Saltwater places to fish are dear to me and provide recreation.

The accident changed my life completely, but I have adapted and cope because of the commitment of family.

I also get a lot of visitors from extended family and it is so good to have them around.

In early 2019, my street



From left are my brother Wilfred Nai, myself Walter Nai and brother-in-law Warren Dau.

was flooded and I had to be evacuated by boat and they all were checking on me to ensure I was okay.

Family and friends from Masig and other Torres Strait islands, including TI where I was born, keep in regular contact through social media and by phone.

My dad lives on Masig and my mum died in 2017, so all this family support is vital.

I also get some assistance from a part-time carer under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

When I was younger I played football so I am glad the NRL has started again and in previous years used to be kept up to date on Torres Strait Allblacks carnivals from the families.

All have been cancelled for 2020 due to COVID-19 so we now talk about the NRL.

We have always been a close family, but with the support I have received since my injury I have no doubt we are even closer.

I couldn't do without them and love them all.

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



The Duffin children from Kuranda attend the Black Lives Matter protest rally in Cairns with their family.

Koori Mail

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Mining giants awaiting permits to destroy sites

By NICK PATON



LAST month Rio Tinto destroyed sacred sites on the traditional lands of the Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura peoples in the Pilbara.

And now, more ancient and important cultural areas are also at risk due to mining.

Both mining giants BHP and FMG have applied to Western Australian Aboriginal Affairs Minister Ben Wyatt to destroy sites in the Pilbara.

Mr Wyatt approved BHP's application to destroy up to 80 ancient Aboriginal cultural sites, just three days after a 46,000-year-old cultural site at Juukan Gorge was destroyed by Rio Tinto last month.

But following public outrage BHP have now promised that even though they have ministerial consent to destroy Aboriginal heritage sites as part of a planned mine expansion, they will consult first with the traditional owners, the Banjima people.

And FMG is awaiting the Minister's decision.

Burchell Hayes, director of the Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura (PKKP) Aboriginal Corporation and head of the Kurrama Land Committee, attended a protest along with hundreds of people outside Rio Tinto's Perth offices last week.

Rio Tinto was granted approval for the Juukan Gorge work in 2013, but subsequent archaeological excavation revealed ancient artefacts including grinding stones, a bone sharpened into a tool and 4000-year-old braided hair.

The company blamed the destruction on a misunderstanding, claiming there was no record of the Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura Aboriginal Corporation (PKKPAC) asking it to stop mining in the area until mid-May when the blasting was already loaded.

But Mr Hayes rubbished any assertion that Rio Tinto was unaware of concerns.

"That isn't true because for years, we have made mention how significant those sites were," he said.

Hundreds of protesters gathered on June 9 outside Rio Tinto's Perth office demanding iron ore chief executive Chris Salisbury resign over the Juukan Gorge blasts.

Protesters also called for a 100km buffer zone to be placed around the Juukan caves to prevent further damage.

Rio Tinto has apologised, but refused to say whether reparations are being considered.

Protest organiser and Noongar man Robert Eggington told the crowd of about 300 peaceful protesters that Rio Tinto had exploited the weakness of WA's Aboriginal heritage legislation.

"They used that against the people and then turned and blamed (it on) misunderstandings between the company and the custodians of that site," Mr Eggington said.



Protest organiser Robert Eggington speaks to Rio Tinto's Brad Haynes before handing over a letter of demands outside Rio Tinto's Perth office. Rio Tinto recently detonated explosives in an area of the Juukan Gorge in the Pilbara, destroying two ancient deep-time rock shelters, much to the distress of the Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura people. Picture: AAP Image/Richard Wainwright

"It's so important to understand how Rio Tinto came like a thief in the night and blew away a site ... that surpassed the last ice age."

Following the public outcry, Reconciliation Australia revoked its endorsement of Rio Tinto as an Elevate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) organisation and suspended the company from the RAP program.

In a statement Reconciliation Australia said the blasting activity in Juukan Gorge by Rio Tinto exposes a broken relationship with the Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura (PKKP) Peoples and a breathtaking breach of a respectful relationship.

"It was devastating for the traditional owners and robbed the world of a uniquely valuable cultural heritage site.

"The pain caused by this action extend to First Peoples and their allies across Australia and around the world," it said.

"Rio Tinto's actions failed to meet their own aspirations to advance reconciliation and do not meet the standards Reconciliation Australia expects of our RAP partners. Review of the suspension will be dependent on how Rio Tinto engages with and responds to the PKKP Peoples, and how they respect the aspirations of all traditional owner groups they are in partnership with.

"It is also dependent on the company keeping their commitment to a full and public release of a review into the actions

that led to the destruction of Juukan Gorge, and meaningful accountability and sustained action in light of the review, including efforts to share key learnings."

Mining giant BHP Billiton have halted plans for its \$4.5bn South Flank iron ore operation, acknowledging their own internal reports that show Banjima traditional owners are heavily opposed to the pending blasts.

"It's so important to understand how Rio Tinto came like a thief in the night and blew away a (46,000-year-old cultural) site ... that surpassed the last ice age."

– Protest organiser, Noongar man Robert Eggington

One of the sites BHP applied to develop is in the Djadjiling Range, which is also in the Pilbara and contains rock shelters and ancient Aboriginal artefacts.

The Banjima native title holders said last week that they had only just found out about Mr Wyatt's approval and needed to consider the detail.

"The Banjima people do not support the destruction of sites of cultural significance," Banjima Native Title Aboriginal Corporation chairman Maitland Parker said.

"We stand with all Aboriginal traditional owners and particularly our Pilbara brothers and sisters, the Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura at this time, in our abhorrence at the destruction of the Juukan rock shelters."

Section 18 of the *WA Aboriginal Heritage Act* allows mining companies to destroy cultural sites with ministerial approval, even if traditional owners object.

Mr Wyatt said in a statement to the *Koori Mail*, that BHP had lodged a number of Section 18 notices in relation to the South Flank Project with the most recent notice being lodged on October 16, 2019.

BHP Billiton has signed a native title agreement with the Banjima people, which covers an area of 8263 square kilometres and includes a number of the company's Pilbara-based iron ore operations and most of the Banjima Native Title determination area.

"BHP agreed financial and other benefits for the Banjima People, while the Banjima made commitments to support the South Flank Project," Mr Wyatt said. "The agreement also covered heritage matters, and identified 72 exclusion zones which were sites regarded as significant by the Banjima people."

In the most recent section 18 application, Mr Wyatt said, Banjima people identified a site which was significant to them but said they did not object to the notice.

"I am advised this site was not one of the 72 exclusion zones identified in the Comprehensive Agreement," he said.

"As Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, I want to see impacts to Aboriginal sites limited to the

practical extent possible.

"I am also a great believer in self-determination for Aboriginal people and support native title groups using their hard-won rights to make commercial agreements with land users."

Mr Wyatt said native title holders are the best people to make decisions about their own heritage places.

"Australia has a sad history of governments deciding what is in the best interests of Aboriginal people. I have asked BHP to work with Banjima to do what it can to avoid or minimise the impact on this site, regardless of the Section 18 approval," he said.

"I want to lessen the role the government plays in decisions around heritage and increase the authority of traditional owners.

"It is the very reason I am reforming Aboriginal heritage legislation, which will end the section 18 process and reinforce the need for land users to negotiate directly with traditional owners."

Meanwhile the neighbouring Wintawari Guruma Aboriginal Corporation which represents the Guruma people in the Pilbara are awaiting a decision from Ben Wyatt in relation to a 60,000-year-old cultural site, currently blocking the path of a proposed mine and earmarked for destruction. Fortescue Metals Group (FMG) have already sought a Section 18 to destroy the first batch of cultural sites as part of their planned Queens mine expansion which is part of the FMG Solomon mine project. The site includes rock shelters, ancient engravings, rock paintings and campsites. FMG were contacted for comment but are yet to respond.

"The title represents my 'chosen' career path. I didn't really choose it. I embraced it.

"I come from a long line of storytellers and musicians, and they've all had a significant impact on the person I've become and the musician that I am."

"I'm a Yorta Yorta man and in our culture we would call that my Songline."

"Yorta Yorta visual artist John Patten created the album artwork taking into account my songline and the Yorta Yorta totem the long-neck turtle as well as the river that also represents the fretboard of a guitar."

Chosen Line is Benny Walker's third studio album. Produced by Jan Skubiszewski and Pip Norman, the album features co-writes with both producers along with musicians George Carpenter (*Your Place*) and Desmond Masé/Rachael Lia Carne (*We're Home*).

Chosen Line had its full six-piece band live debut at the 2020 Port Fairy Folk Festival, before the virus restrictions, and was officially released on June 5.

Chosen Line is a full album experience and showcases both sides of Benny Walker. Tracks *All Ya Gotta Do Is Call* and *I Don't Blame You* are both strong blues bass tracks that have yielded Benny's highest streaming figures to date. Current single *We're Home*, *Circles* and title track *Chosen Line* showcase his more introverted soulful nature.



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KAMILAROI
woman Cheree
Toka is
crowdfunding the
cost of erecting a
permanent

Aboriginal flag pole on the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

When Ms Toka was told she needed community support to have the Aboriginal flag fly permanently on the Sydney Harbour Bridge, she went ahead and provided it.

She has spent more than three years lobbying the State Government for the erection of the flag on Sydney's foremost landmark.

In November 2019, Ms Toka lodged a petition to the government – which has now gained more than 150,000 signatures – showing solidarity with her campaign.

“(NSW Transport Minister) Andrew Constance was so supportive of the issue and really backed having the flag permanently erected,” Ms Toka said.

“But then he later came back and said he can’t erect a third flag pole and it’s too costly ... which was such a slap in the face.”

Ms Toka is now crowdfunding the cost of erecting a permanent flag pole, which has been estimated at about \$300,000.

"If cost is a factor stopping



The Sydney Harbour Bridge flies the Aboriginal flag for National Reconciliation Week.

them from raising the flag, which I don't think it is, we'll raise the money ourselves," she said.

A spokesperson for Transport NSW said the department recognised the importance of Aboriginal culture and heritage but the bridge could not fit a third permanent flag pole.

"There are two flag poles on the Sydney Harbour Bridge located on the eastern and western end of the bridge summit," the spokesperson said in a statement.

"Between these two flag poles is an aircraft navigational beacon tower which is required so that the bridge is visible to aircraft."

Ms Toka is undaunted in her campaign.

"To me the Aboriginal flag isn't just a symbol; it's a reminder this country has history beyond European arrival," she said. "It forms part of my connection to country and I want my children to grow up feeling safe and cultured in this country."

Each year the Aboriginal flag is flown in place of the NSW state flag during NAIDOC Week, National Reconciliation Week, and on January 26 and the anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generations.

This makes up about 19 days of the year. —AAP

Indigenous voices must be heard on disability



EVEN before a diving accident left him a quadriplegic, Wonnarua/

Kamilaroi man Jake

Briggs was acutely aware of the issues faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a disability.

He saw what his youngest brother, who has autism spectrum disorder, experienced.

"I've grown up with it, since I was a kid: knowing how hard that is through growing up, through the education system and just the way that people look at you and look at your family as a person with disability and Aboriginality and juggling both of those."

When an accident resulted in the builder becoming an incomplete quadriplegic, Mr Briggs quickly started advocating on behalf of First Nations people with disability.

He eventually became a full-time advocate, to help others who he saw slipping through the cracks, before setting up his own service provider, Culture Connex, under the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

"I've always had the front foot forward in speaking up for mob with disability from a young age," he said.

"Me having my accident in 2010 and being involved with it, well that's just amplified tenfold, and even more so being an NDIS service provider."

Mr Briggs said there have been improvements under the NDIS.

"But there are still cases that fall by the wayside, especially when you look at jails and justice."

One of his clients is a man with an intellectual disability, who was previously under an extended supervision order requiring close supervision in the community before his recent release from jail.

"He'd come out, he'd have a little trip-up and he'd be back in. This extended over an 11-year period," Mr Briggs said.

"Sometimes it's tricky if you've got someone with mental, intellectual, cognitive disability not knowing what's right or wrong. With a breach of curfew or it might be substance abuse, they'll trip up and fall back into the system."

Mr Briggs, who also works with youths in the Koori court system, plans to raise the case



Wonnarua/Kamilaroi man Jake Briggs is a passionate advocate for people with disability and is urging more First Nations people with a disability and their family members and carers to share their stories with the Disability Royal Commission.

with the disability royal commission as part of his role on its First Nations advisory group.

Mr Briggs said the double discrimination of racism and having a disability made life so much harder.

"I've wheeled into meetings

and you have already these pre-conceived ideas because he's an Aboriginal person or he's a quadriplegic: How's he going to do X, Y and Z? How's he going to operate?"

Mr Briggs said he had personal experience with the "double disability" after an

emergency trip to hospital because his body could not regulate its temperature.

"I was incoherent. I couldn't speak, but I could hear and see what the staff were doing," he said.

"I was treated poorly. Then as I started coming to and

telling them what was up, that's when I was treated very differently.

"They thought I was a bit pissed. They thought, 'He's another drunk blackfella.' They were treating people before me."

The royal commission raised the problem of the double discrimination faced by First Nations people with disability as it released an issues paper last week asking people to share their experiences with the inquiry.

Commissioner Andrea Mason said, as an Aboriginal woman, she often talked about walking in two worlds.

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (with disabilities) have to walk in three worlds," Ms Mason said.

"They've got the issues of having disability, race issues and then they've got the challenge of navigating mainstream Australia."

"They're very much constantly working out how they can experience the full enjoyment of their human rights in Australia. It's a much greater challenge."

Thirty-eight per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a disability. For adults, it is 48 per cent.

The issues paper notes First Nations people with disability are at greater risk of experiencing harm compared to the general population.

They are more likely to have experienced threats of physical violence, trauma, psychological distress, poorer health outcomes, being detained because of cognitive disability or foetal alcohol syndrome, low income levels and being less likely to be studying or working.

Ms Mason said the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (Disability Royal Commission) needed the community's input to address the issues.

"I think that is going to help steer how many hearings we have, roundtables or different ways where we can really drill down to understand these experiences and what it means for future recommendations and reforms." – AAP

● Andrea Mason on why the Royal Commission needs to hear from more Black voices, page 24



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Good things are happening



AFL players lead clubs in show against racism



RICHMOND and Collingwood players have taken a knee before their AFL men's clash and worn black t-shirts during the warm-up in a show of support for the Black Lives Matter movement.

The gestures were ticked off by both clubs and the AFL as the Victorian rivals relaunched the season last Thursday night at the MCG after a three-month break.

Indigenous stars Shane Edwards, Sydney Stack, Daniel Rioli, Marlon Pickett and Shai Bolton were centre stage, as the Tigers and Magpies took a united stand in a player-led initiative for the worldwide cause against systemic racism.

Umpires, coaches and support staff joined in the initiative.

"Certainly both our clubs are endorsing and supportive of our players doing that," Magpies chief executive Mark Anderson told ABC radio.

"We strongly support them doing so."

The league's other 16 clubs displayed similar shows of unity during the weekend's other eight games, with the support of AFL boss Gillon McLachlan.

"Racism needs to be stamped out," he said. "It is an important



Jack Riewoldt and Sydney Stack of the Tigers take a knee in support of the Black Lives Matter movement before the 2020 AFL round 2 match between the Collingwood Magpies and the Richmond Tigers at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Picture: Michael Willson/AFL Photos via Getty Images

issue for our players, for our clubs and for the AFL."

A number of AFL clubs, including the Western Bulldogs, North Melbourne, Melbourne and Brisbane, have posted photos and

messages on social media in support of the worldwide movement.

Bulldogs defender Jason Johannisen, who spent the first eight years of his life in South

Africa, declared he was "done doing nothing. All I ask for you to do is simply, with an open heart, just listen and understand what people of colour have been through," he wrote on social media.

Hawks star Chad Wingard has recently been calling out racism in Australia on social media and has expressed frustration with a lack of diversity in the mainstream media.

AFL Players' Association president Patrick Dangerfield said footballers felt a responsibility for the support not to be "tokenistic".

"How can it be something more than that, that's ongoing and we facilitate and really drive real change within all Australians?" the Geelong player said.

"We've got some really passionate young Indigenous players (at Geelong) and we have to make sure we are educating our community better than we currently do."

Black Lives Matters protests took place in the United States after the killing of African American George Floyd by a white police officer, which were followed across the world, including in Australia, over the past two weeks.

The Tigers-Magpies match was being shown live to American audiences on Fox Sports 1.

Former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick first started the practice of kneeling during the US national anthem in 2016 before NFL games to draw attention to Black Americans being shot by police. —AAP

Mistreatment of Indigenous people must stop – Janz

By CHRIS PIKE



ATHLETE Alicia Janz is speaking out against racism in the hope that her position as a high-profile sportswoman can effect change.

Janz, who plays in the AFLW, delivered a spirited message during National Reconciliation Week, calling for all school children to learn the true history of Australia.

Janz was born on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait and grew up in Derby in Western Australia's Kimberley. Alongside her sister, Josie Janz-Dawson, Alicia played netball for West Coast Fever, and football for Swan Districts in the WAFLW and Fremantle and now West Coast in the AFLW.

She said society must come together as one and for this country to put an end to the mistreatment and marginalisation

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"We have a mission, to have equity and an opportunity to succeed in life," Janz said.

"In order for us to succeed in our mission, we need all of us, the Australian nation, to be in this together.

"For everyone to have the same vision, for us all to trust each other so every one of us has equity and an opportunity to succeed in life. Those of us who are at a disadvantage may need a helping hand.

"We are a minority in our homeland. Will we be allowed to speak? Will you be the one to help us achieve our mission? Will you be my ally?"

Janz believes it all starts with education.

She wants it to begin in school where students can be taught what actually happened in history, citing her own experience in the education system.

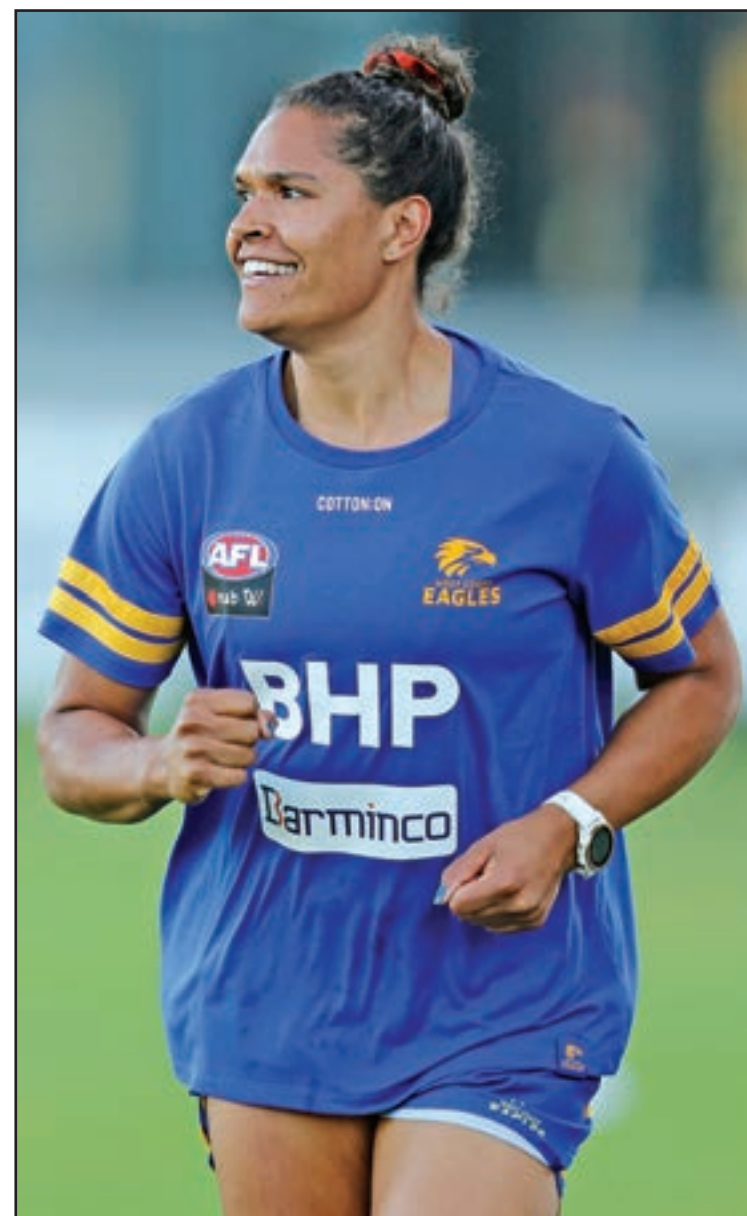
"As children, we learn there are two sides to every story and this is the same for our country's history," she said.

"At school I learnt that Australian history began in 1788, but what about the 60,000-year-old civilisation that thrived before that? Who holds that knowledge and how do we learn that knowledge?"

"We learn this history through our families and we share this knowledge (to give) a different perspective to others.

"There can be fear, a learned behaviour from past experiences, of how people will react to these stories. Will there be interest or anger? Will they be allowed to speak or told to be silent? Will it be ignored or will there be change?"

"We as Indigenous people are still trying to overcome the inequity we face from past policies and procedures that discriminated against us over the past 200 years which are inadvertently, indirectly still practised today."



AFLW player Alicia Janz is speaking out against racism.

NRL players take the knee in solidarity



THE South Sydney Rabbitohs and Gold Coast Titans joined together to take a knee in support of the Black Lives Matter movement ahead of Saturday's match at Bankwest Stadium in Parramatta.

The move, which was officially sanctioned by the NRL, followed similar shows of support from players from the Cowboys, Warriors, Eels and Panthers players on Friday night, with the Melbourne Storm also showing their support for the movement at the suggestion of star winger Josh Addo-Carr.

The match officials joined both teams in the show of solidarity on Saturday.

NRL acting chief executive Andrew Abdo said the players had the support of the NRL to take a united approach.

"I commend the players for demonstrating a united and inclusive approach," Abdo said.

"Sport brings people together and allows us to celebrate diverse cultures and backgrounds. The diverse heritage of our players and our genuine spirit of inclusivity is part of the game we love.

"Our players should be applauded for promoting positive social change."

At Bankwest Stadium on Friday night Eels and Panthers players took a knee at full-time to raise awareness for Aboriginal deaths in custody, after the Cowboys and Warriors took a similar stand at Central Coast Stadium.

Twelve percent of the NRL's elite players are Indigenous.



Players from Souths and Gold Coast take a knee, along with match officials, before their NRL game on Saturday.

Show of support for #Black Lives Matter



"I CAN'T breathe."

The last words of African American George Floyd, who was killed by a white police officer in Minneapolis, have

sparked people across the world to take to the streets in spite of COVID-19 risks.

They were also the last words of 26-year-old Dunghutti man David Dungay Junior, who died in Long Bay Prison in 2015, while being restrained by prison guards.

In Australia, tens of thousands of people took to the streets across the country to show solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and draw attention to Indigenous deaths in custody, defying calls from health officials and the Prime Minister to stay home amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Large protests swept Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Darwin, Hobart and Adelaide and some regional towns.

Thousands of people, many wearing masks, were already gathered in front of Sydney's Town Hall on Saturday when the NSW Court of Appeal declared the Stop All Black Deaths in Custody rally an authorised public assembly.

"They held my son down for 10 minutes," Leetona Dungay said of her son's death in Long Bay Prison in 2015.

Aboriginal prisoners at Long Bay



Prisoners in Long Bay Prison show solidarity.

formed the letters 'BLM' with sheets to show their solidarity with the protests.

During the week of protests, Prime Minister Scott Morrison came under fire for saying "there was no slavery in Australia" when the country was founded.

Mr Morrison said his comments were about how NSW was settled on principles which included that the colony was not to have slavery.

"My comments were not intended to give offence and, if they did, I deeply regret that and apologise for that," he said.

Meanwhile, police will fine Melbourne rally organisers \$1652 each for breaching the directions of

the chief health officer.

Victoria Police had earlier warned the Warriors of the Aboriginal Resistance they could face fines if they went ahead with the rally and on Saturday evening followed through on their warning.

Thousands of people also flocked to inner-city Brisbane with crowds spilling from King George Square to neighbouring blocks.

People packed stairwells and balconies to get a view while others brandished signs calling for reform in Queensland and across the world.

Speakers, including Elders, traditional owners and African Australians, detailed police brutality

against members of their own families and the racism they had experienced.

"We rise together and we speak in one voice against racism ... and legislation that takes away our freedom in this country ... our right to have a voice, our right to be free," Wangan and Jagalingou man Adrian Burragubba said.

In South Australia, more than 5000 people packed Adelaide's Victoria Square.

Speaker Jack Buckskin, a Kurna and Narungga man, welcomed the large turnout, telling the gathering whether Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, they were all part of the same society.

"This is about us coming together as people," he said.

There was a large police presence at the rally and march through the city, but Commissioner Grant Stevens had given it an exemption from COVID-19 restrictions on Friday.

Hundreds had also registered their interest in attending a candlelight vigil on the lawns of Parliament House in Hobart.

Northern Territory Senator Malarndirri McCarthy attended one of the rallies.

"We have way too many deaths in custody, way too many people incarcerated, in terms of First Nations people," she said. "I would say to (Finance Minister) Mathias Cormann and the Prime Minister,

pull together a national cabinet to reduce the high rates of incarceration and Aboriginal deaths in custody."

Prominent academic Marcia Langton said she understood why people were taking to the streets.

"There have been ... no convictions of any police officer ever for killing or assaulting Aboriginal people," she said. "There is no acknowledgement of this problem by the politicians and no effort to retrain the police force to stop them from killing us. I would have thought it is pretty straightforward. Do not kill Aborigines. How hard is that?"

And WA Senator Pat Dodson – who was a commissioner with the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody – gave an impassioned speech to the Senate calling for action.

"The Aboriginal community feels very much disconnected and uncared for in this society," he said. "There's no real progress taking place in the deaths in custody arena. In my home state it's a disgrace. It's a shame to see the rate at which incarceration is occurring in Western Australia.

"We've had over 400 deaths in custody when we could have had far better measures implemented to deal with these factors."

– with AAP

● Read our wrap-up of protests around the country, pages 28-45.

Virtual events take Mabo Day to wider audience

By ALF WILSON



THE Townsville Torres Strait Islander working group delivered a COVID-19 safe Mabo Day event on June 3.

A small ceremony was held at the Eddie Mabo monument in Central Park not far from the CBD and on the banks of Ross River.

Social distancing was in place, but the event, for the first time, was not open to the public.

The ceremony included traditional Meriam dancing, speeches from Townsville Mayor Jenny Hill and Gail Mabo, who is a daughter of the late and great Eddie "Koiki" Mabo.

"Let's not be divided, the colour of a person's skin means nothing; it's what is in the person's heart.

"As a community we all should stand united because this day changed the nation for the fact what my dad did changed history. That should be celebrated because he was also a hero. Let's celebrate the man who lived in this community, but who changed history," Gail Mabo said.

For Australia's Torres Strait Islander communities and their people, one of the most significant dates on the calendar annually is June 3, which is known as Mabo Day.

This important day commemorates Eddie Koiki Mabo's campaign for Indigenous land rights and is the anniversary of the subsequent landmark decision of the High Court of Australia on June 3, 1992.

That overturned the legal fiction of 'terra nullius', which had been an integral influence on Australian law since the arrival of Captain James Cook in 1770.

On June 3, family members of other plaintiffs Reverend David Passi, Celuia Mapo Salee, Sam Passi and James Rice also laid wreaths and this event was livestreamed via Facebook.

The second element to this year's celebration was the pre-recorded Mabo Day commemoration, which included cultural performances and Welcome to Country from Elders.

The pre-recorded ceremony was produced into a 60-minute video that included traditional owners, Elders, cultural



The Eddie Koiki Mabo memorial.



Gail Mabo speaks at the small ceremony near the monument to her father in Townsville.



From left at the memorial are Moses Nelliman, Helen Akee, Marita Akee, Topsy Tapim, Townsville Mayor Jenny Hill, Gail Mabo, Rick Phineasa.

practitioners, and a diverse cross section of community leaders discussing what Mabo Day means to them.

William Mabo is a grandson of Eddie Mabo and was one of those who recorded for the video.

"I was Eddie Mabo's first-born grandson and was then also given the middle name

of Koiki, which is an honour. Mabo Day every year is a time of reflection and we remember the struggles he had to put up with and we and the community draw strength from that," William told the *Koori Mail*.

William said the family was without his grandmother, Eddie's wife Bonita Mabo,

who was honoured with a state funeral after she passed away in December 2018.

"We remembered her and visited her grave," William said.

The working group created a Facebook page that attracted interest from Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and other Australians.

This page continues to attract interest, and is being used as a vehicle to promote increased awareness of Indigenous issues, as well as promoting positive community achievements.

The working group consisted of eight people and a total number of 26 people were involved in organising the event.

As at June 5, more than 4300 had viewed the virtual event.

With the two events currently shared more than 60 times, it is expected that those numbers will continue to grow over the coming weeks.

Two social media platforms were used for the project – Facebook and YouTube. The YouTube platform was used to improve accessibility of the event, for those without social media.

The virtual events attracted strong interest from community stakeholders including indigenous media, and community controlled organisations.

Townsville 4K1G broadcast the video through their radio network at 5pm on June 3. This further improved the attendance and accessibility of the event. Bumma Bipperra radio in Cairns also expressed interest in the event, and interviewed working group member Genus Passi on their *National Talk Black* program.

Television News Channel 7 and Channel 9 also reported on the event.

Online feedback has been positive (100%) The working group members have not reported any negative feedback from community.

All anecdotal feedback has been very positive. It is the working group's observation that the virtual event benefited the broader community, with the event attracting interest from across Queensland and NSW.



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



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Warami festival celebrations go online



THE City of Parramatta's Warami festival, which celebrates and commemorates

Indigenous culture in Parramatta, is returning this year with a unique online program.

Due to COVID-19 health restrictions, Warami – which is a Darug word meaning 'good to see you' – will run online until July 5.

Parramatta Lord Mayor Bob Dwyer said that the digital series of events includes National Sorry Day, National Reconciliation Week, and Burramatta NAIDOC.

"The Burramattagal people have called Parramatta home for more than 60,000 years. Warami is an event that celebrates their connection to the land and recognises that Parramatta always was and always will be an important gathering place," he said.

"Warami is a wonderful opportunity for people to learn about and experience the art, music and culture of our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"While we cannot physically come together for the Warami events this year, it's important that as a community we continue to pay homage to our city's past and present Indigenous population.



Peta Strachan, Jannawi Dance Clan.

"I encourage everyone – no matter your background – to explore what's on offer in this year's exciting digital program."

The program began on National Sorry Day, May 26. The

community will be able to access a range of online content including stories from past and present Stolen Generations; ways to support survivors, families, and communities; links

to Aboriginal corporations and foundations; educational resources and more.

Burramatta NAIDOC will then take place from June 4 to July 5. Over the course of four

"The Burramattagal people have called Parramatta home for more than 60,000 years. Warami is an event that celebrates their connection to the land and recognises that Parramatta always was and always will be an important gathering place."

– Parramatta Lord Mayor, Bob Dwyer

weeks, the community will have access to a diverse range of online content including Aboriginal arts and crafts, language activities, an Aboriginal cultural walk, and more.

The program will conclude WARAMI Live: Burramatta NAIDOC Live Music Sessions, from 12-2pm on July 5. This free online concert will feature the best Indigenous artists and dance groups from Burramatta NAIDOC.

Warami festival will conclude on July 5. However, the online content will remain live for the community to access.

Death of NT baby girl sparks investigation



THE Northern Territory Children's Commissioner has asked police and government agencies for information about the death of an Aboriginal baby girl while her mother was in custody.

NT Police said they were investigating the death of the four-month old in Katherine.

However, they also said "the death is not being considered suspicious and police are

waiting on results of an autopsy".

The force later confirmed the child's 21-year-old mother had been taken into custody before the death was reported to police.

They did not say whether they knew the woman had a baby or another young child believed to be in the same house or did anything to ensure their wellbeing.

"This is a tragic event and the police are focused on completing a thorough

investigation into all of the circumstances," a police statement said.

Children's Commissioner Colleen Gwynne said she was "aware of the tragic death of the baby in Katherine and received a briefing".

Ms Gwynne said she had "formally requested further information and is undertaking preliminary inquiries including a review of family history and interactions with services" before she decides whether to

investigate fully. The immediate police response was a matter for the Ombudsman, she added.

The Children's Commissioner is an independent office responsible for ensuring the wellbeing of vulnerable children, and has statutory powers to monitor and investigate the actions of government agencies, which in this case would be Territory Families.

Police will prepare a report for the coroner. – AAP



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Rainbow serpent wins pride of place as NAIDOC 2020 changes celebration date



TYROWN Waigana, a Perth-based artist and designer, has been named as this

year's winner of the prestigious National NAIDOC poster competition.

And National NAIDOC Week 2020 celebrations will be held from November 8 to 15.

The November dates follow the decision by the National NAIDOC Committee to postpone NAIDOC Week from the original July dates due to the impacts and uncertainty from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic across communities and cities.

"The postponement was aimed at protecting our Elders and those in our communities with chronic health issues from the disastrous impacts of COVID-19," the committee said.

"The National NAIDOC Committee understands that the original July dates for NAIDOC Week may still be acknowledged by communities and organisations. We strongly encourage that those events be staged in a COVID-safe way to continue to protect the most susceptible in our communities."

Tyrown's winning entry,



Perth based artist and designer Tyrown Waigana is the winner of the National NAIDOC 2020 poster competition.

Shape of Land, was judged by the National NAIDOC Committee to have best illustrated the 2020 NAIDOC theme: Always Was Always Will Be.

Mr Waigana, a proud Noongar and Saibai Islander, said his winning entry depicts the Rainbow Serpent coming out of the Dreamtime to create this country and how we are strongly connected to it.

"The Rainbow Serpent is represented by the snake and it forms the shape of Australia, which symbolises how it created our lands," he said. "The colour from the Rainbow Serpent is reflected on to the figure to display our connection to the Rainbow Serpent, thus our connection to country. The overlapping colours on the outside is the Dreamtime.

"The figure inside the

shape of Australia is a representation of Indigenous Australians showing that this country – since the dawn of time – always was and always will be Aboriginal land."

Committee co-chairs Pat Thompson and John Paul Janke congratulated Mr Waigana.

"This year's competition attracted a staggering 270 entries nationally who responded to the 2020 NAIDOC theme," they said.

"It was a challenging task for the Committee to choose a single winner from such a huge range of remarkable entries and we thank everyone who submitted an entry."

Mr Waigana has a Bachelor of Arts majoring in graphic design, advertising and illustration and photography and runs his own brand and business



The poster displaying Tyrown's artwork shows the revised date for NAIDOC 2020.

Crawlin Crocodile.

"My passion for art and design comes from an early age and my goal is to make a living of being an artist and take on exciting new creative projects.

"I love to learn new techniques and platforms I can create on," he said.

As the winner, Mr Waigana will have his artwork displayed on the 2020 National NAIDOC Poster and receives a \$10,000 cash prize. With over 100,000 posters printed, the National NAIDOC posters are distributed across the country from schools,

kindergartens and universities to government departments, organisations and shopping centres.

Last year there were some 48,000 digital downloads of the 2019 NAIDOC Week poster.

The iconic NAIDOC poster has been celebrating and promoting NAIDOC Week since the late 1960s and rose to national prominence in the 1970s with the establishment of the Indigenous rights movement.

To find out more about this year's artwork and winning artist and to download a digital copy of the 2020 National NAIDOC Poster visit the NAIDOC website.

Free printed copies of the 2020 National NAIDOC Poster will be available in coming months.

Further announcements regarding the National NAIDOC Awards and a new NAIDOC Local Grants Round for 2020 will be made within coming weeks.

The committee said that despite the challenges due to COVID-19 they were continuing to work with partners and key stakeholders to make NAIDOC Week 2020 a suitable and fitting celebration of #AlwaysWasAlwaysWillBe.

Peak body for kids in care faces funding cut

By **DARREN COYNE**



ABSEC, the peak body that supports NSW Aboriginal organisations that look after children in out-of-home care (OOHC), is about to lose half of its funding.

AbSec provides child protection and out-of-home care policy advice on issues affecting Aboriginal children, young people, families and carers.

But the organisation has been informed that NSW Communities Minister Gareth Ward will cut more than half of its \$5.7 million budget at the end of this month.

The Government argues that AbSec's core funding would remain unchanged, and that the funding cuts would only target programs that had one-off funding.

The decision has been slammed by NSW Labor and the peak body, which argue that more support is needed, not less, and that the programs being cut had been successful in improving outcomes for families.

AbSec chief executive Tim Ireland, a Bundjalung man, told the *Koori Mail* that the funding cuts would "essentially stop programs supporting organisations that deliver intensive, family-based services for Aboriginal families" across the state.

Mr Ireland said close to 40% of children in



AbSec chief executive Tim Ireland.

out-of-home care in NSW were Aboriginal.

"The programs that will be lost are aimed at keeping kids at home by strengthening families and Aboriginal organisations," he said.

"We'll have a slight reduction in workers (as a result of the funding cuts). We've been able to keep people on with the COVID-19 stimulus, but now we'll have to look at other streams of income."

He said, given the impacts of the pandemic, "now would be a disastrous time to reduce any kind of funding to either the representative voice that we provide to Aboriginal families and kids, or to any Aboriginal service delivery".

He said AbSec, which has operated for 20 years and employs 32 staff, would have to make cuts to programs that were working well to support families.

"It is a real blow to us. We've been working for a number of years to support better programs for families and the organisations that support them."

NSW Labor has called on the Government to reverse its decision.

NSW Shadow Minister for Family and Community Services Penny Sharpe said more support was needed, not less.

"The NSW Government must immediately guarantee that funding for AbSec will continue," she said.

"These cuts will mean that years of work by dedicated staff across NSW will be lost.

"Staff in regional NSW will lose their jobs and the work keeping families together and supporting children and young people in the care system will be gone."

Ms Sharpe said statistics showed that Aboriginal children and young people were 10 times more likely to be in care compared to other children.

"The proportion of Aboriginal children and young people entering OOHC continues to increase compared to other kids," she said.

"The number of Aboriginal children and young people reported as at risk of serious harm continues to increase while the number

of kids and families receiving support decreases."

Ms Sharpe accused Gareth Ward of sitting on a damning report into the out-of-home care system that makes 125 recommendations.

"Not one of those recommendations suggests cuts to organisations like AbSec. "This decision must be reversed," she said.

Mr Ward's office issued a statement saying the NSW Government would continue to work with AbSec to support Aboriginal children, families and communities across the state.

"We understand the importance of listening to Aboriginal communities and empowering Aboriginal-led decision making," the statement said.

"The NSW Government has not cut funding to AbSec. The organisation will continue to receive funding to support its role as the peak organisation for Aboriginal children, families and communities in NSW.

"AbSec has received funding for one-off time-limited projects, some of which end in June.

"A strong focus on seeing more children, improved practice and evidence-based family preservation programs has resulted in a 35% reduction in the number of Aboriginal children and young people entering OOHC since 2015-16."

Yirramboi pilot for writers

By KIRK PAGE



CAROLINE Briggs Martin is a direct descendant of the Briggs family and custodian of Boonwurrung country.

Her ancestral lands extend from the Werribee River inland Melbourne, Port Phillip and Westernport Bays along the Mornington Peninsula coast to Wilson's Promontory.

Caroline has a background in policy making for arts and culture, tourism and education, creating her own consultancy business named Yalukit Marnang. She is passionate about developing and delivering programs that centre on cultural and professional capabilities.

Caroline Briggs Martin was appointed the creative director of Yirramboi Festival in late 2018. The Yirramboi festival is one of the cultural highlights of Melbourne's calendar, programming local and international acts for a feast of First Nations cultural events. 'Yirramboi' means 'tomorrow' in the shared local languages of the Boonwurrung and Woiwurrung peoples, and the program is all "about what's next", Caroline says.

And it has launched a pilot program as part of its Resilience in Isolation initiative called Blak Bloggers. In a bid to encourage First Nations artists to stay creative during COVID-19's social restrictions, Yirramboi are inviting artists to submit content. Successful applicants will have their work published by Yirramboi



Caroline Briggs Martin, creative director of Yirramboi Festival, has big plans for the 2021 festival. For now, Yirramboi has launched a pilot program, Blak Bloggers, to encourage First Nations artists to stay creative during the COVID-19 restrictions.

and be paid for their submission.

Blak Bloggers is looking for writing from all sorts of creative writers across the country. Your story can be a personal reflection, lyrical, poetic literature, academic, short story, comical or fictional.

The First Nations community has passed on culture and knowledge from generation to

generation through storytelling, and Yirramboi invites you to be a part of the Blak Bloggers call out.

Submissions are open now. Successful applicants to date include Tuuli Narkle who unravels her new relationship while navigating quarantine restrictions with a new partner. Rosie Kalina shares her views on the pandemic

and the parallels it has to the stories she heard from grandparents. Read Rosie's story on Blak Bloggers as well as following Nathalie McLean's recent trip to France to celebrate her 30th birthday. Go to Blak Bloggers to read more.

"Blak Bloggers was created to provide an economic opportunity

for artists and writers.

"We wanted our artists to be heard during these times of social restriction and isolation," Caroline said.

Dates for the next Yirramboi Festival are May 6-16, 2021.

"We will commission five new works, world premieres. During the application process for new works, we've received 28 expressions of interest. We hope to engage local artists during this EOI process," Caroline said.

"I want to ensure that we have representatives from the 38 different language groups in this area, such as Mildura, Swan Hill, Shepparton and Echuca. We are looking for work that comes from those communities, giving them a platform and an opportunity to shine with the hope the works will be a part of the festival in the future.

"We have begun other international partnerships with Taiwan and there has been a collaboration with our artists through various networks, and that promises to continue.

"Our festival looks to participate in a way that is reciprocal. We want to do more collaborations and engage in these relationships with First Nations communities across the globe."

Contact Kalinda Palmer via kalinda.palmer@melbourne.vic.gov.au for further details and have your writing published by Yirramboi.

This is a pilot program and a paid opportunity to be part of Yirramboi's online collective of Blak Bloggers.

COVID-19

Raylene Gordon
CEO, Awabakal

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Win for pictorial screens



BUNDABERG's Indigenous Wellbeing Centre (IWC) has taken out the top award in the 2020

Queensland Reconciliation Awards for its groundbreaking pictorial screens project.

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said the project showcased the benefits of approaching reconciliation as a community.

"It focused on the First Nations peoples and the trauma experienced in their lifetime; a platform for true reconciliation and a healing process for the community," she said.

"The Indigenous Wellbeing Centre has acknowledged the importance and sensitivities of the past through a piece of art, and also opened a platform for discussion, not just within the Bundaberg community, but across Queensland.

"I want to congratulate the centre for its commitment to engaging the local community, acknowledging our history and valuing the knowledge of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples."

IWC chief executive Ara Harathunian said there are 11 screens wrapping the Bundaberg building, with two focusing on the massacres that continue to resonate in the region today.

"The pictorial screens showcase the sacred places of the traditional owners, and also bring into the community arena the trauma of the horrific massacres which took place in this region in the mid-19th century," he said.

"True reconciliation requires truth. And by working with traditional owners and Elders in this region to capture the oral histories of the ancestors and share this information with the community, the truth has been put out there for all to see – and to understand.

"We should like to thank the traditional owners and Elders who worked with us on this



Indigenous Wellbeing Centre chief executive Ara Julga Harathunian, general manager Wayne Mulvany and director Stirling Eggmolesse.

project, which we believe is an Australian first. We are honouring the past while looking to a brighter future together, as one community, that has respect for our Aboriginal history."

IWC general manager Wayne Mulvany said the process had been long and harrowing for the Elders involved.

"Over the many months of the process, many tears were shed and old wounds revealed," he said. "We worked with a local artist, Jacky Poulter, to create a mainstream interpretation of the oral histories, which were then turned into the 11 3m-high screens now wrapping the streetscape of the IWC Complex.

"We also captured the stories, and these are on plaques which sit under the original artworks on permanent display in the complex."

The Premier congratulated

the 16 awards finalists for their dedication and commitment to reconciliation across Queensland.

The awards are held as part of National Reconciliation Week (May 27 – June 3).

The Premier said a construction company focusing on Indigenous training and employment, a memorial garden honouring the First Nations Peoples, and the team responsible for the 80-metre screen project depicting the First Nation oral histories are among this year's recipients.

"The strength and diversity of the initiatives honoured through these awards is a true indication of the support for reconciliation across the state," Ms Palaszczuk said.

"While an awards ceremony couldn't be held this year, it's important we still recognise the winners and finalists for their

significant contributions and their achievements, which are inspiring others along the pathway to greater inclusivity."

"These awards are a valuable opportunity for voices to be heard, and for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Queenslanders to appreciate and acknowledge our shared history."

In other categories, Hutchinson Builders was named winner of the Business category for its Statim Yaga (Start Work) program, which focuses on Indigenous training and employment.

Beulah Community Limited, which established the First People's Memorial Garden and War Memorial and a Frontier Wars installation featuring artworks by several local First Peoples artists, took out the Community category award.

Eidsvold P-12 State School was the winner of the Education

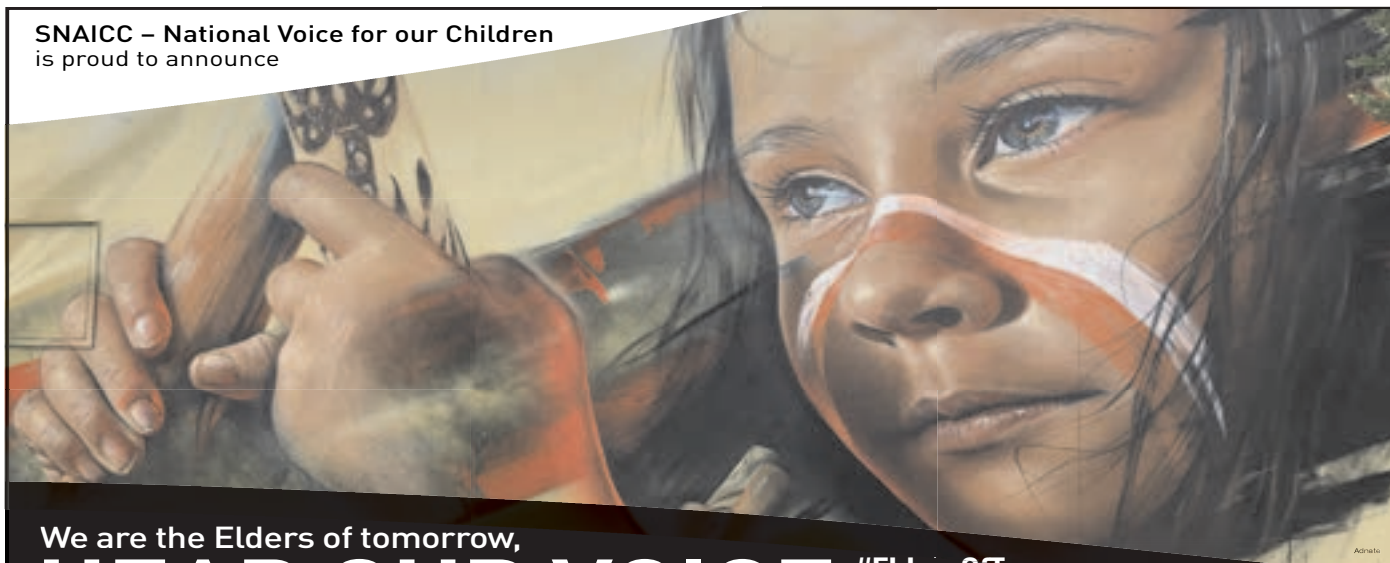
category for 'Yumbin means "All of us"' an initiative to link students, teachers and the wider community through health, wellbeing and a focus on building cultural capacity.

Sunshine Coast Regional Council's Kids in Action program, in partnership with Jinibara Aboriginal Corporation and Gubbi Gubbi Dance, took out the Partnership category.

The winning projects across the categories of business, community, education, partnership and the Premier's Reconciliation Award will receive a share of \$25,000 in prize money.

The Queensland Reconciliation Awards is an initiative of the Queensland Government through the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships.

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Support for kids in care

By NICK PATON



ABORIGINAL children in foster care who are in critical need of trauma-related counselling services face a five-month wait. And of the kids

who do eventually receive support, 42% have major difficulties making and keeping friends, and almost half have been bullied.

That's why the Australian Childhood Foundation has partnered with Indigenous not-for-profit organisation Ngaoara to deliver the OurSPACE program.

Funded by the NSW Government's Their Futures Matter initiative, the OurSPACE program provides trauma-informed therapeutic support to children and families from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds across NSW.

The program specialises in foster and kinship care, in ways that integrate culturally strong practices with trauma healing approaches that aim to build connection to family, country and community.

Bundjalung Murri woman and Aboriginal therapeutic specialist Melissa Zarb said OurSPACE collaborates with a network of adults and organisations, with a focus on creating an environment dedicated to the recovery and healing of children traumatised by abuse, neglect and family violence.

"What we are talking about here is healing kids who have experienced intergenerational



OurSPACE carer Uncle Mike, OurSPACE Aboriginal therapeutic specialist and Bundjalung Murri woman Melissa Zarb, 'Dakota', and Sue Buratti, manager of Therapeutic Services NSW for the Australian Childhood Foundation.

trauma and abuse within the system," Ms Zarb said.

"So to have an Aboriginal worker or therapist come into the home of an Aboriginal child really helps to break that cycle of trauma and gives the child the opportunity to break free from some of the shocking statistics.

"What our service does is build trust between the affected child and

give a voice to their kinship carer who can say, 'This is what happened to me too. The same thing happened to my children, but it's not what is going to happen to you' because we know healing is not just about the child, it's about every single member of the family."

Sue Buratti, manager of Therapeutic Services NSW for the Australian Children's Foundation,

told the *Koori Mail* that the OurSPACE program will connect and reconnect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people with their culture, promote a positive sense of self and identity, build resilience, and improve outcomes for health, education and social participation.

"This program really is a first of its kind," Ms Buratti said.

"What we know for certain is that Aboriginal children are overrepresented in out-of-home care, so with the OurSPACE program, we provide an outreach service where our therapists go into the home of the child.

"This is due to the fact that our Indigenous clients generally felt that other types of therapy just weren't culturally safe for them to be involved in."

As a national not-for-profit organisation, the Australian Childhood Foundation has provided specialist therapeutic services to children and young people for over 30 years.

Anaiwan woman and Aboriginal therapeutic specialist Bree Parsons said a lot of the work OurSPACE is doing helps in connecting kids back to their country, community and culture.

"These kids often come to the program after being moved around from here, there and everywhere," Ms Parsons said.

"That's why we need to provide stability for these kids, because often they end up in cities and places that aren't their home, which can be very scary and intimidating to deal with as a child, without the right types of support in place.

"Aboriginal kids need access to kinship and culture, and the OurSPACE program really does support the reconnection of kids to their their country and community which is essential for their healing."

For more information visit www.childhood.org.au/map/ourspace/



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COVID-19 restraints spur calls for prisoner release

By DARREN COYNE



AN Aboriginal-led group is calling for the release of low-risk prisoners after conducting a survey that showed more than half were suffering a “serious decline” in mental health as a result of restrictions brought in to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The survey of more than 60 prisoners and their families asked prisoners how COVID-19 restrictions had affected them. Ninety-eight per cent replied that their mental health and wellbeing had been negatively impacted in some way, with almost 50% of survey participants indicating that they had been “massively” affected.

Carly Stanley and Keenan Mundine, co-founders of the Deadly Connections organisation, told the *Koori Mail* that it was time for NSW Corrective Services to begin easing restrictions, especially with regard to visitors.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, prisoners have been denied the right to weekly visits, and have only been allowed contact with family for 15 minutes each month via Skype.

They have also been restricted from access to gym facilities and other forms of exercise. The survey also asked respondents about restrictions to essential services they rely on for their wellbeing and parole.

One third responded that most services had been suspended entirely with a further 23% saying services had been “highly” affected.

Work and day release programs had been suspended, which meant people were actually spending longer in gaol.



Deadly Connections co-founders Keenan Mundine and Carly Stanley.

Mr Mundine and Ms Stanley said prisoners denied visitors were also complaining that they were not being given proper sanitary products.

“The overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in Australian prisons is amongst the highest of any minority group in the world,” they said.

“This is a human rights and social justice issue of the highest concern, going to the heart of colonial dispossession and systemic racism in this country.

“Scores of Aboriginal people have and continue to die in custody, and this will only worsen if more is not done to bring people home to their families.”

They argue that reducing prison numbers would increase the safety of others in the event of a second wave of COVID-19. It would also free up capacity in what limited or restricted services remain, such as video visits with families.

“We call on governments around Australia to immediately expedite the parole of all low-risk

prisoners,” they said. “The immediate increase and prioritisation of funding for community rehabilitation and education services is also imperative.

“We need to ensure that all people released from prison have access to appropriate programs and services to effectively support them during their transition from custody to community.

They said the incarcerated people were among the most vulnerable in the community. A 2006 study of NSW prisoners on entry into custody found that 80% would have met the diagnostic criteria for a psychiatric disorder within the past year compared to 31% of a community sample.

“The further decline in the mental health and wellbeing of incarcerated people is everyone’s business, as most will sooner or later be among the community,” they said.

Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt said the Government was progressing with the Closing the Gap refresh in partnership with the Coalition of Peaks, “and while we’re still in final negotiations, it has been agreed that there will be justice targets contained within that agreement that focus on incarceration rates”.

“What’s important is that this agreement has been developed in partnership with Indigenous Australians and so we’re all working towards better outcomes for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples,” Mr Wyatt said in a statement.

“I will keep on working to empower Indigenous Australians – improve health, education and employment outcomes – and reduce the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in custody.”



The Department of Education

Entry to government primary schools with opportunity classes for Year 5 entry in 2021

Applications for placement in Year 5 in an opportunity class in 2021 will be open to parents and carers of students in Year 4 from **Tuesday 9 June to Friday 26 June 2020**.

Parents or carers will need to apply online before 26 June 2020 if they want their children to be considered for placement in Year 5 in an opportunity class in 2021. Late applications cannot be accepted.

Application information is available on the internet at:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5>

Parents without internet access or parents with a disability that prevents them from using a computer can contact the High Performing Students Team for assistance.

Students seeking placement in an opportunity class in 2021 will have to take the Opportunity Class Placement Test on the morning of **Wednesday 16 September 2020**.

There are 76 schools with opportunity classes in NSW. New for Year 5 entry in 2021 is a virtual opportunity class at Aurora College, which provides a specialist high potential and gifted students program in rural and remote areas which do not already have a local opportunity class.

Parents can apply for up to two schools with opportunity classes.

A complete list of schools with opportunity classes is available at:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/what-are-opportunity-classes/list-of-opportunity-classes>

Enquiries about application procedures should be directed to the High Performing Students Team, email: ssu@det.nsw.edu.au or telephone: 1300 880 367.

Enquiries relating to individual school matters should be directed to the schools concerned.



Community Safety Infrastructure Grants now open

Community organisations and Victorian Councils can apply for grants of up to \$500,000 to improve public safety and security infrastructure.

Applications close 4.00pm 17 July 2020

To apply online and find program information visit:

crimeprevention.vic.gov.au/communityinfrastructuregrants



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Authorised by the Chief Medical Officer, Canberra

Aunty Elsie backs learning

By NICK PATON

 WIRADJURI Elder Aunty Elsie Heiss has dedicated her life to improving the educational outcomes for Aboriginal people, and now the University of Notre Dame in Sydney has announced a new scholarship named in her honour.

Aunty Elsie has led Aboriginal Catholic Ministry programs for well over three decades and told the *Koori Mail* she is incredibly proud to have the Aunty Elsie Indigenous Support Scholarship named after her. And after such a longstanding association with the University of Notre Dame, Aunty Elsie is honoured to have her name attached to something so significant.

"This scholarship will support young people in their time at Notre Dame," Aunty Elsie said.

"The funds will go towards young people being able to purchase the things that they need to be successful, be it a laptop or other learning materials.

"While modest, the scholarship will encourage other students to follow in the footsteps of those who are the 2020 recipients. So we will see a number of scholars being supported and being role models for their peers. This is my favourite impact."

The scholarship is open to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students studying full-time at the University of Notre Dame



Aunty Elsie Heiss and Anthony Fisher, Catholic archbishop of Sydney.

Australia which covers up to three years of undergraduate study and worth \$2500. Up to four scholarships are set to be awarded each year commencing

in July 2020, reaching up to 12 Aboriginal students by 2022. The Catholic archbishop of Sydney, Reverend Anthony Fisher, said the scholarship will be funded

by the Sydney Archdiocese and considering the respect and affection Aunty Elsie has earned from generations of Catholics across Australia, it is fitting that the new scholarship be named in her honour.

"Many will know Elsie through her founding work with the Reconciliation Church in La Perouse, but this is only a small element of her broader leadership in Aboriginal Catholic ministry," Rev Fisher said.

"Elsie knows firsthand the power of education to transform lives, having led Aboriginal education programs in schools over many years and I'm sure this scholarship program will also help transform countless lives, opening up valuable career opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students."

In 2009, Aunty Elsie was named as the NAIDOC female Elder of the year and in 2010 was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Notre Dame in recognition of her decades of service to the Catholic Church in promoting reconciliation between Indigenous and other Australians.

Aunty Elsie's daughter Anita Heiss, a writer and academic, said she is incredibly proud of her mum and this scholarship recognises all the work Aunty Elsie has done over the years as a role model for others too.

"My mother has an extraordinary work ethic that has inspired me throughout my life," Dr Heiss said.

"She also taught me very early in life the importance of remaining dignified in challenging times.

"Having a tertiary education means we have greater opportunities to influence and be part of sectors we have not traditionally had a role in."

Aunty Elsie said education can help to transform the lives of Aboriginal people.

"From a historical perspective, there have been very limited opportunities for Aboriginal people in the past, and the chance to go to university just wasn't available," she said.

"We were denied access to any form of education and it wasn't until 1963, when Charles Perkins graduated that we saw an Indigenous graduate in this country. So by universities making a commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, we are seeing far more young people go to university nowadays."

In acknowledging 2020 National Reconciliation Week, Aunty Elsie said that it is critical there is reconciliation between Indigenous and other Australians moving forward into the future.

"To Indigenous people it is recognition of who we are and to non-Indigenous people it is their opportunity to support us as a people and our culture," she said.

"Reconciliation acknowledges the past injustices and continues the journey of healing.

"So for Australia to be united, the Reconciliation movement must be successful."

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Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership in Social and Emotional Wellbeing, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Ten tips for coping with money stress

during the coronavirus outbreak

The coronavirus is a time of worry for all of us. But if you're in money stress, maybe you've lost your job, you may feel overwhelmed and without hope. While worry won't disappear, it's important to respond practically to stress less and stay strong.

Manage your feelings

1 Accept your money or job situation

Accepting your situation gives you a starting point - "Where do I go from here?"



2 Don't blame yourself

Many people are in the same situation. Treat yourself with kindness and don't take it personally.



3 Talk it out

Talk about your feelings with your family and friends and get them off your chest.



4 Chill out

Sometimes it's hard to switch off and relax when you feel really stressed. Find ways to deal with stress that make you feel good.



If you get really down or feel upset, contact one of the free services at the end of this page.

Take practical steps to stop money stress getting out of hand

Once you've accepted your situation, take practical steps to stop money worry getting out of hand.

5 Start budgeting

Add up your rent, food, phone and other costs and make sure your income covers them.



6 Make sure you're getting all your entitlements

Visit moneysmart.gov.au and find the Covid-19 financial assistance webpage to find out more.



7 Talk to someone

If you need help with money worries, call the free National Debt Helpline on 1800 007 007.



Plan to make the most of your time

Develop routines to help you manage your time, particularly if you've lost a job, and stick to them.

Create a Stay Strong plan that covers each day of the week.

8 Take control of your job search

If you're looking for work, develop routines such as checking job ads daily. Find out how to strengthen your CV and about any online or other training available.



9 Be creative or learn something new

Get into playing music, singing, storytelling, dancing and creativity to reduce your stress and keep your spirit strong.



10 Take time to help others

Helping others will keep you busy, make you feel good and help with stress. At this time, our Elders in particular might need help.



Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia is the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing and mental health leadership body. For more tips and resources see

gayaadhuwi.org.au

If you need to talk to someone

NACCHO	Online list of Indigenous health services and contact details	Google NACCHO, click Members menu tab
Beyond Blue	Free, confidential - speak to a mental health professional.	1300 22 46 36
Lifeline	Free, confidential 24-hour crisis support telephone service.	131 114
Kids Helpline	Free, confidential support line for young people ages 5 to 25	1800 551 800
e-headspace	Free, confidential online support for young people	Google eheadspace
1800 - RESPECT	Free, confidential 24/7 support - assault, family violence, abuse	1800 737 732

For more information, the National Coronavirus Helpline is free and operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week - 1800 020 080

The Australian Government has also established a website to connect people to mental health support - Google 'Head to Health'

A salute to a man who served with distinction

Vale
Private Victor William Simon
24/05/1945 – 13/03/2020

PRIVATE Victor 'Vic' Simon was one of five Indigenous soldiers who fought in the Battle of Long Tan in Vietnam in 1966. He served in 12 Platoon, Delta Company, 6RAR and was 21 years old at the time.

Victor passed away in March, aged 74, after a brief battle with cancer. Only 10 mourners were permitted to attend his funeral, in keeping with COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. Vic's family live-streamed his service to family and friends who could not be there in person.

Victor William Simon was born in Taree to Toki and Joyce Simon in 1945. A Worimi man, he was raised on the Tobwabba Reserve in Forster by his parents and his grandparents – 'Ma' Tilly Simon and Robert 'Barney' Simon.

The family came to live in Sydney in the early 1950s, firstly near Hyde Park, then Merrylands and finally Matraville.

Victor attended Maroubra Primary School and South Sydney Boys High School.

When Victor finished school, he got a job in a printing factory. One day, he came home and announced he had joined the army. He was 20.

The Simon family had a strong tradition of military service. Victor's great-uncle, William 'Nip' Simon, joined the army in 1916, aged 20, and was in the 20th Battalion/Regiment 6564, serving in France until his discharge due to illness in 1917.

Victor's father, Toki William Simon, enlisted in 1941 and was in the 2/3rd Battalion/6th Division, serving in the Middle East. One of the famed 'Rats of Tobruk', Toki then served in Papua New Guinea before returning to Australia in 1945.

Victor's uncle, Robert Simon (brother of Toki), joined up in 1941 and served in the 2/18th Battalion in Malaya. Captured when Singapore fell in 1942, Robert spent three and a half years as a POW in Changi.

After enlisting, Victor went to Holsworthy Military Barracks in South-Western Sydney, then Kapooka – an army recruit training centre south-west of Wagga Wagga. Kapooka, in the local dialect means 'place of wind'. Then he went to Puckapunyal Training Facility and Military area base in central Victoria.

And from there, Victor went to Vietnam and was one of 108 ANZACs who fought in the Battle of Long Tan.

In a letter Victor sent home to his mother after that battle, he wrote:

"Dear Mum and Dad, I received your letter about four days ago but went directly out on an operation. By the time you receive this letter you would have known what went wrong. I am OK, but not fighting fit anymore. I



Victor and Beverley Simon (née Williams) on their wedding day in 1974.



Victor Simon with daughter Victoria and grandson Jonathan.

saw that many VCs it wasn't funny. Our company moved out on the 18th, when we came across 12 Viet Cong. So we followed them and walked straight into a regiment of VCs. So you can see the odds, we had near a hundred blokes and the VCs had near 1500. Our two forward platoons got trapped: one of the platoons got out, but one was still trapped. Well, they sent my platoon in to get them out. We were about there, when fire came from all directions. We were surrounded and fought solid for four hours before reinforcements arrived. You should have heard the yells when the APCs came in with 'A' Company inside. When the VCs

saw them, they pulled back. I let out a yell that could be heard back in Australia. The next day we swept through the area, we captured a lot of weapons, all machine-guns. We got congratulations from "Old Holt" (the prime minister) and our general and the Yank general too. We came back to camp yesterday, and we were treated like kings. Blokes from other companies coming up shaking our hands. Last night we had free beers for two hours. I can go on writing about this for hours, but I don't think you want to know about it. I am glad to see camp. They'll have to cut off my arms to get me out again – I'll be holding on to that many things. Tomorrow

we go on leave for two days in Vung Tau, all the boys in the company need it. They said that a few medals will be handed out, but you can guess who will get them ... the officers. That's enough of that. I received Gail's parcel and I enjoyed every one of them. Well time's going by, into my 5th month now. I'm going to Hong Kong on the 21st Sept. My mind's not clear at the moment, I can't think of anything to write, so I'll have to say goodbye, see you in just over 7 months' time. Give my best to Dad and Gail and the crowd. Vic."

Victor was very good friends with Private Paul Large, who also served in 12 Platoon, Delta Company, 6RAR in Vietnam.

Paul departed for Vietnam on his 21st birthday and died 10 weeks later at Long Tan, the last Australian killed in action during the final minutes of the battle. Victor laid a poppy in memory of his mate Paul every year at the ANZAC Day service in Sydney's Kensington.

Victor was discharged medically unfit after Long Tan, due to his eardrums being perforated by a mine which exploded near him during the battle.

When he returned home, his mother noticed strange noises in the house at times. She would find her son trying to fit into the kitchen sink. Another time she found him sleeping on the ironing board.

After his army service, Victor worked as a cable joiner for Sydney County Council for 30 years until his retirement.

In 1973, Victor met Beverley Williams at Yarra Bay Sailing Club and they married within 12 months. Married for nearly 46 years, they had one daughter together, Victoria, and raised Beverley's two young sons Thomas and Jonathan.

Beverley's parents were Thomas Henry Williams OBE, an Aboriginal Affairs Commissioner for the Australian Federal Government during the 70s, and Iris Williams (née Callaghan). Beverley's grandfather, Thomas Henry Williams Senior, served in Palestine.

In early 2020, Victor faced another brief and intense battle – with cancer.

Though a very difficult time for him, Victor was thrilled to receive a special visit from rugby league superstar Latrell Mitchell in hospital the week before his passing. Vic was a devoted lifelong fan of the Rabbitohs.

Vic's granddaughter Sophie Youngberry said that in his final weeks, her grandfather was also presented with a Quilt of Valour, given to service members and veterans of the Australian Defence Forces in recognition of their sacrifice for Australia while deployed on combat operations.

"These quilts recognise the fact that those who serve in theatres of war so often return with demons. I guess my pop's kitchen sink story demonstrates his demons to some extent," she said.

Sophie paid tribute to her much-loved grandfather, who loved listening to Louis Armstrong and taught his grandkids many clever tricks, including how to win at noughts and crosses.

"Our pop kept his mind young. His daily routine was to wake at 5am, go get his newspaper and read it from cover to cover, complete the Sudoku inside, then head off to be with his friends and have a few beers at Matraville RSL, where he served for many years on the board. He taught us the meaning of being a kind, caring and respectful gentleman."



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Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra

Danny Eastwood's view



A YARN WITH...



Phillip Alley

Gudigal people, Charters Towers

Favourite bush tucker?
Kangaroo.

Favourite non-Indigenous food?
Steak, salad and chips.

Favourite drink?
XXXX Gold beer.

Favourite music?
Country and western.

Favourite sport?
Horse racing.

Favourite read?
Short novels.

Favourite holiday destination?
Los Angeles.

Favourite movie?
Australia.

What do you like in life?
Family and friends.

What don't you like in life?
Negative people.

Who would you like most to meet?
Tina Turner.

Which people would you invite for a night around the campfire?
Troy Cassar-Daley.

Who/what inspires you?
Being happy and healthy.

What would you do to better the situation for Indigenous people?
Ensure education is available for all.

Quote



"I've wheeled into meetings and you have already these preconceived ideas because he's an Aboriginal person or he's a quadriplegic: How's he going to do X, Y and Z? How's he going to operate?"

Wonnarua/Kamilaroi man Jake Briggs is a passionate advocate for people with disability

● See page 5

Unquote

It's time to hear black voices

TENS of thousands of people in Australia have shown up over the past few weeks to show solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

And to draw attention to the important fact that Black Lives Matter.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been taking to the streets for decades to try and draw attention to the massive overrepresentation of First Nations people in the criminal justice system.

And, if it takes a global movement to finally see some action on this issue, then it's about time.

Protest after protest made the point that Indigenous people feel the pain of Black America.

So for Prime Minister Scott Morrison to say that there "was no slavery" in Australia is disheartening.

Australia's wealth was built on the back of unpaid black labour.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are still fighting to be paid their 'Stolen Wages'.

And Mr Morrison did offer an apology of sorts:

"My comments were not intended to give offence and, if they did, I deeply regret that and apologise for that," he said.

But Morrison would have been better placed apologising for his ignorance and continuing the incorrect mythology of peaceful colonisation.



It's this sort of systemic racism and rewriting and whitewashing of history that continues to prop up a system that is built on oppressing Indigenous people.

And it's got to stop.

It's killing Aboriginal people.

It's absolutely no wonder that Indigenous people and their supporters took to the streets.

While the COVID-19 pandemic is killing people, so is racism.

The difference is that our governments have listened to the health experts on the coronavirus and so, compared to most nations across the world, Australia has weathered the pandemic reasonably well.

When will our governments start listening to the experts on First Nations issues and doing what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been calling for over decades?

Because Black Lives Matter.

And the people with the answers to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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).

Songman in fight for his father's honour

By DARREN COYNE



JOHNNY Lovett is a fighter. You could say it's in his blood.

His family are Gunditjmara people from Victoria's western districts.

Known as 'the Fighting Gunditjmara', their warriors battled bravely against white invaders during what is now known as the Eumarella War.

And Johnny is in the fight of his life to honour his father.

Having lost the frontier war, many Gunditjmara people then fought overseas on the side of those who took their land, hoping for a better future for their people.

Among them were the five Lovett brothers – including Johnny's father Herbert – who went to World War I and then signed up for World War II.

The Lovett brothers all survived the First World War and returned to Australia, settling back on the Lake Condah Aboriginal mission.

Twenty years later, Herbert and three of his four brothers re-enlisted and served from Australia in the Second World War.

But when Johnny's father Herbert came home from that war, it was 'back to being black'. He couldn't vote, he was denied entry to RSL clubs, and ignored by the Government which had set aside rural land packages for returned soldiers, called 'soldier settlement blocks'.

Around 37,000 veterans were given land, but when Herbert Lovett wrote asking for a section of the old Lake Condah mission, in September 1945, he was denied.

Instead, his family's traditional land was cut up and given away to white soldiers.

Johnny Lovett – a well-known country singer – has been fighting for compensation for many years.

"I've always been pushing for more recognition for my father," he told the *Koori Mail*.

"I'm 72 years old and I've been fighting this for 20 years. I've had a triple bypass and half a lung taken out from cancer so I don't know how much longer I can fight."

Mr Lovett said the Government's lack of assistance to returned Aboriginal soldiers like his father and other family, had flow-on effects through the generations.

"We got nothing.

"I grew up in the bush where my mother had to cart water 600 metres in kero tins just for a bath," he said.

He believes his father's life



Picture: Paul Connelly (One Lone Duck Photography)

would have been very different if only he had received land.

"Not all soldier settlements were successful but my father broke horses, sank dams, milked cows.

"He had all the attributes to be a farmer given the chance, but that was denied him.

"As a result he walked around the district looking for work and only coming home

once a month to his wife and kids after the war.

"It was wrong.

"Although I'd never heard him be resentful to white soldiers getting the land, it's just that ... the land that they got was his traditional land," he said.

While researching his family's war history, Mr Lovett spoke with people from the London War Museum, and John Connor, a

military historian with the Australian War Memorial.

"You hear them talking about the Lovett brothers and it turns out they were the only four brothers in the British Empire to serve in two world wars.

"I met with (Federal Labor MP) Warren Snowdon a few times and made the comment that if my father and his brothers were white they would have

statues in their honour."

In 2012 he unsuccessfully sought a settlement from the Victorian Government.

Mr Lovett said the offer was a pittance.

"After consulting with an accountant and a mathematician we came up with the figure of \$5.396 million," he said.

"They looked at what wool was worth and wages and that's the figure they say is reasonable.

"I've rattled the chain, but so far I've been let down by the state of Victoria.

"Gavin Jennings, the former minister, made those offers and I knocked them back.

"I was supposed to meet with him on the 16th last month, but on the 15th his advisor rang and cancelled the meeting. The next day he announced \$10 million to Stolen Generations of Victoria.

"His intentions to me, as I read it, is that you've knocked this back and that back so let's set down and come to a reasonable offer.

"But then he resigned and a new minister, Gabrielle Williams, was appointed so I'm back to square one."

Now, with pro-bono legal support, he is preparing to take the Government to court unless a proper settlement is reached.

The well-known singer-songwriter and country and western star, is hoping that happens before it's too late, not just for his family, but the families of other Aboriginal service men and women who were denied their rightful claims.

It's a fight he refuses to back down from.

Born in 1947 in Hamilton, Victoria, Johnny Lovett is a proud father, grandfather and great grandfather.

He grew up in the Hamilton and Heywood area as the only Aboriginal student at his schools. Growing up, Johnny was a talented sportsman, gifted boxer and musician.

Two years ago, Mr Lovett was inducted into the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll.

He has been a solo artist and a band member of Black Opal, Wild Wood, and Lovett or Leavitt.

He has used his music to raise awareness about many Aboriginal causes.

Mr Lovett wrote and recorded *Gunditjmara People* that is now seen as an anthem for the Gunditjmara people of the south west.

He also wrote the song *Maralinga* in response to the Australian Government providing a permanent test site at Maralinga in South Australia for British nuclear testing in the 1950s and early 1960s.

Time for disability truth

RECENT global events around racism have had a unifying effect on people of colour, including First Nations people in Australia and those who stand in solidarity with us.

In some ways, the stillness and stress of a global pandemic has forced our attention on an issue that is otherwise swept away or quickly replaced in the busy nature of our lives and the daily news cycle.

For many, including First Nations Australians, these are by no means new conversations. They are threads we try to weave every time tragedy confronts us, but momentum it seems, is always sullied by the passage of time and the reluctance for structural change.

It is good to see so many people laying bare these truths for all the world to see. This is discomfort that must be embraced in order to be addressed. But we know that as First Nations people, there is so much more to talk about.

Of course, with more than a third of all First Nations people also living with some form of disability, we know that closely tied to the issue of racism is the experience of ableism. I saw Australians from all walks of life standing alongside their brothers and sisters during recent national gatherings and I was heartened by the camaraderie. This is our



Andrea Mason

way – the power of our collective voices.

It is time now to begin to speak truth to the issue of disability in our communities, including the violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation that First Nations people might experience. We have been told about the impact of ableism, whether it is in the health, justice or personal settings and the extra burden this places on First Nations people in addition to the racism that they might already experience.

Imagine that you are treated poorly and differently every day

not just because of your race, but also because you have a disability. This is the reality of walking in three worlds for our people. It means that they may not get proper health care, that they may come to the attention of authorities more frequently and unnecessarily and that they are singled out because they have disability. This is the reality of what it means to live as a First Nations person with disability in this country and it is just one part of that reality.

Part of my role at the Disability Royal Commission is to work with First Nations people with disability to tell the full story of our people with disability, the harm they experience and how this can be addressed.

For too long, disability has not garnered much attention either amongst ourselves or in the national policy setting. It is time now to change this fact.

As Australia slowly starts to churn again following the easing of restrictions, it is time for the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability to forge ahead with this important work.

The period of lockdown has, of course, slowed down, rather than stopped, some of our activities.

Our hearings have been postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but we have continued to work with First

Nations people through engagements as well as our submission process.

We've also had strong interest from First Nations people with disability in private sessions. These allow people to share their experience with a royal commissioner in a confidential setting.

Before COVID-19, we travelled to a range of communities, including Palm Island, Cherbourg, Logan and Ipswich in Queensland and Darwin, Alice Springs and Papunya in the Northern Territory.

When it's safe to do so, we'll continue our schedule of community visits, so that we can get the information we need to make recommendations for change to prevent individual and systemic violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability.

This royal commission provides an opportunity for transformational change and we look forward to hearing from First Nations people with disability about their experiences.

Another way people can tell us about their experiences is by responding to our recent issues paper. It's an opportunity for First Nations people with disability, their families, communities and organisations to share their insights and expertise with the royal commission.

Just after the release of our

issues paper, I had the pleasure of meeting with the Aboriginal Executive Council in Victoria and look forward to meeting with more First Nations people with disability in regional Victoria over the coming months.

As the nation is taking time to consider the issue of race, I'd like to encourage all Australians, including First Nations people with disability and their families, to consider talking to the royal commission about their experiences.

Disability remains a key area that is ripe for truth-telling and that truth starts with us.

Andrea Mason is a Ngaanyatjarra and Karonie woman from Western Australia. She is one of the commissioners on the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

As well as responding to issues papers, people can share their story with the royal commission in any way they want: by phone, in writing or by making an audio or video recording.

People can also register for a private session, which allows people to share their experience with a royal commissioner in a confidential setting. It can be in person, via video conferencing or on the phone.

For more information go to disability.royalcommission.gov.au/

Push to stop criminalising children



LEGAL services are calling for the age of criminal responsibility to be raised from 10 to 14 across

Australia, saying the vicious cycle of incarceration among the nation's most vulnerable must end.

Children as young as 10 are being arrested, charged and detained, but experts say doing so is setting them up for a lifetime in the justice system with almost no way out.

A working group set up by the Council of Attorneys-General and tasked with reviewing the law is expected to discuss if it can reach a national agreement to raise the age when it meets next month.

Advocacy groups and legal services are urging it to lift the age of criminal responsibility to 14, in line with the median global age.

Change the Record is an Aboriginal-led organisation fighting to end mass incarceration of First Nations people.

Executive officer Sophie Trevitt said lifting the age would change the lives of thousands of children.

"These are tiny children who don't have the capacity to take criminal responsibility for their actions," she said.

"Most of the time they grow out of behaviour that might have attracted the attention of police, but putting them in prison cells is



Amnesty International Australia activists (background) with (from left to right) Ashlee Kearney and Cheryl Axleby from Change The Record, and Tammy Solonec, from Amnesty International Australia, in Adelaide last year.

ultimately extremely harmful for these children, for their families and for the whole community."

More than 8300 children aged 10 to 13 went through the criminal legal system between 2018 and 2019, while another 573 were in detention.

Indigenous children made up the majority.

Human Rights Law Centre senior lawyer Shahleena Musk, a Larrakia woman, said many of the Aboriginal children she had worked with in the Northern

Territory were from disadvantaged backgrounds and often had mental health issues, a disability or were pushed out of school.

"They were kids who were disengaged from society and were in need of help, and were being criminalised and pushed through a system that's very much designed to control and punish," she said.

"You're basically creating a vicious cycle of disadvantage and you force these kids to

become entrenched in the criminal legal system."

Younger children have a higher likelihood of more serious offending, while losing contact with supportive mechanisms like their family and community, Ms Musk added.

Early criminalisation also leads to early and preventable death, drug and alcohol misuse, the inability to get or keep a job and broken relationships.

"There are so many other socioeconomic impacts and

even health impacts through early criminalisation," Ms Musk said.

Ms Musk wants governments to switch their focus to diversionary and support services that re-engage children with their communities.

And Cheryl Axleby, a Narungga woman and co-chair of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services, said such services must also be accessible.

"What we see continually is that these Aboriginal positions are being created but they're being pulled into an institutionalised, mainstream construct of service delivery," she said.

"We talk about Aboriginal employment and having Aboriginal people reflecting the number of Aboriginal people in the systems, but they're not allowed to do the job in a culturally appropriate, safe way."

Ms Axleby said contributing to the slow progress and constant brake on change was racism, and the states' and territories' reliance on federal funding for Aboriginal initiatives, rather than stumping up the money themselves.

"If our people are so overrepresented, then why aren't the resources targeted to actually address that issue?" she asked.

"It shouldn't matter what the race is; it's about dealing with the statistics and the numbers and the issues." – AAP



Rock art from the west coast of Tasmania is held in museums and art galleries, including this piece at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, which was taken from its location in north-west Tasmania in the 1960s. Negotiations are currently underway to have it returned. *Picture: Jillian Mundy*

Stolen rock art must be returned

Many bad things were done to Aboriginal people in the past. One of them was the stealing of sacred rock art from the west coast of Tasmania.

Queen Victoria Museum and Art

Gallery in Launceston has some of it, but is using every means it can to keep it. They hide in the shadows away from public scrutiny. They refuse to talk to the media. Now they claim they have to

consult before stolen property is given back. Consult about what? Whoever heard of a thief being able to hold stolen property under such terms?

Trudy Maluga, Launceston, Tas

Time for a treaty

With the massive support so evident for Black Lives Matter and Aboriginal people, now is the time to institute a campaign for a national treaty.

A treaty can be legislated at any time by the Federal Parliament. No referendum is required.

The treaty should return all vacant crown lands to a national Aboriginal body, established by the treaty itself. That new national body would be authorised to identify the traditional owners and pass the land to them.

In addition, six seats out of the existing 76 should be set

aside for Aboriginal people in the Senate, giving the Aboriginal population of each state one Aboriginal senator.

The treaty could establish a compensation fund by setting aside 3% of gross domestic product each year and deliver the funds to Aboriginal people through the treaty established national body.

There is no constitutional impediment to any of these elements of a treaty as the Commonwealth has clear power to pass laws for Aborigines and amend the electoral laws.

Michael Mansell
Launceston, Tas



Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania chairman Michael Mansell.

Colonial statues should be removed

I've been watching with interest the dismantling of statues commemorating historic figures. In the USA, Britain and Europe, statues of a slave trader, American Civil War figure and a European King have succumbed to protestors hell bent on making a stand on racism in our time and down through history.

I firmly believe that we must also make a stand here in Australia when it comes to statues and commemorative plaques across the nation celebrating colonial personalities.

It is my opinion that this ought to apply not only to colonial government officials but also monuments to pioneer graziers who benefited from colonial policies. This applies to my little town here in Tasmania, where there is a statue celebrating 'Eliza Forlong' who received large land grants a few years after the notorious Black Line and colonial government sanctioned attempted genocide of the Palawa people.

She profited and prospered from a gross injustice, when the colonial government refused to grant her more free land she left Tasmania 'in a huff' for Euroa, Victoria, in the late 1830s and took up more stolen land.

I have already written and had published in the *Koori Mail* a story on my town's bicentenary in 2021. I expressed my dismay at a planning meeting for the bicentenary I attended where it was suggested by the 'landed gentry-cookies' that a memorial to Governor Lachlan Macquarie ought to be created. Macquarie is one of those that historians are re-examining in order to present a more truthful version of history.

Are we not constantly told by the wider community to stop dwelling on the past and move on? Well having these statues and other monuments is a way of holding to a colonial mentality of 'the past', is it not?

Danny Saunders
Campbell Town, Tasmania
Bidjara-Iman Nations
Queensland

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



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KEEPING YOUR SAY SHORT AND SWEET

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

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

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

the privacy of individuals mentioned.

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

Economy over people

OUR people and our country are not well. I do not mean that in the sense that we are sick, although sickness does ravage a lot of our communities in ways it did not pre-colonisation, but I mean that we are not feeling wellness, fulfillment and contentment. Our people were once a flourishing people in synergy with the land we live upon.

Our country was healthy and so were we. Before colonisation, only sustainable agricultural practices were employed to ensure there was no disruption of the natural ecological balance. Aboriginal people grew foods and grains that could withstand the largely arid climate of Australia, including murnong and kangaroo grass. Hunting was done across a large area to ensure there was no reduction of species. Female animals were not targeted. There was no waste – the whole animal was used from the meat for food, the bones for tools and the fur for clothing. My ancestors, in strong connection with weather patterns, would back burn in small areas immediately preceding rains in order to prevent larger fires later.

Early European arrivals brought people who were here to dispossess us of this land and way of life. There were others, though, who observed with awe all that we were able to accomplish and be. In historical archives of journal articles there are entries that ruminate how we were such a happy and fulfilled people. They observed that we



Natalie Cromb

worked for a few hours every day caring for country and doing the activities necessary for sustenance, but otherwise participated in community activities, ceremony and leisure. Our wellness was obvious until it was forcefully taken and we have never recovered.

We have watched a lot of press conferences over the last few months. We have felt the obvious fear and uncertainty that comes with news of this nature and we know that news of a pandemic is a significant risk for our communities, our Elders and particularly those remote communities without adequate health services.

During this time we have seen remote communities close for visitors. We have seen mob implement the kinship system of care where our vulnerable members of the community are able to stay home safely while

those who are well supply all that is necessary. We have seen care packages delivered by our Aboriginal organisations to community members. We have seen our Elders supported with technology to have telephone appointments with doctors and then chemist delivery services for their regular medications. Our communities continue to care for all within them.

At a time when I have been inspired by members of our community showing that our kinship structures remain, our care and community orientation ever present – I have been equally dismayed at the constant talk about the economy from our so-called leaders.

Since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, our government has shown their hand. While they have had health professionals present for press conferences, it has been obvious that they have been trying to strong arm states into making decisions that prioritise business and economic activity above the very real threat of the virus. State governments have proven far more conservative than the Morrison Government would like, and the tensions have been obvious following cabinet meetings.

Even with the announcement of economic stimulus measures, there has been pressure upon the states to loosen their restrictions to save jobs. The health experts in the states have been pushing to have as little social exposure as possible

and this informed the state imposition of restrictions. So while the curve has flattened in Australia, the states are slowly easing restrictions because the ability for this virus to spread is obvious when we look across the world to other countries who are in its devastating grip. Even with this ever present reminder of how bad things can get if we are not safe and smart, the emphasis continues to be on jobs.

As a pragmatist, I understand that the current society we live in costs money and to survive, we need it. So jobs are important for the financial wellbeing of our people, but the focus on economy when we are meant to be a society of people shows how lost this capitalist culture is. Their measure of our country is a barometer of economic activity when it should be wellness of our people.

Their support during this crisis is also very telling. Their willingness to increase social welfare, their announcements about job keeper payments and their injection for renovations of all things shows that they continue to favour those that are not ordinarily within the vulnerable category of our society.

Our government speaks of the inability to afford increases to social welfare, but when their credibility as the economic managers is at risk during the pandemic – they find the funds. In fact, they found an extra \$60 billion for the job keeper payment beyond what was needed. A treasurer making a \$60 billion-dollar mistake should tell us that

Australia can afford to take care of our people better than it is.

We have a government that can afford billions of dollars in tax cuts for companies based on the pseudo-economic theory of trickle down that has long been disproven when we know that these cuts are merely a capitulation to organisations that are part of very wealthy and powerful lobby groups that make donations to the very parties that continue to favour corporations over our people. This same government will tell us that a basic living income for those on social welfare is not affordable for our nation. This same government will continue to pilfer money from health, education and front-line services to bolster the promises made to corporations.

The wellness of our society is not a priority to this government that serves its own interests and that of its cohort so we need to push for mainstream Australian society to embrace the values of our communities and support us in the push for structural changes that will allow us to lead them into a future of wellness in every sense of the word. While they have harmed us, we know how to heal them alongside us and that is a future I can find hope in, despite all that is around us.

● Gamilaraay woman Natalie Cromb is a writer and advocate.



Long history of violence ignored

AS we took to the streets in the tens of thousands, Australia covered the Black Lives Matter protests both here and in the US on every major network without one black person in sight. That's right. Every reporter for every network was white, non-Indigenous. How impartial is that? We even suffered the added insult as *The Today Show* went viral after one reporter claimed that Aussies don't have the same understanding of living in a country with a "history of police violence" as Americans do.

Songman, Moojidi Fogarty, the son of famous Aboriginal poet Lionel Fogarty and activist Cheryl Buchanan, reminded us just how far this history in Australia goes back while speaking at the protest in Meanjin (Brisbane). In front of over 30,000 people Moojidi spoke of the Aboriginal resistance leader Dundalli who was hung in public execution in 1855.

"Dundalli was an Aboriginal death in custody by public hanging," he said. Dundalli was an Aboriginal lawman who led his people in war between European settlers and the peoples of Meanjin and south-east Queensland. The mainstream press, as they do today, was biased in



Woolombi Waters

describing him as a murderer, savage and terrorist, whereas history now cites him as a guerrilla leader, a freedom fighter responsible for a 15 year-long resistance against white colonization.

In another reminder of our long history of violence, the judge who presided over Dundalli's trial was Roger Therry, an assistant prosecutor in the Myall Creek massacre, also connected to our brutal past.

The ignorance of these white reporters is there for all to see.

The evidence brought against Dundalli is now regarded as having been weakly constructed and flimsy, much like many deaths in custody today. Just think Tanya Day and Mulrunji Doomadgee. Dundalli was sentenced to death on November 21, 1854, with the execution taking place on January 5, 1855. The killer was Alexander Green, an ex-convict who hung 491 people over 27 years in a demonstration of how uncivilised these invaders truly were.

Green miscalculated the length of rope causing a grotesque hanging. When Dundalli was dropped through the trapdoor his feet hit the floor below. Green seized his legs and tugged hard on them until his neck snapped. Like George Floyd and David Dungay Jnr and Eric Garner, 'I can't breathe' became synonymous with Dundalli's murder as well. That was 165 years ago and we are still protesting.

Historian Libby Connors, states that authorities were determined in their pursuit in the execution of Dundalli, not as the legal execution of one man, but as an attempt to destroy the ancient legal system of south-east Queensland. Then, after

hearing these white voices report internationally that we don't have a violent history, Prime Minister Scott Morrison says he doesn't want us to "import" problems from the US, again in absolute denial of our history and truth.

The images of four officers holding down George Floyd as he loses his breathe are hauntingly similar to the same images of custodial officers holding down David Dungay Jnr, showing not only that we have the same problem, it's rooted in our history.

Like Alexander Green choking Dundalli 165 years ago, police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on the neck of George Floyd in the US for nearly nine minutes while he cried out "I can't breathe!"

Chauvin has been charged with second-degree murder and the other officers have been charged with aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter, not because of any other reason than the protests we have seen internationally.

On Saturday, June 6, after hearing Moojidi Fogarty speak of Dundalli, we heard the impassionate pleas from David Hill Snr, the father of David Dungay Jnr, who was held down by six corrections officers until he died, and twice injected with sedatives because he ate rice crackers

in his cell. That was his death sentence.

Each death in custody in recent years, both here and in the US, has had a profound affect in the homes of our people as the victims of these public executions. And that's what we are witnessing: these victims becoming household names, not within white media, but within the families of black Australian's and African Americans.

I remember as if it were yesterday the names of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice in the US, and in my own extended family in paying tribute to David John Gundy, Shaun Coolwell, and Tane Chatfield as we continue to raise our voices while grieving.

It's important that we acknowledge the significance of all the Aboriginal people across the world who died in building the wealth of the US and Australia; important that we remember every child, woman, and man who died on the slave ships, the plantations, the frontier wars, the canefields, the stock roots, missions, reservations, and the jail cells.

Those killed by police and those who, out of desperation, took their own lives whether in jail or on the Middle Passage slave ships centuries ago.

Remember Eric Garner in 2014? The YouTube videos provided us with images of youth within the United States, and soon across the world, united in protest against injustice as we witness today.

With George Floyd's murder six years later, the global community has called for justice, with 'I can't breathe' becoming the rallying cry, calling for justice across the world.

These deaths have exacted an emotional toll on our black communities across the world who have a shared experience in a story that has been profoundly deep and emotional.

Let's be clear. What we are witnessing today in the US is not a unique moment in time – the reporting that states this is an extraordinary event not seen before is irresponsible.

What about Rodney King? What about Alabama? What about Birmingham? What about the massacre at Wounded Knee? What about Redfern? What about Palm Island? What about the Myall Creek massacre?

And what about Dundalli?

● Woolombi Waters is a regular Koori Mail columnist.



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Self-governance behind deft COVID-19 action

Professor Patricia Dudgeon and Dr Kate Derry from the University of Western Australia's School of Indigenous Studies have spent recent weeks hard at work investigating the impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous Australians. Their first task, along with other leading academics from the Group of Eight (Go8) Australian universities, was identifying The Road to Recovery plan, to guide the Federal Government on charting a way out of social isolation, and now the researchers are turning their attention to mental health.

RIGHT now Australia can consider itself fortunate and celebrate that so far we have averted much of the direct threat from COVID-19 to our vulnerable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

What worked so well in the pandemic response and what has kept our communities safe has been the leadership and capabilities of community-controlled organisations and service providers to move first to protect communities against the virus. The potential for devastation has been demonstrated too many times in Indigenous peoples facing pandemics. These organisations and leaders, acting much quicker than Commonwealth and state health departments, gave us a crucial two-week head start on the virus, and saved countless lives as a result.

Across Australia, there have been less than 60 COVID-19 cases in the Indigenous population, all in urban areas. This is a testament to the great potential of Indigenous self-determination. In comparison, during the last major pandemic – the 2009 H1N1 influenza – hospitalisation rates of Indigenous Australians were the highest in the world, five times higher than the rate of other Australians. Yet, at the time, Indigenous Australians made up less than 3% of the population.

In recent weeks the Roadmap to Recovery report was released. We worked on this, along with Australia's 100 leading academics from the Group of Eight universities, to chart a way out of social isolation restrictions. Our chapter discussed the care of Indigenous Australians. We applauded the efforts of National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) for knowing early on what was needed and moving, even before state and Commonwealth governments, to get clinics ready and prepare to close down entire communities.

We were so lucky that we had NACCHO and the big community-controlled health sector to deal with this, otherwise our fate would have been the same as other Indigenous populations around the globe currently experiencing heartbreak and significant loss.

For many years, we have advocated that self-determination and empowerment need to define the governance that happens in Indigenous communities. COVID-19 has shown us the successes of this.

So for us, the big take-home message from the pandemic is that state and federal governments need to trust and fund Indigenous communities to take action on their own issues, to be supportive and make sure the resources flow accordingly.

While celebrating the success to date – including some short-term boosts in social and emotional



wellbeing during the remote biosecurity lockdown, as Indigenous families enjoy being back in their community and together on their country, living a more cultural way of life – we must remember that we are not out of the woods yet and we won't be until they find a vaccine.

To continue to keep up our guard against COVID-19, much remains to be done in Indigenous communities to protect physical and mental health, but also, importantly social and emotional wellbeing. We need to address the inequalities heightening COVID-19 risk, including overcrowded housing and education, releasing from prison those on minor charges and ensuring unemployment benefits remain at a level that enables families to live above the poverty line.

We need to act on the many important lessons already learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic: about the success that comes from self-determination, empowerment, and community working together to achieve the seemingly impossible.

Also looming on the horizon for our Indigenous communities is the predicted devastating waves of physical and mental ill health and wellbeing and high unemployment rates from the COVID-19 lockdown fall out, with modelling indicating a

possible increase in the suicide rate of up to 50% and further deterioration in health from delays in treating chronic disease. This is what we are preparing for now in our mental health pandemic response for Indigenous Australians.

We still have a lot of anxiety about protecting our vulnerable populations and the risk of losing our Elders – important cultural foundation stones of families and communities. Some regions have considered setting up 'arks', where the Elders would be isolated and kept safe.

“For many years, we have advocated that self-determination and empowerment need to define the governance that happens in Indigenous communities. COVID-19 has shown us the successes of this. So for us, the big take-home message from the pandemic is that state and federal governments need to trust and fund Indigenous communities to take action on their own issues, to be supportive and make sure the resources flow accordingly.”

– Professor Pat Dudgeon

Around the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has shone a spotlight on the impact of social determinants and health.

When we, in Australia, finally work our way back to a 'new normal' that is the big lesson that we need to keep close to our hearts: that we need to ensure that we continue to work to do away with social inequalities that cause health inequities, impacting negatively on all Australians, but

especially on Indigenous Australians – and this means ensuring needs-based rather than population-based funding.

The health gap between Australia's Indigenous and the rest of the population was considered to be around 10 years, yet for the COVID-19 pandemic there is a 20-year gap between who government authorities recommends should remain isolated at home due to increased risk of severe complications – you were recommended to stay home if you were above 50-years-old for the Indigenous population, for others it was 70.

Key vulnerable groups within the Indigenous population still lack the basic support of a household or community during the ongoing pandemic.

We are concerned about the homeless, the LGBTQI+ community, our children in care, and the rate of Indigenous imprisonment. If COVID-19 gets into the prisons that is a very big worry for our community – some COVID-19 protective reforms are still needed, including considering the early release of those with minor convictions.

The immediate and long-term effects of COVID-19 on both the physical and mental health of our diverse Indigenous population

needs to be adequately monitored, with data collected and shared in a culturally appropriate way.

Already the pandemic has made it difficult to access and monitor suicide statistics over the past two months. We consider suicide to be a reflection of a whole range of issues that need to be addressed in communities including supporting cultural, social and emotional wellbeing, self-determination, self-government, and re-establishing kinship and cultural connections.

Continuing this vital research and making sure the public is aware of what works, through the crisis and recovery period, is the only way that we can be as prepared as possible for whatever comes next, be it a second wave of COVID-19 or something else.

A key learning that we can take away from COVID-19 so far is that where we see glaring problems in our society, we need to fix them up immediately. Sometimes we resign ourselves that things will not change in our generation; COVID-19 has taught us they can.

Professor Pat Dudgeon is from the Bardi people of the Kimberley in Western Australia.

She was the first Aboriginal psychologist to graduate in Australia and has made outstanding contributions to Indigenous psychology and higher education.

She is a Fellow of the Australian Psychological Society and a researcher at UWA's School of Indigenous Studies. Her area of research includes Indigenous social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention.

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"I can't breathe" – supporters of David Dungay Junior.



Flying the flags on Sydney Town Hall steps.



When the Sydney protest reached Belmore Park at 4.32pm, they paused to recognise the 432 Aboriginal people who have died in custody since 1991.



Another protest was held in Sydney last Friday night, June 12.



Activist Gwenda Stanley calls for justice.



Most protestors wore facemasks to protect each other from the possible spread of coronavirus.



Paul Francis-Silva, David Dungay Junior's nephew, marches.

Protest remembers 432 black lives lost



NOTHING was going to stop 20,000 Sydneysiders rallying for Aboriginal rights but an appeal court's last-minute approval for the rally certainly reinforced their decision to attend.

Thousands of people, many wearing masks, were already gathered in front of Sydney Town Hall on Saturday, June 6, when the Court of Appeal declared the Stop All Black Deaths in Custody rally an authorised public assembly.

The rally, sparked by African American man George Floyd's death in police custody in Minnesota and the wider Black Lives Matter movement, focused on Aboriginal rights and deaths in custody at home.

Some held signs saying "Police the police" and "Same s*** different soil" as the crowd chanted "I can't breathe", the final words uttered repeatedly by Mr Floyd and 26-year-old Dunghutti man David Dungay Jnr, whose mother Leetona and other relatives led the Sydney march.

"They held my son down for 10 minutes," Leetona Dungay said of her son's death in Long Bay jail in 2015.

The appeal court's decision, overturning a Supreme Court ruling from the previous night,



Protestors kneel in central Sydney.

gave protesters immunity from arrest for blocking roads along the planned route from Town Hall to Belmore Park.

Lawyers for rally organiser Raul Bassi say they believe it is also a "reasonable excuse" to breach the public health orders stopping mass gatherings.

"If we don't die from the (coronavirus) pandemic, then we will die from police brutality," protester Sidique, who has a West African background, said.

NSW Police said there were just three arrests in Sydney, which Assistant Commissioner Mick Willing said was a "really positive result".

A large police contingent, a few wearing masks, provided traffic control and observed the peaceful protest.

"Whether the police want to say it's unjust, whether the government wants to say it's unjust, think of the unjust things they've done to our people," Lugad Omidio, 25, said.

"This is what it's here for – for us to trigger a change."

At 4.32pm, when most protesters had reached Belmore Park, they knelt en masse and held a fist aloft to acknowledge the 432 Aboriginal people who have died in custody since 1991.

Desiree Leha, a 27-year-old Birri Gubba woman, said it's "great to see people recognise the unjust that is happening to our people on a daily basis".

"It means so much to us to feel

like (we) have so many allies around us talking about this important issue. It's always been swept under the carpet. It's not prioritised in Australia," Ms Leha said as she marched.

When asked why it was important to show up even if the protest had been illegal, Ms Leha said: "We're walking not for today but for our future."

"I'm sick of being dictated to by white politicians. They put in injunctions and other legal systems that just do not help with the empowerment of Indigenous people, and it's frustrating," she said.

The rally gained approval about 2.45pm, 15 minutes before its scheduled start, after Mr Bassi's lawyers filed an urgent challenge to Supreme Court Justice Desmond Fagan's decision on Friday night.

Demonstrators defied warnings from Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Australia's chief medical officer not to protest, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Finance Minister Mathias Cormann thought the protesters were "quite irresponsible".

"I think it is incredibly selfish, it is incredibly self-indulgent, and, yes, it does impose unnecessary and unacceptable risks on to the community," Senator Cormann told Sky News' *Sunday Agenda* program. – AAP

Judith Neilson Institute
for Journalism
and Ideas

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



Auntie Joan Lamont makes a powerful address.



Robbie Muir, Greg Campbell and Mark Catanzariti.



Elen Grant, Charlotte Kolpak, Anna Diamond and Adrienne McInnes wear masks, as did many others attending the rally.



Akira-Ruth Goldsmith, Shila Giles and Andrea Giles.



Protesters hold banners that make the point.



76-year-old Yvonne Agius addresses the crowd.



Jack Buckskin speaks to the crowd.



Auntie Susie Dixon addresses the crowd.



Charlotte Williams distributes sanitisers and masks.



Macey Wood, Seb Griffin and Mai Reilly.



Standing united

Pictures by
PETER ARGENT



UNITY and anti-violence were the key themes of the peaceful Black Lives Matter rally in Adelaide, and protesters passionately had their say in the show of solidarity.

More than 6000 people packed Tarntanyangga (Victoria Square) on Saturday amid calls for justice over the death of African-American man George Floyd in the US, and ongoing concerns over Aboriginal deaths in custody.

Mr Floyd died while being arrested in Minneapolis on May 25.

Speaker Jack Buckskin, a Kaurna and Narungga man, welcomed the large turnout, telling the gathering, whether Aboriginal or other, they were all part of the same society.

"This is about us coming together as people," he said.

"Today we stand united. Our movement happens with people."

Others to address the gathering, one of the largest protests in Adelaide for many years, included representatives from the city's African and Muslim communities, as well as visitors from the US, all sharing the same message of unity and integration of races and cultures.

Winston Howard, an African American from



Uncle Moogy Sumner

Minnesota, the home of Mr Floyd, said the support for anti-racism at the protest was unbelievable.

"Being from America, you don't know what kind of response it will have to people in another country, but seeing this was very overwhelming – the solidarity," he said.

There was a large police presence at the rally and march through the city, but Commissioner Grant Stevens had given it an exemption from COVID-19 restrictions on Friday.

"This is a unique and extraordinary event," the commissioner said.

"There is a sentiment that suggests people should have a right to protest on significant matters."

But he also called on them to be mindful of their own health and the health of others amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

A large portion of those attending wore face masks provided by volunteers, who also supplied hand sanitiser.

Some wore masks decorated with messages such as 'I can't breathe', the last words spoken by Mr Floyd.

As the protest began, many in the crowd tried to social distance, but those on the edges were huddled shoulder-to-shoulder.

Social distancing was also less evident as they made their way down King William Street towards Parliament House before returning to the square. – AAP



Tika Waretini, Taryn Brown-Tahitahi, Jharen Owen Senior, Chanon Pope and Brad Ferns, masked up for the large gathering.



Black deaths in custody, no convictions poster.



Young Ethiopian and Greek friends Yordanos Alemayehu, Sophie Brock, Mekdes Mulu, Serkalem Mulu and Nazereth Alemayehu from Hobart said they were disgusted how people believe black lives don't matter, and that they were empowered by the vigil.



African American activist and poet Sha Gaze, talked about her family taking the empire down in the USA; "that empire f****d everyone up and so did Britain."



Kartanya Maynard: "Why do white lives matter more than black lives? They don't. Yet here we are, time and time again, crying out for black lives to matter."



African American/Australian Poet Noah Johnson takes the knee.



Pakana sisters Sky and Sara Maynard.



Judy Cole, who came to Hobart as a refugee from Liberia (West Africa), holds her lantern-display message.



Many of the crowd wear masks.



BLM messages are illuminated by candles.



The crowd holds a silent vigil.



Fijian sisters from Hobart, Tui and Losena Crispin.



As darkness fell, messages of outrage, despair, hope, truth, pledges of commitment and rally cries that the world finally seems to be hearing were illuminated like beacons on Parliament Lawns in Hobart.

Real change sought at peaceful Nipaluna vigil

By JILLIAN MUNDY



ABORIGINAL people at a Black Lives Matter vigil in Nipaluna (Hobart) have urged white allies to call out hate speech and ignorance, and use their voice and privilege to assist – but not speak over Aboriginal voices.

The peaceful vigil, on Parliament Lawns, organised by Strong Blak Tasmania, stood in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement across Australia and the globe, to call for an end to longstanding systematic racism and to mourn black deaths in custody in Australia and internationally.

Aboriginal community, African refugee and migrant community, other people of colour and many allies braved Hobart's coldest day of winter so far to listen to speakers, poets and singers.

People wrote messages on hundreds of paper bags, which were arranged as candle lit lanterns to form a glowing display as the day faded.

Many of them were pledges of solidarity.

Young local Aboriginal woman Kartanya Maynard spoke of the exasperation in campaigning for justice and rights.

"We're tired. We're so bloody tired of fighting, of crying, of wondering whether we or our loved ones are next," she said.

"I have two little brothers, and every time they walk the street I get so worried.

"I shouldn't have to worry. We shouldn't have to worry. Yet here we are, holding another vigil, mourning once again.



A section of the crowd during a sombre eight minute and 45 second silence.

"We've been in mourning for 232 years and I don't want to mourn anymore," she said through tears.

"Don't just be an ally; be an active one.

"Call out those who preach hate and ignorance even if they're your family or friends. Be brave. Join us in protest whenever you can.

"Use your voice and the privilege that you carry, if you carry it, to assist and not speak over.

"It will take all of us to make change and, my god, I want it. We all want it. It's been too long and it's a fight we don't want to

pass on yet again to another generation of black kids who should get to live without all of this hate – hate they don't deserve."

Other speakers echoes her call.

Kartanya pointed out that the figure of Aboriginal deaths in custody is much higher than the 432 often cited since the 1991 royal commission.

"Believe me, the real number is much, much higher because the generations before then haven't been reflected in those numbers.

During the vigil an emotive and reflective eight minutes and 46 seconds of silence

were observed – the same time the Minneapolis police officer kept his knee pressed into George Floyd's neck, killing him.

Organisers, who negotiated with authorities in regards to COVID-19 restrictions that had only eased 24 hours before the event, supplied hand sanitiser and face masks, encouraging social distancing and asking people to tune into the live stream from a distance or from home to avoid the crowd growing too big.

It was hard to estimate how many people attended as many wrote their message and kept moving. There were probably around 2000.

Another 16,000 have viewed the live stream.

Pakana women Sara Maynard, who came to the vigil with her sister to honour family members who had died in custody, hopes the current momentum of the Black Lives Matter campaign will continue.

"Up until recently, we're no-one. No-one gives a f**k about Aboriginal people and Aboriginal issues. We've only got each other," she said.

"I hope it's not like reconciliation, but we've always got that doubt, like NAIDOC week, where there's interest for a week, then after that things go back to what the norm is.

"Unless white people come on board nothing is going to change because no one has listened to Aboriginal people and our voices for the last 200 years."

Another smaller vigil was held in Launceston at the same time.

Mob meet in solidarity

By ALF WILSON



MORE than 2000 people attended a peaceful Black Lives Matter rally in Townsville held at Strand Park beside the ocean.

Organiser Florence Onus had urged as many as possible to be there and they turned out in large numbers holding banners to protest against racism, deaths in custody and the way Indigenous people are treated by police.

It was one of numerous such events held around Australia and the world following the death of American George Floyd.

Floyd, an African American died after a white police officer knelt on his neck for almost nine minutes while Floyd was handcuffed in the street.

Max Lenoy was MC for the Townsville rally and Brenton Creed performed the Welcome to Country on behalf of the Wulgurukaba people.

A smoking ceremony by the Wulgurukaba Walkabouts Dance Group was well received.

Cheryl Ivey said it was important to be there with her granddaughters Melitah Ivey, 18, and Kailee Davies, 10.

Judy Nutt was there with Tasmanian Palawa woman Sharon Solomon and Cynda Solomon, 18.

Andrew Clark had a sign protesting against black deaths in custody including that of Mulrunji Doomadgee on Palm Island in 2004.



Wulgurukaba Walkabouts dancers perform the smoking ceremony while dancing among the crowd.



Brenton Creed does the Welcome to Country on behalf of the Wulgurukaba people, flanked by Florence Onus and MC Max Lenoy.



Andrew Clark holds a sign in memory of Cameron 'Mulrunji' Doomadgee who died in police custody in 2004.



Potepe Captain, left, with Eddie Savage.



Lala Captain holds her sign.



The crowd makes a display of solidarity, fists clenched, in a stance that has come to represent the Black Lives Matter movement.



From left are Judy Nutt from Townsville with Palawa people Cynda Solomon, aged 16, and Sharon Solomon.



Cheryl Ivey with granddaughters Melitah Ivey, aged 18, and Kailee Davies, 10, right.



Crowd members display signs and wear t-shirts bearing the flag to show support.



One of the organisers Florence Onus, right, with Anita Donaldson and Seviya Donaldson-Stevens, aged 8.



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'We speak with one voice against racism'



The Brisbane protest was one of many across the world in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. *Picture: Bob Nebe*



Thousands take part in the Black Lives Matter rally.



A placard features African American man George Floyd, who died while being arrested. *Picture: Bob Nebe*



Aboriginal dancers perform on the streets of Brisbane.



THOUSANDS of people flocked to inner-city Brisbane to protest police brutality against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and call for justice for those who have died in custody.

Crowds spilled from King George Square to neighbouring blocks, with people packing stairwells and balconies to get a view, while others brandished signs calling for reform in Queensland and across the globe.

Speakers, including Elders, traditional owners and African Australians, detailed police brutality against members of their own families and the racism they had experienced.

"We rise together and we speak in one voice against racism ... and legislation that takes away our freedom in this country ... our right to have a voice, our right to be free," Wangan and Jagalingou man Adrian Burragubba said.

Cheers and applause echoed through the streets as he called for justice and government-funded trauma support for families whose loved ones die in custody.

"While our people are dying in custody, our voice has got to become louder, become a roar," he said.

In a separate press conference, Quandamooka woman and state Environment Minister Leeanne Enoch encouraged Queenslanders to speak out.

"Whether you're talking about the US or right here in Australia, black lives matter," she said.

"Black lives matter today. Black lives matter everyday.

"It is not just about turning up for one day; it is about turning up every day in your families, in your workplace, in your community, to tell the truth, to confront the truth, the sometimes uncomfortable, ugly truth of our shared history."

The Brisbane protest was one of many across the world in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, sharing public outrage following the death of African American man George Floyd while being arrested in Minneapolis.

The Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC) said the circumstances surrounding Mr Floyd's death were all too familiar to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

At least 432 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have died in custody in Australia since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody report in 1991.

The QAIHC aims to eliminate health disparities experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

It said the impact of institutional racism and systemic bias experienced by First Nations people was having a direct impact on their wellbeing.

"Behind every life taken is a broken-down family and a disrupted community clouded in anger, mistrust and confusion," it said in a statement.

"The long-term health impacts after a death in custody or incident of police brutality are endless."

They included poor mental health, social and emotional distress, injury, harmful alcohol and substance use, self-harm, suicide ideation and attempts, and physical health conditions being exacerbated due to disengagement with the health system, the QAIHC said.

"The death of one can very quickly become the death of many," it added. —AAP



Bunyarra Culture Collective leads the Byron Bay BLM protest. Pictures: Niche Pictures – Lyn McCarthy

Outrage in Byron Bay

By DANNY TEECE-JOHNSON



“BLACK lives matter!”

The chant could be heard across Arakwal country on Saturday as a record crowd of around 7000 people from all walks of life gathered in Byron Bay to show solidarity for the global campaign against police brutality.

The protest organisers, local Arakwal organisation Bunyarra Cultural Collective, were shocked by the outpouring of support, after expecting a small crowd due to COVID-19. As a result the rally was moved from the footpath to the main street by Byron Bay Police, much to the delight of the crowd, who cheered with joy at the announcement.

Arakwal advocate and organiser Delta Kay said George Floyd's death triggers awareness of Aboriginal Australian deaths in custody.

“As we understand black Americans’ grief and shock, then the burning outrage as government and high ranking police cover the deaths in custody with their lies,” she said. “Of course we are outraged here in Australia with over 432 Aboriginal deaths in police custody or prison custody since 1991, with no convictions for the murderers.

“Sadly, Australians are racists.

“We cannot point our finger at Americans. We are all guilty of racism in our lives as you can see throughout the media comments, I believe our government breeds racism to keep

minority Australians down.

“On the day I felt calm and composed to finally do our peace rally. I was thinking we might get between 50 to 100 people walking with us. I was shocked with raw emotion when it came to 2pm and I had to welcome thousands to Arakwal country! I felt so proud of Bunyarra Culture Collective lead the peace rally with strength and dignity.”

21-year-old Bundjalung woman Nickolla Clark moved the crowd to tears as she read out an emotional letter from the family of David Dungay Jnr, who died in custody in 2015. His last words were “I can’t breathe”.

The crowd hung onto every word, feeling the true pain of a mother losing her son.

Speaking to *Koori Mail*, Ms Clark said, “As a young Aboriginal woman, reading this heart-wrenching statement to 7000 plus people was hard for me. With years of oppression, unjust, unfair treatment to my people, I felt very connected to the message within this statement. Pain is hard to convey until I read that statement on Saturday in Byron. For me systematic racism affects every aspect of our justice and government system and not many listen to the stories of our people. I was happy to have pushed through the pain, tears and bliss of that moment. It was very empowering and gave me the slightest bit of hope for my community, knowing that the support and people from all ethnic backgrounds are starting to listen and move forward with us.”



Elle Bancroft raises her fist.



Arakwal advocate Delta Kay.



Savannah Campbell



Elli and Kaiden Powel with Rocky and Mason.



Nickolla Clark speaks to the crowd of thousands.



Jason Campbell carries a cross with victims names who have died in custody.



Uncle Peter Birch Marshall.

Protesters take to the streets across NSW

By NICK PATON and RUDI MAXWELL



TOWNS and cities across NSW turned out for Black Lives Matter marches and

protests over the long weekend, with more political actions planned over the coming weeks.

Demonstrations took place in Newcastle, Byron Bay, Lismore, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, Wyong, Wagga Wagga and Broken Hill.

More than 4000 people attended the BLM protest in Wollongong over the long weekend.

Kaluwatawarra health worker and activist Aunty Trish Levett organised the event and said, although it'd been an emotionally dark and raw week, these initial protests are just the beginning of many more to come.

"Mob have told me they don't want to see people wake up tomorrow and be on

the wrong side of this issue," Aunty Trish said.

"Something powerful is happening at the moment and that's why we can see people coming together all over the world to stand together in solidarity on these issues and demand change.

"All we can do is keep doing the work and keep protesting."

In Lismore, more than 1000 people took to the streets in a peaceful protest.

Organiser Cindy Roberts said that Aboriginal people were being targeted by police.

"We stand with Black America because we know their pain," she said.

"Because we go through it; we feel it every day.

"We suffer and we cry and we weep for our people who have lost their lives in the system because we haven't had any justice."

The Roberts family drew attention to their relative David Roberts, who died in custody in 2001.



Thousands turn out in Newcastle. Picture: Katherine Morgan



In Newcastle people join a big rally. Picture: Katherine Morgan



In Lismore Gilbert Laurie speaks to the crowd.



Lismore rally organiser Cindy Roberts and her niece.



Kaluwatawarra health worker and activist Aunty Trish Levett blocks six lanes of traffic in Wollongong for the BLM rally. Picture: Teel Studios



Xavier Brown marches for David Roberts in Lismore.

Nation must address deaths in custody

By ALI MC



TENS of thousands of people joined the Black Lives Matter protest in Melbourne, organised by the Warriors of the Aboriginal Resistance (WAR), gathering peacefully to listen to speeches from community members who had family members die in custody or at the hands of the police.

The protest was held in front of the state's Parliament House, and began with a song led by Wurundjeri leader Sue-Anne Hunter, with thousands tapping their chest in accompaniment.

Protestors held placards, with chants of "Black lives matter" and "Always was, always will be Aboriginal land" ringing across the city.

And, like protestors in the United States and around the world, people chanted, "I can't breathe."

Justin Grant, who spoke at the rally, talked to the *Koori Mail* about his relative Kumanjayi Walker, a 19-year old man who was shot to death by police in Yuendumu last year.

"There was a lot of fear and anger (in the community) about what happened," he said.

While the police officer involved has been charged with murder, he has yet to stand trial and is expected to plead not guilty.

"(The police) are breaking our trust and scaring our people ... They (don't) respect our culture, our laws or our practices," Grant said.

Belinda Day's family has also been impacted by custodial deaths. Her mother, Tanya Day, died after sustaining head injuries while locked in a cell on a charge of public drunkenness.

Belinda Day said that the prison officers should have taken better care of her mother, and that racism was a factor in both her arrest and subsequent treatment.

Day's uncle also died in custody, and she said that to have two family members lose their lives in the same way was "very distressing".

"Mum now has grandchildren that have a fear of police. And that level of fear gets passed on through the generations," she said.

Ms Day also said that while it was good the issue of deaths in custody was getting attention, it was a shame that it

was only now occurring due to the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States.

"It's just really frustrating that we need to wait for something to happen internationally so that we can get Australians on board and understand what's happening here," she said.

Yet Ms Day remained hopeful that such attention would be the catalyst for reform.

"It's time for change. And that time for change is now," she said. "We need the support of all Australians to stand with us and say enough is enough."

"How many more Aboriginal people need to lose their lives in this manner before we make change?"

Larry Walsh, an Elder in the Melbourne community, spoke to the *Koori Mail* at the protest.

Walsh began advocating for the implementation of the 1991 royal commission recommendations after his uncle died in custody, and said that since then the situation "hasn't changed – it's just gotten worse."

Walsh said that it was important for people to come together to support families who had lost family members due to deaths in custody, and also to show support for the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States.

"It's important that we support our brothers and sisters in America who are getting needlessly killed like our people are," he said.

"And the only way we are going to get change is if we work together in solidarity."

Criticism was launched at protest organisers for a potential spread of COVID-19, but services were made available, handing out masks and hand sanitizer, while speakers reminded protestors to observe social distancing.

Despite a large police presence and threats to issue fines for breaches of health directives pertaining to the pandemic, the protest was conducted peacefully, marching down Bourke Street, where more speeches were heard, then finishing at the intersection outside Flinders Street Station.



Larry Walsh advocated for the establishment of the royal commission and says since then deaths in custody have "gotten worse".



Placards depict the names and photographs of some of the Indigenous Australians who have died in custody or at the hands of the police.



Flowers and photographs of the deceased were laid at the steps of Victoria's parliament house.



Lawrence Austin and Murray Calgaret hold a placard of their relative Veronica Nelson who died in custody on January 2, 2020.



People attending the rally wore masks and carried placards.



A sign in support of Black Lives Matter in Melbourne.



Protestor wearing an original mask at the rally.



Signs on the footpath encouraged protestors to observe social distancing.



Black Lives Matter protestors at Melbourne's rally.



Signs and slogans at Black Lives Matter events across Australia have brought the true number of Indigenous deaths in custody to the nation's attention.





Former Yarrabah mayor Uncle Errol Neal said Aboriginal communities were continuing to suffer and stood with black communities all over the world protesting the murder of innocent black victims.



The Duffin family from Kuranda show their true colours at the rally.



Kathleen Kyle and Serena Buller.

Thousands turn out to demand justice

By MAHALA STROHFELDT



AS the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement gained global momentum following the murder of African American man George Floyd last month, protests were ignited around the world. In Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders were quick to condemn another senseless killing and draw parallels to our own tragic history of black deaths in custody.

Despite health authorities warning people to stay away from large crowds amid fears of another COVID-19 outbreak, Cairns protestors attended in the thousands, echoing the groundswell of support for BLM as protests popped up around the country.

An estimated four-thousand-strong crowd of Aboriginal and



Djarracarne Neal supports the Black Lives Matter movement.

Torres Strait Islander community leaders and families – and their supporters – took to Fogarty Park in Cairns to not only stand in solidarity with African Americans,

but highlight the ongoing issues of racism, discrimination, incarceration and deaths in custody closer to home.

Many simply wore the number

434 on their shirts to signify the number of black deaths in custody since the Royal Commission in 1991, while also highlighting the fact that no custodial officer has ever been found guilty and served time over the death of an Indigenous person while in custody.

Gimuy Wilbur Yidinji Elder Gudju Gudju (Seith Fourmile) joined Yidinji Elder Uncle Peter Hyde in giving a Welcome to Country and shared personal reflections on Aboriginal people's struggle for justice and recognition.

"Since the deaths in custody report in 1991, we have lost 434 lives. Shame," Gudju Gudju said. Former Yarrabah mayor Errol Neal, North Queensland Land Council's Terry O'Shane and actor Aaron Fa'aoso joined the line-up of speakers calling for an end to the senseless killings of innocent black people. Tributes were paid to George Floyd – who died while

being forcefully restrained by a white police officer – with the four-thousand-strong crowd lying on the grounds of Fogarty Park in solidarity.

While it was described as a peaceful protest – ending with a march through the city streets – organisers say the messaging was overwhelmingly powerful, and moving.

"We have seen thousands of people in the community come together in support of this. It was a very powerful day. The energy was empowering and the feeling was that we're all in this together, we're part of a family," event organiser Serina O'Connor said.

"But we can't stop here. This movement is not just a trend, not just something that has popped up overnight. These protests are only just a small part of the larger fight that black people have been fighting for years. And we will continue to rally and stand together for as long as it takes."



Actor Aaron Fa'aoso joined the thousands of supporters at the rally.



Young local Cairns supporters make their feelings clear.



The Gowa family show their support for the Black Lives Matter movement locally.



Jerusa Bullio at the rally calling for accountability for murder.



Young supporters were out in huge numbers at the Cairns BLM rally. From left are Pranton Mabo, Tahani McKechnie, Kalila McKechnie and Noah Phillips.



Vanessa Kazadi at the Black Lives Matter Cairns protest.



Kayla Oritz says it across a rainbow.



The Cross Cultural Liaison Unit of Far North Queensland Police Service.



Jenny Kite, Birra-Li Warner, Taylah Coleman and Kirra Grogan.



The Tabuai family join thousands of Cairns supporters at their local BLM protest.



Walter Maquire addresses the huge crowd in Perth.



Protestors in Perth draw attention to the two Aboriginal boys who drowned in the Swan River after being chased by police.



Uncle Ben Taylor at the Perth protest.



Megan Krakouer, National Suicide Prevention & Trauma Recovery Project director.



Dr Hannah McGlade: 'We will say their names.'



Despite the WA Premier asking people not to protest, thousands turn out in Perth.



Marchers take the knee in Perth.



Uncle Herbert Bropho



Barbara Moore, centre.

We stand defiant



THOUSANDS of people defied politicians and braved the rain to protest against Aboriginal deaths in custody at Perth's Black Lives Matter rally on Saturday.

Decades of injustice were laid bare during passionate speeches at Saturday's event at Langley Park, with turnout at least double the 8000 organisers had expected despite a torrential downpour midway through the rally.

Police said there were no incidents to report from the protest, which included a march through the city.

Organisers ignored the pleas

of Western Australian Premier Mark McGowan and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Ben Wyatt to delay the protest until after the coronavirus pandemic was over.

But social distancing requests were largely adhered to as most attendees wore face masks, and hand sanitiser was made available.

Human rights lawyer and activist Hannah McGlade, a Noongar woman, called for an independent investigation of the more than 430 Indigenous deaths in custody recorded in Australia in the past 30 years.

"The Premier and Minister Wyatt said we should cancel today," she told the crowd.

"They told us not to come. They told us to be silent."

"We will not be silent."

Dr McGlade acknowledged Yamatji woman Ms Dhu, who died in custody in August 2014 after being locked up in South Hedland for \$3622 in unpaid fines after she called police to assist her with domestic violence.

The 22-year-old, whose first name is not used for cultural reasons, was later found to have been treated inhumanely.

Others spoke of young Aboriginal boy Elijah Doughty, who was riding a dirt bike when he was run down and killed by a white man near Kalgoorlie in 2016.

The man was charged but later acquitted of manslaughter, before being convicted of dangerous driving causing death and serving half of a three-year jail term.

"We will say their names," Dr McGlade said.

"This is what we now have to say to the Premier and the Government: Stop the killings of Aboriginal people and racial violence and hate crimes."

As protesters chanted "Black lives matter" and "I can't breathe", Elder Jackie Oakley said it was tragic Aboriginal caregivers were forced to equip their children with the tools to survive overpolicing.

"On a per capita basis, we are the most incarcerated people

in the world," she said.

Police Commissioner Chris Dawson had earlier ruled out shutting down the protest, but warned any violence would be met with "strong policing".

Organisers worked with the local council on how best to ensure social distancing was maintained, while anyone who was immunocompromised or suffered from respiratory, cardiac or other chronic illness was urged to stay home.

Carly Lane, the indigenous wife of Health Minister and Deputy Premier Roger Cook, was among the attendees despite the Government urging people not to go.



Warlpiri man Ned Hargreaves revealed to the Alice Springs community a painting that says, 'Yapaurangu Warnkaru Matters' – 'Black Lives Matter' in Warlpiri. Picture: CAAMA

Feelings are raw in Alice and Darwin



MORE than 1000 people marched through Darwin on Saturday chanting "Whose lives matter? Black lives matter" in the city's largest rally in years.

The rally was sparked by the killing of African American George Floyd by a policeman, with Aboriginal people linking it to their own treatment by police and deaths in custody.

There were also rallies in other centres in the NT with the Alice Springs community staging a Black Lives Matters protest, the previous week on the courthouse lawns, against racism, police brutality, Aboriginal deaths in custody and First Nations incarceration rates.

Darwin has the largest proportion of Indigenous people of any Australian capital city.

The rally was organised by two young Larrakia women, cousins Sharna Alley and Mililma May, both aged 21.

The women organised a similar rally in Darwin last November after the fatal police shooting in Yuendumu of 19-year-old Kumanjaji Walker.

NT Police Constable Zachary Rolfe, 28, has been charged with one count of murder over the shooting, but intends to plead not guilty.



Alice Springs community members rallied against racism and police brutality. Picture: CAAMA

"On Larrakia land, children have been stolen; Aboriginal language and culture has been stolen," Ms May told the crowd.

"On Larrakia land, Aboriginal children make up 100% of the Don Dale youth detention centre. On Larrakia and surrounding land, Aboriginal people are killing themselves at the highest rate in the world.

"Our Aboriginal men, women and children are targeted by police ... a system that killed Kumanjaji Walker."

The rally was peaceful with people of different nationalities

and ages, but there was also palpable anger, with Mr Floyd's killing in the US having sparked global action.

"Until 1967, we weren't even recognised, only labelled as flora and fauna. Are you kidding me? In our own land?" sang local indigenous woman and artist Ray-Ray McKenzie in a hip hop poetry style to the crowd.

Keara Mack, a woman of Queensland's Gunggandji tribe, said the fact that more than 430 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had died in custody since 1991 showed the



In Alice Springs, community feeling about police treatment of Aboriginal people runs raw. Picture: CAAMA

system was failing Aboriginal people and something needs to be done.

She said she had been particularly affected by the 2014 death of Western Australian woman Ms Dhu, 22, who, having called police for assistance with domestic violence, was instead locked up for two days for unpaid fines valuing \$3622 before she died over health issues police ignored and dismissed.

"I think many Australians have had fines they struggled to pay or maybe haven't been able to pay and I would hate to think that this

could easily have been me," she said.

A Custody Notification Service was introduced in late 2018 in which NT Police are legally required to notify a new welfare hotline whenever an Aboriginal person is arrested to prevent deaths in custody.

NT Police said at the time they laid criminal charges against more than 13,000 Indigenous people a year on average, in a jurisdiction with less than 250,000 people, but more were arrested and not charged. — AAP



Nova Peris and June Mills at the Darwin protest.



Alice Springs staged a peaceful vigil for Black Lives Matter. *Picture: CAAMA*



The Darwin rally drew one of the biggest crowds in recent years.



Melinda Phillips at the Darwin protest.



Larrakia cousins Mililama May and Sharna Alley organised the Darwin protest.



Marchers at the Darwin rally.



Signs on the lawn of the Alice Springs courthouse.

Sisters turn pandemic into a positive

By KIRK PAGE



DURING the COVID-19 lockdowns Wiradjuri sisters Kylie and Kerrie-Anne Maunder felt

there was a need to create a space for positive creativity.

And so, the Facebook page 'Too Deadly for You Rona' was born.

The sisters, who work in social services, grew up on Bundjalung country in northern NSW and have strong ancestral connections to the Erambie mission in Cowra.

They are encouraging our artists, painters, storytellers and dancers to share their talents.

"Over the last four to five weeks during the COVID-19 pandemic the risk of significant harm reports have nearly tripled and equalled that of the last four-year period," Kerrie-Anne said.

"We have a lot of clients that go to AA and NA meetings to keep on track with their recovery and during the restrictions clients across organisations have had limited access to services, which creates a threat to some of these families. Those meetings are important for people with addictions and their recovery."

Kylie said she had noticed there were a lot of social media groups that were looking to create a space for mob to come together.

"There needs to be a place that we can all go to and have a laugh, a dance and a giggle," she said.

"We thought creating a page where we can connect through our art and culture was a way to bring people together and seeing that NAIDOC celebrations may not be as big this year we wanted to find a way to acknowledge our culture and strength of the communities.

"We've had a lot of fun listening to others' ideas about how we could create this group



Wiradjuri sisters Kylie and Kerrie-Anne Maunder have created the Facebook page 'Too Deadly for You Rona'.

and it's been fun bouncing ideas off each other. We would love to see how the group can grow and see how it evolves. We understand how important connection is and how important it is to look at what the virus is showing us; what lessons are there to learn from it?"

Positive experience

The sisters are making the most out of a pretty ordinary situation, taking a negative experience and turning it into a positive one. They wanted to take the fear out of the pandemic and reclaim their energy during a time of feeling powerless.

"Sit back, chill out and be present," Kerrie-Anne said.

"Reconsider priorities and look at the importance of family. We are always moving and it's nice to remember that family is the one thing that grounds us. When you're used to seeing family all the time it's easy to take them for granted. The simple things like a hug can mean so much and during times like these we forget how vital face-to-face contact is, especially in times like these."

Kylie said that looking after mental health for Aboriginal people was important, especially with many people feeling triggered by the issues surrounding Black Lives Matter.

"People are spiralling downwards and I don't think things will be the same for a

while. We need time to stop and smell the roses," Kylie said.

"The Facebook page 'Too Deadly for You Rona' is a great way to come together and acknowledge the wonderful diverse talent we all possess. There are five different categories that we are asking people to contribute towards: poetry, dance, music, paintings and stories.

"We want to create a platform that gives exposure to the art that people are making.

"We want the artists who wouldn't normally share their stuff online to come share with us - anything from backyard home clips or photos of art. We want to reach a broad range of

community members.

"We have a beautiful community and at times there is often more negative coverage than there is positive. With this new platform Too Deadly for You Rona we want to do something positive and take back our power. We love driving things and creating opportunities for our mob and together we are a force to be reckoned with."

Kerrie-Anne said that arts and culture in any form was welcome.

"From first-time artists to the seasoned professional, it's all inclusive and all about having a go and being seen and feeling good about what we do as artists and culture makers," she said.

Sunrise sued for 'hurtful display'



A GROUP of Aboriginal people led by Auntie Rhonda Dixon-Grovenor has

launched a racial vilification lawsuit against *Sunrise* host Samantha Armytage and commentator Prue MacSween over remarks they made discussing Aboriginal adoption on the Seven Network.

The potential Federal Court action comes after settlement negotiations collapsed in a group racial discrimination complaint filed in the Australian Human Rights Commission.

During a March 2018 broadcast, Armytage and an all white panel on the breakfast TV show discussed Aboriginal adoption.

"Just like the first Stolen Generation, where a lot of children were taken because it was for their wellbeing, we need to do it again," MacSween said.

The group's lawyers said that the eight Aboriginal complainants were forced to take the action after the commission negotiations broke down.

"*Sunrise* platformed wealthy white women calling for a Stolen Generations 2.0 as a means of

salvation for our young people," Ms Dixon-Grovenor said.

"This shameful, profoundly hurtful and devastating display of racism was broadcast by a commercial television station into homes right across Australia.

Violated

"The dignity of all Aboriginal people and children was violated in our very own homes and lounge rooms around Australia."

A Seven spokeswoman said the network was not aware of any actual claim being filed at this stage so could not

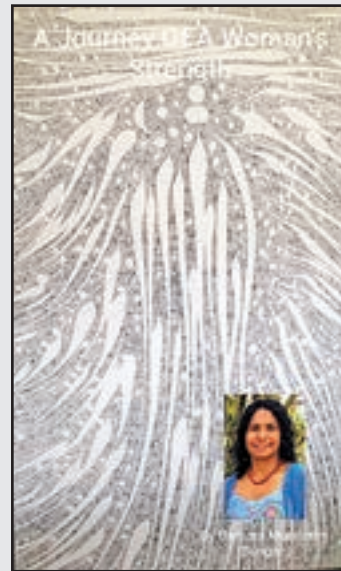
comment on the case.

"Seven settled the original matter in late 2019 in the Federal Court with the Yirrkala community and the Yolngu families and offered an unreserved apology on-air shortly after," the spokeswoman said.

After negotiations broke down the group had 60 days to file a case in the Federal Court.

Law firm Susan Moriarty is likely to file proceedings on the groups' behalf once they receive a certificate stating the initial negotiations were unresolvable.

— with AAP



Correction

On page 14 of the January 15, 2020, edition of the *Koori Mail*, under the headline 'Artist reflects on the journey of female empowerment' the *Koori Mail* incorrectly stated that artist Barbara Mundraby's grandmother arrived in Yarrabah in chains. This was incorrect. It was, in fact, Ms Mundraby's great grandmother. The *Koori Mail* apologises for the error and any hurt or misunderstanding arising from it.



The cairn at Mount Dispersion, which has been protected by an Aboriginal Place declaration.

Protection for massacre site



A COLONIAL massacre site near the Murray River in south-west NSW has been protected under an Aboriginal Place declaration, Heritage NSW announced during National Reconciliation Week.

The Mount Dispersion Massacre Site, near Euston, is of special significance to several Aboriginal language groups, including the Kureinji and Barkandji peoples, as the site of a significant colonial massacre and trauma in the 1830s, and for its sacred association with the Great Warrior (or Hunter) and Cod creation Dreamtime story. Dharawal woman Glenda Chalker, chairperson of the NSW Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (ACHAC), said the gazettal signifies the place as being of exceptional cultural significance to Aboriginal people.

The 1836 massacre unfolded during an expedition by explorer and surveyor Major Thomas Mitchell, when he and his party encountered a large group of Aboriginal people at Lake Benanee. Fearing his party might be subject to attack, Mitchell conducted an ambush at a small hill beside the river. Shots were fired with at least seven Aboriginal people killed, and the remainder fleeing

across the Murray River.

Upon his return to Sydney in 1836, Mitchell submitted a report to the Governor stating that after the massacre he learned the Aboriginal people had come from the Darling with the intent to fight him.

In 1838 Mitchell revised his account and justified the massacre by presenting the Aboriginal people as hostile and intent on revenge for the shooting of several Aboriginal people at Menindee during his 1835 expedition.

Tilki, the only recorded Aboriginal survivor from the Mount Dispersion Massacre, spoke of the conflict from his own perspective, as a child carried on his mother's back. He stated that as she and other women were searching for mussel-fish in the river, Mitchell's men fired into the group, with Tilki's left thumb being injured by a musket ball.

"Telling the truth about the colonial history of NSW helps to address past injustices, allowing for healing and reconciliation," Ms Chalker said.

"The telling of the events at Mount Dispersion contributes to the understanding of the shared history of NSW."

The committee was proud to support the recognition of places of frontier conflict.

"We fully support the declaration of Mount Dispersion Aboriginal Place," Ms Chalker said.

"Conflicts and massacres occurred right across the state, with many of our old Aboriginal people dying during these events."

"These people and these places need to be acknowledged, recognised and remembered as part of the 'truth telling' for New South Wales and for wider Australia."

Heritage NSW regional manager Steve Meredith said that it was important for the truth to be acknowledged.

"We need to ensure our children, and all, learn about these events and the real history of NSW to empower us not to repeat these mistakes and mistreatment," he said.

The declaration of an Aboriginal Place gives public recognition and protection to Aboriginal heritage places under NSW state legislation and recognises places and events important in the Aboriginal history of NSW.

"As chairperson, I am grateful to the nominators, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (ACHAC), and Heritage NSW for their work to make this declaration and the recognition of past trauma to our First Nations people," Ms Chalker said.

Offensive slogan sees cop sacked



A NORTHERN Territory police officer has been sacked over his role in printing and trying to sell clothing deemed "disgraceful" referring to the fatal police shooting in Yuendumu of 19-year-old Kumanjayi Walker.

The 61-year-old man was suspended in early April when an image of a singlet with the slogan "Don't wanna get shot ... Don't stab a cop! ... #BlueLivesMatter" was shared widely over social media.

David Cole shared it and told NITV at the time that the image "exacerbates the trauma we feel when dealing with police".

NT Police Constable Zachary Rolfe, 28, was charged with one count of murder over the shooting last November, but intends to plead not guilty.

His defence is expected to allege that he had responded to Walker acting violently against him and trying to stab his partner when they tried to arrest him in the remote community in central Australia.

The issue has been a divisive, emotive one in the Territory with many police officers supportive of Constable Rolfe.

It prompted protests around Australia over the treatment of Aboriginal people by police and deaths in custody.

Another protest is planned in Darwin this week, prompted by the Blacks Lives Matter global action over the death of African American man George Floyd while being arrested in Minneapolis.

Northern Territory Police said in a statement on Wednesday that a 61-year-old male police officer had been dismissed from the force.

"The officer had been suspended from duty without pay in April for serious breaches of discipline pursuant to the *Police Administration Act 1978*."

He was originally suspended after the NT Police Professional Standards Command found he was "allegedly responsible for the production and distribution of clothing that displayed highly inappropriate content".

In a statement at the time NT Police Commissioner Jamie Chalker condemned the "highly inappropriate content".

"(The Commissioner) offers his sincere apology to the community for the actions of the individual or individuals who have created the material that has appeared."

Assistant Commissioner Michael White said at the time "the actions of the officer were disgraceful. For a serving officer to be involved in this behaviour brings disrepute to the entire police force and this behaviour is unacceptable."

"I reiterate the Commissioner's apology to the community for the conduct of this member."

— AAP

Family of arrested teen: officer must be charged



THE family of an Aboriginal teenager who had his legs kicked out from beneath him while being arrested in Sydney has called for the police constable responsible to be charged.

The sister of the 16-year-old said her family was angry and frustrated following the incident in a Surry Hills park when the teen was arrested after appearing to threaten to assault the police officer.

"The frustration of being constantly targeted by police ... and not being able to place your trust in people who are employed to protect to you is sad and worrisome," she said.

"This police officer must be charged so we don't have to deal with another incident like this."

The boy's mother said her son shouldn't feel like he was living "inside a prison made up of the whole world".

"Because we're Aboriginal ... we experience extra obligation to answer to people, who we are, where we're going ... when we're just walking along," she said.

NSW Police is investigating after the youth was taken to hospital with minor injuries following his arrest which was captured on a mobile phone and posted on social media.

The footage appears to show the teenager telling the officer "I'll crack you in the f***ing jaw, bro," before he was swept to the ground

and handcuffed. He was later released without charge.

His sister said regardless of the threat, he should not have been thrown to the ground.

"Teenagers, they're lippy, but you don't just abuse children because they're lippy," she told ABC radio.

Police chief commissioner Mick Fuller admitted there were other ways the officer could have dealt with the verbal threat.

"This is a case of two things – is it reasonable for someone to swear and threaten a police officer and, then, is the force the officer used reasonable?" Mr Fuller said on 2GB radio.

"I don't know what happened before in terms of the lead-up, but there were probably other ways the

officer could have dealt with that matter, no doubt."

The police force's professional standards command is investigating and the constable has been placed on restricted duties.

NSW Aboriginal Legal Service chief executive Karly Warner said the incident is not isolated.

"Aboriginal kids are routinely harassed, stopped, questioned and searched by police for no reason," Ms Warner said.

The lawyer said the family wants to know what will happen to the officers who watched the arrest. NSW Labor Indigenous Affairs spokesman David Harris said the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission should review how police officers interact with Aboriginal people.

National Justice Project lawyer George Newhouse said the family has requested he launch a private prosecution if the constable is not charged, while the Redfern Legal Centre has referred the matter to the independent police watchdog.

The teenager's father paid tribute to the family of George Floyd who died while being arrested in the US city of Minneapolis last week.

He said his son's experience was reminiscent of his own treatment as a young man.

But Police Minister David Elliott said Sydney was not Minnesota.

"I was just as disturbed about the threat from a young person to physically assault a police officer as I was with the response from the police officer," Mr Elliott said. — AAP

Fellowship offers Dean opportunity



DEAN Parkin, a Quandamooka man from Minjerribah, also known as North Stradbroke Island, is one of the inaugural senior fellows in the Atlantic

Fellows for Social Equity (AFSE) Program, an Indigenous-led lifelong, collaborative fellowship program and platform for systemic change across Australia and New Zealand.

The year-long intensive fellowship program is hosted by the University of Melbourne.

Dean has worked in various fields, as a policy advisor, strategic designer, engagement strategist and management consultant. Like many First Nations change-makers, Dean wears many hats, and is involved in many initiatives, and is closely involved in advocating for Constitutional change, through the Statement from the Heart.

Dean applied to be an Atlantic fellow because of the opportunity it offered to be part of a cohort founded on collaboration. He also wanted to be part of a broader local and global network focused on equity.

He said joining a community of social change agents that could leverage each other to amplify their impact was an appealing idea.

"For me it was really about the idea of fellowship and, to be honest, less about the projects, because I kind of figure those of us that are in social change have either, through our own work or through our own activity, involved ourselves in a whole bunch of projects," Dean said. "This idea that you could get different change agents from different sectors and with different experiences, who could not only agree well and collaborate well, but disagree well and respect each other through philosophical or ideological differences – I joined to be a part of that and to see how that could develop over time."

Dean describes his experience in the program as wonderful – well-structured for people like him who are curious, reflective and action orientated.



Quandamooka man Dean Parkin is one of the inaugural senior fellows in the Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity Programs.

He is grateful for the opportunity to think about and test big ideas and was surprised and impressed by the quality of the content and collaborators and still reflects on the discussions and insights when thinking through his day-to-day strategy and tactics.

"I think about the time and the space as the most valuable elements of the fellowship because we just get caught up in day-to-day business. We get caught up in our jobs, and to have deliberate time with provocation from the modules and faculty, and the people that came in and out of the program and shared their own insights into so many different spaces,"

Dean said. "I always refer back to this experience as an almost luxurious time where I could really work on my own thinking and reflection. So, I think without that I probably would've just kept going on with what I was doing."

The AFSE Fellowship year had a profound impact on Dean as a social change-maker. It strengthened his knowledge and skills as well as his networks and relationships, enabling him to be more effective and have greater impact across all the projects he is involved in. This means the work he contributes to can reach more people and

have a bigger impact.

"It's been quite profound. It really has."

Dean is project director at From the Heart (www.fromtheheart.com.au), an education project administered by the Cape York Institute to support an Indigenous Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution.

The Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity program is seeking pre-registration and expressions of interest for the 2021 intake.

If you're a social change leader with a provocative idea, check eligibility and register at socialequity.atlanticfellows.org/apply

David's career builds on law degree at CQU



SOLICITOR David Wenitong says he feels privileged every day to have a career helping his fellow Indigenous people.

His legal career with the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (ATSILS) all began with a law degree at Central Queensland University (CQUni).

"I decided to work in the legal profession and at ATSILS due to the inequality that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people face in accessing justice," David said.

"As an Aboriginal person, I am a firm believer in the need for culturally competent legal services and the provision of timely advice and representation to our clients. It is a privilege to advocate for my own people in the various courts that I attend."

David was working as a court support officer at ATSILS in Rockhampton while he was completing his law degree.

When he graduated in 2016, he left ATSILS and worked at Youth Justice as a restorative justice conference convenor and court coordinator.

He returned to ATSILS in 2017, where he's been a solicitor ever since.

It was during his studies that David gained valuable experience as a recipient of an Aurora Internship. The overall aim of the internship program is to facilitate individual professional development by building career experiences and opportunities in the sector, and to strengthen the capacity of Indigenous sector organisations by attracting and retaining talented Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

"I applied for an Aurora internship

in 2016 and spent six weeks in Sydney with Terri Janke and Company," David said.

"Terri is an Indigenous woman and is a leader in the field of Indigenous intellectual property and it was a great experience and I learned a lot from Terri and her staff.

"(The internship) exposed me to the inner workings of a law firm and cemented my desire to use the skills I was developing to assist my people."

As a solicitor David also penned an article, *Building Rapport With First Nations Clients*, for the Queensland Law Society's journal, *The Proctor*.

David encouraged anyone with a drive or passion to pursue it.

"I would say that you can do anything you put your mind to. It may take time and be hard work, but it's worth it. Apply for an internship or start studying; it's the first step to changing your life."



David Wenitong feels privileged to work with ATSILS.

Jill's children's books promote Birri language

By KIRK PAGE



PROUD Birri Gubba woman Jill Dodd is from the Birri/ Collinsville area, Wirri Urannah

area, and Kaanju of Cape York in north Queensland.

Jill is one of six children born and raised in Rockhampton. Jill grew up with her maternal grandparents, Kate and Reg Dodd Snr in an extended family of aunts, uncles, cousins and siblings.

Jill's recent collection of self published children's books reimagines some children's classics as well as sharing some family yarns that will get younger readers speaking her Birri language.

"Writing and illustrating these books has been a lifelong passion and introducing the Birri Gubba language to new audiences has been a dream for some time," she said.

Dodd released her first volume in February. *Dhagari Ganjarri Badhal*, *Plenty Hungry Grub* has been adapted and translated into

Birri language from the classic children's book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

"The importance of language is to keep our culture alive and recognise the rich and diverse nature of our languages," Jill said.

Jill Dodd has her grandfather Reg to thank for teaching her the family's first language while instilling in her a deep sense of culture and respect.

There are nine dialects of the Birri Gubba language group: Birri, Wirri, Gangulu, Baradha, Yilba, Yangaa, Yetimarala, Yambina and Garingbal.

"It's important that we keep culture alive for future generations. The Birri language is spoken widely across central Queensland and through my books I want to share and promote the Birri language to the next generation of young ones," Jill said.

"I got this idea to translate nursery rhymes into our Birri language. These books are the first of their kind, featuring my language. There aren't any popular books or nursery rhymes in our language."

Jill is passionate about her

culture and language and hopes these books will give young ones a chance to speak and to learn more about the Birri language.

"Primary schools and preschools are interested," she said. "There's over 500 Birri mob out there. There's a lot of our descendants who would love to have these books. I had a clear vision and full creative control as a self publisher."

Jill has been a part of the Meanjin (Brisbane) community since moving there in 1992 with her two young sons.

Apart from *Dhagari Ganjarri Badhal*, she has written three other children's books from nursery rhymes adapted and translated in Birri language, emphasising and celebrating the unique and essential role that Indigenous languages play in both cultural identity and linking people to country.

Dhagari Ganjarri Badhal aims to raise awareness of the crucial role languages play in our lives.

If you want to buy her books, visit her website at <http://www.jilldodd.com.au> or Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



Jill Dodd and her brother Ken Peters-Dodd, and nieces Ruby and Opal on Birri country at their home at Binbee, Bogie River.

Our Mob adjusts to restrictions



AN exhibition featuring significant First Nations artworks from Adelaide Festival Centre's unique collection will be presented at Festival Theatre's QBE Galleries in October.

The event will showcase paintings that have been acquired over the years from Adelaide Festival Centre's annual *OUR MOB: Art by South Australian Aboriginal Artists* visual arts exhibition – featuring artists including Beaver Lennon, Nellie Coulthard, Tony Wilson and Mumu Mike Williams.

While *OUR MOB* cannot proceed in its usual format due to the COVID-19 ongoing public health emergency and recent travel restrictions into and out of regional and remote Aboriginal Communities, Adelaide Festival Centre together with presenting partners and in consultation with First Nations communities is exploring more ways to celebrate First Nations artists.

The 2020 *OUR MOB* program was set to include three free exhibitions: *OUR MOB: art by South Australian Aboriginal*; *OUR YOUNG MOB: art by Aboriginal artists 18 years and under* and the *Don Dunstan Foundation Prize solo* exhibition, to be created by last year's Emerging Artist Award



Ngarrindjeri, Nurungga, Ngadjuri artist Sonya Rankine.

recipient, Ngarrindjeri, Nurungga, Ngadjuri woman Sonya Rankine.

"The *OUR MOB 2019* exhibition and winning the Don Dunstan Foundation Emerging Artist Award motivated and inspired me to continue exploring new ways of weaving," Sonya Rankine said.

"As planned, I have focused on growing my business Lakun Mara's presence on Facebook and Instagram and it has substantially grown in demand for workshops, commissioned pieces and moving into the

creation of custom-made earrings.

"I'm looking forward to *OUR MOB 2021* and working on creating some really unique and special pieces to be a part of my exhibition next year."

Since 2006, *OUR MOB* has showcased the quality and diversity of art created by First Nations artists from urban Adelaide and across the state's regional and remote communities, boosting the careers of numerous artists and generating direct-to-artist sales to support their art practices.

Seeking Victorian artists to join the Metro Tunnel Creative Artist Pool

For more information, visit metro.tunnel.vic.gov.au/artist-pool



New artwork created to communicate vital information about diabetes to mob



DIABETES
Australia has partnered with emerging First Nations artist Keisha Leon on the development of new artwork to tell the story of diabetes and its significant impact on First Nations people.

The new artwork was released last week as part of Diabetes Australia's National Reconciliation Week activities.

Keisha Leon, a proud Waanyi-Kalkadoon woman and graphic designer, knows the struggle many Indigenous communities face with health problems firsthand.

"I do come from a large family that unfortunately suffers from a lot of the health problems that have a bigger impact on Aboriginal people – including diabetes. I do value the work Diabetes Australia is doing to close that gap and break down the myths and fears around diabetes," Keisha said.

"I hope the work we do today means that future generations will be able to make empowered decisions over their health, without the negative stigma and barriers that are around today."

Diabetes Australia chief executive Professor Greg Johnson said Keisha's artwork will help the organisation to raise awareness about the seriousness of diabetes and engage First Nations communities in a culturally appropriate way.

"It is estimated that the prevalence of type 2 diabetes in First Nations people is up to four times higher than other Australians and they are much

more likely to experience the debilitating impacts of diabetes complications like blindness, limb amputation, heart disease and kidney failure," Professor Johnson said.

"In every First Nations community, diabetes is doing tremendous damage.

"We must do more to prevent the development of type 2 diabetes, prevent the serious complications, and make communities healthier places to live. We need to do all three – harder and faster.

"If we are going to have any success in doing this, we need to work in partnership with First Nations peoples and communities – and provide support and education that is culturally appropriate, accessible and meaningful.

"We are very proud to have worked with Keisha and have artwork that we can now use to communicate and connect in a more powerful way."

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement manager Chris Lee, a proud Larrakia man, said the art drew on the long tradition of storytelling in First Nations communities.

"Keisha's artwork considers the impact of diabetes on communities and the barriers preventing people from accessing health care.

"The artwork depicts the positive journey of increased awareness, connection and support First Nations people can take towards a healthier future," Mr Lee said.

"I hope the artwork will take people on a journey. By yarning about health, we can grow our connections and work towards healthier communities for future generations."



A pathway to health by Keisha Leon.

"I hope the work we do today means that future generations will be able to make empowered decisions over their health, without the negative stigma and barriers that are around today."

– First Nations artist, Keisha Leon



Artist, Waanyi-Kalkadoon woman Keisha Leon.

No better time to quit



THE National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) helped to spread the message to all Australians that 'There is light at the end of the tunnel, not at the end of a cigarette' on World No Tobacco Day, May 31.

For this year's World No Tobacco Day, NACCHO's message was particularly timely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) released a statement saying that tobacco kills more than 8 million people globally every year.

"More than 7 million of these deaths are from direct tobacco use and around 1.2 million are due to non-smokers being exposed to second-hand smoke," the WHO said.

"Tobacco smoking is a known risk factor for many respiratory infections and increases the severity of respiratory diseases."

NACCHO chair Donnell Mills said now is a good time to think about your health.

"There is no better time to think about how smoking affects your health, your loved ones and your financial position during this COVID-19 pandemic," she said.

"Smoking can mean you are more



Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt is with NACCHO chair Donnell Mills who wants to "to remind everyone that there is light at the end of this COVID-19 tunnel, not at the end of a cigarette".

susceptible to developing lung disease.

"I want to remind everyone that there is light at the end of this COVID-19 tunnel, not at the end of a cigarette.

"Chronic diseases such as respiratory diseases (including asthma), heart and circulatory diseases, high blood pressure,

diabetes, kidney diseases and some cancers are more common among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and tend to occur at younger ages, than among other Australians.

"I would like to remind everyone especially during these times of COVID-19, stop sharing cigarettes with others or smoking used cigarette butts.

"Every step counts to ensuring the wellbeing of yourself and those close to you."

In South Australia, Cancer Council SA said that the great news is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander smoking rates have been slowly declining.

Cancer Council SA has been providing Quitskills since 2012 through the National Tackling Indigenous Smoking Program. A nationally recognised smoking cessation training program, Quitskills has been delivered to over 2500 people who work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities from across the nation.

Together with the National Tackling Indigenous Program, Cancer Council SA plays a key role in driving down smoking cessation rates.

"Tobacco is the only legal drug that kills up to half of its users," Cancer Council SA said in a statement.

"We can all play a part in reducing the impact of second-hand smoke by encouraging family to quit smoking.

"If you are smoking, it's important to smoke outside the home and not smoke in the car with other people.

Products such as e-cigarettes and roll your own tobacco cigarettes are targeted at young people, aiming to re-normalise smoking behaviours and undo the generations of good work we've done to reduce the smoking rate."

Cancer Council SA said that other tobacco tactics and tricks to be aware of include:

- flavours appealing to children in smokeless tobacco, shisha and e-cigarettes;
- promotion of tobacco products and the distribution of free samples at popular events for young people; and
- advertising and product placement on movies and tv-shows and through social media platforms with paid influencers.

Cancer Council SA offers a free webchat service, which allows people to confidentially yarn in real-time through texting with our Aboriginal Quitline Counsellors.

For phone service call 137 848.

For webchat access in SA visit www.quitlinesa.org.au.

MDAS to hear hundreds of yarns



HUNDREDS of yarns will underpin a community-driven initiative aimed at ensuring Mallee District

Aboriginal Services (MDAS) is hearing the needs and concerns of local communities and helping Mallee communities thrive.

Under the new Our Mob Speaks community engagement program, a dedicated community engagement team plans to speak to 400 people every three months across Mildura, Swan Hill, Kerang and Robinvale.

MDAS acting chief executive Andy Charles said it was a listening process that would encourage people to talk about whatever is on their mind and how MDAS can best support them.

"MDAS is here for our mobs across the Mallee, but to make sure we can fully support all communities, this process will allow us to be truly listening to Our Mob Speak," he said.

"The information gathered through these yarns will be essential for us to continue improving MDAS services. The feedback will also be used to talk with government about community concerns and ideas, to make sure we are attracting the right investment to support our communities."

Mr Charles said that the Our Mob Speaks approach draws on the deep wisdom, strength and resolve of Aboriginal people living in the Mallee, both past and



John Jackson and Ian Kirby outside the Mallee District Aboriginal Services.

present. The engagement program will be driven by John Jackson, Ian Kirby, John Mitchell and Sarah Nalder.

When talking to young people, families and Elders, the MDAS community engagement team will record only what community members have said, not who said it.

"We know just how important

this is so everyone can feel safe to talk about what's on their mind," Mr Mitchell said.

"To ensure we hear the voices of our mobs and generations across the Mallee, we need people to understand that all information and feedback shared will be treated confidentially."

MDAS plans to keep community members in the loop

with regular feedback and updates posted on the organisation's website and Facebook page.

"Our first yarns will be about talking about how MDAS can support community to recover from COVID-19," Mr Mitchell said.

"The period of COVID-19 has formed some excellent new partnerships with our community,

and it's marked a real change in how we work.

"Our goal is to continue that momentum now, and together to shape the future that we want for our children today and their children into the future."

To find out more about Our Mob Speaks check out the MDAS website and Facebook page.

Program reduces premature births



A PROGRAM to reduce premature births in the Kimberley region of Western Australia has seen significant success.

The Kimberley has one of the nation's highest rates of preterm births.

A dramatic decline was recorded after progesterone treatment was provided free of charge and a midwifery continuity-of-care program was adopted.

Nearly 3000 babies are born preterm – after 20 weeks gestation but before 37 weeks – in WA each year.

It is the greatest cause of death and disability in children under five years old in the developed world and is twice as likely among Aboriginal children than other Australian children.

A significant reduction in premature births in WA shows prevention efforts should be targeted at all pregnant women, not just those with risk factors, researchers say.

Key findings from the first three years of WA's preterm birth prevention program were published on Friday in the leading medical journal *PLOS One*.

An 8% reduction was recorded within the first year of the program, launched in 2014 by Women & Infants Research Foundation chief scientific director John Newnham.

But while the state's largest maternity hospital

continued to record lower numbers of preterm births, initial improvements were not sustained elsewhere.

The study found that efforts to educate medical practitioners about interventions to prevent premature births, such as identifying a shortened cervix and avoiding unnecessary cesarean sections, had dropped off after the first year.

Doctors working in non-tertiary hospitals may have been more likely to respond to risk factors by inducing early births in the hopes of preventing stillbirth, the authors suggested.

The greatest reduction in preterm birth rates at King Edward was in pregnancies classed as low-risk.

Professor Newnham, who was named Senior Australian of the Year for 2020, said this indicated interventions needed to be aimed at all pregnant women, not just those

with risk factors.

"It's taken us more than 30 years to find out how we can safely prevent preterm birth and now – armed with detailed analysis to inform our approach moving forward – we can work on reducing rates of early birth even further," Prof Newnham said.

"There is no better place in the world to have a baby than in Australia and we want to keep it that way."

Educational programs needed to maintain a high level of intensity given the constant turnover of new mothers, he added. – AAP

"There is no better place in the world to have a baby than in Australia and we want to keep it that way."



Do you want to make a difference in Australian Indigenous Health?

Rowan Nicks Russell Drysdale Fellowship

in

Australian Indigenous Health and Welfare 2021

This Fellowship awards up to \$60,000 (negotiable depending on qualifications &/or experience) for a 12-month period.

The Fellowship is designed to support individuals wanting to make a contribution in the area of Australian Indigenous Health and Welfare. The Fellowship particularly aims to support workers and the development of future leaders in Australian Indigenous Health & Welfare.

Australian Indigenous people are strongly encouraged to apply.

Fellowships can take the form of:

- Funding for project work, consumables, administration costs etc and/or
- Salary/salaries for a 12-month period, whilst undertaking a project/program, at a level commensurate with the Fellow's experience and qualification OR
- A stipend and payment of course materials and/or fees to undertake approved education or research.

The Fellowship is open to Australian citizens who have appropriate prior experience, proof of community consultation and affirmation and/or education and wish to:

- Undertake approved projects/programs/activities OR
- Undertake further education OR
- Undertake a research project

Closing date: Friday 4th September, 2020



For further information about the Fellowship and for Application Form and Terms of Reference, please see www.nicksdrysdalefellowship.com.au or contact the Executive Officer - Louise Lawler, University of Sydney phone: 0418 251 864 or via email louise.lawler@sydney.edu.au.

Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT

CDU program looks to accounting numbers



A NEW Charles Darwin University initiative aims to make a serious difference to the number of

Indigenous accountants working across the Northern Territory and the rest of Australia.

The program is a partnership between CDU, industry and employers that will support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to undertake introductory studies and build leadership skills, leading to further university education and formal qualifications in accounting.

Dr Aggie Wegner, CDU's Asia Pacific College of Business and Law assistant dean (Global and Engagement), said about 50 self-identified registered Indigenous accountants were working across Australia compared with around 200,000 other accountants.

"Without a doubt there is a clear need for universities to support more Indigenous students to give accounting studies a go," she said.

Dr Wegner, who is coordinating the program together with lecturer Dr Guzyal Hill, said the program would give students the ability and confidence to develop their skills, progress in their careers and make a difference in their communities.

"There is a stereotype that accounting is simply about numbers," Dr Wegner said.

"In reality, accounting is much more varied, and often forms the basis for business development, entrepreneurship and good governance. Good accounting is about telling and conveying a story.

"We know many Indigenous people are already highly skilled



Corrine Coombes, a Garrwa and Yidinji woman, is set to be one of Charles Darwin University's pre-accounting program's first students.

and working in finance positions, particularly within Aboriginal corporations.

"This program will allow people to gain extra qualifications and career opportunities or provide interested students with an idea of what working in accounting can look like."

The Indigenous pre-accounting enabling program has two components: a four-week full-time intensive delivered on-campus and an ongoing individual and group mentoring component for the duration of their university course.

Mabunji Finance Manager Corrine Coombes, a Garrwa and

Yidinji woman, is set to be one of the pre-accounting program's first students.

Based in Borroloola, about 970km south east of Darwin, Corrine will be sponsored by Mabunji and industry partner Deloitte to take part in the new program.

When approached with the opportunity to undertake further study, Corrine said her answer was "straight away yes".

"For myself, as an Indigenous person, I want to show other people that these are skills anyone can achieve and that opportunities are out there," she said.

"We need more Indigenous people in finance and

accounting, and I'm hoping I'll be a role model for a lot of young women and men in Borroloola."

One of the key aspects of the new program is the collaboration between CDU, industry and employers to support students to enter and complete the program.

Deloitte's Suzanne Archbold, who has worked closely with Corrine throughout her finance career, said it was critical to support more Indigenous students to consider accounting and finance-based careers.

"If we can assist Corinne and others to further their education the impact to the organisation, and more broadly to the community, will be immense," she said.

"CDU's new program will give people a touchpoint with the university and gives those interested an opportunity to begin tertiary studies, which might ordinarily be quite daunting."

CDU is in the process of identifying partners and collaborators as well as potential students for the Indigenous pre-accounting enabling program which is expected to run later this year.

For more information about the 2020 intake or to become involved, contact via email: Dr Wegner – Aggie.Wegner@cdu.edu.au or Dr Hill – Guzyal.Hill@cdu.edu.au.

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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Beyond Linking
Broken Hill
1x Full Time (35hrs/week)
**Beyond Linking
Team Leader Position**
Generous leave entitlements + Salary Sacrifice
arrangements available

The Team Leader will be employed under the conditions of the Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010.

Broken Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council, Beyond Linking Program, has a vacancy for 1 full time Beyond Linking Team Leader position to join our team, based in Broken Hill until 30 June 2023. Employment is subject to ongoing funding and satisfactory work performance. Travel is a requirement of the position to deliver the Beyond Linking Program in the Far West Region communities.

The position will be responsible for managing delegated operational aspects of the BHLALC Beyond Linking Program, to deliver an effective service that provides optimal outcomes for Beyond Linking participants, pursuing partnerships for the successful delivery of the Broken Hill LALC Beyond Linking Program; monitor the overall budget performance of the Beyond Linking program and advise the CEO on monthly expenditure reviews; provide leadership and management support, advice, coaching, mentoring, motivation, and individual performance monitoring and development; and provide management support to BHLALC Beyond Linking staff/personnel, to ensure that high quality service and consistent practice is providing opportunities for people with a disability and their families/carers.

Selection Criteria

The ideal candidate will have:

- Aboriginality is a genuine occupational qualification as authorised by Part 2, division 2, Section 14(d) of the Anti-Discrimination Act, 1977,
- Tertiary qualifications and/or relevant senior operational experience in social or community services sector,
- Demonstrated leadership and people management capabilities with experience in human and community services sector,
- A strong understanding of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS),
- Commitment to a collaborative approach and demonstrated success in client and case management,
- Highly developed communication, interpersonal and negotiation skills, and the ability to communicate with confidentiality and sensitivity,
- Advanced computer skills and Current NSW Driver's Licence,
- A satisfactory Police clearance and current NSW Working with Children Check

Beyond Linking is looking for someone who:

- Has experience in working in the disability sector,
- Is a high level thinker and can communicate with stakeholders at a high level,
- Has experience in project and contract management,
- Possesses the ability to multi task and work well under pressure, and
- willingness to work flexible hours and in a range of locations across a regional area if required.

The Broken Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council considers that being Aboriginal is a genuine occupational qualification under s 14 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW).

To apply for a position, applicants must submit a cover letter, a statement addressing each of the selection criteria and resume addressed to:

Chief Executive Officer
PO Box 392
Broken Hill NSW 2880

Applications submitted without addressing the selection criteria will NOT be considered.

Completed Applications can be emailed to Annette Ohlsen: ceo@bhlalc.org.au

Applications close Friday 5pm 10th July 2020

Please note, only short listed candidates will be contacted for interviews following the closing date.



Aboriginal Education and Wellbeing Officer SEO1

- Department of Education
- Temporary full-time appointment up to 16 July 2023
- Position number and location: 174178 - Arncliffe NSW

Total remuneration package valued to: \$128,093 p.a. (salary \$118,315 to \$128,093 p.a. including employer's contribution to superannuation and annual leave loading).

Providing high level support and advice to schools, educational services teams and key stakeholders in the implementation of strategies relating to Aboriginal education and engagement.

Please address the selection criteria in relation to the Statement of Duties for the position in your application. Please note that it is a requirement that all candidates submit their applications online. No paper based, email based or late applications will be accepted.

This is a child-related role. If you are the successful applicant you will be required to obtain a Working with Children Check (WWCC) Clearance number as a condition of employment (if you do not already have this). For more information, visit <https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/working-with-children-check>

In addition, your employment may be subject to the Department's National Criminal Records Check to determine your suitability for employment.

Note: Permanent teachers taking up non-school based temporary appointments, the right of return to their substantive position has been extended to up to 3 years.

The Educational Services Division Executive Group has agreed on a transitional arrangement for the recruitment of the Non-School Based Teaching Service (NSBTS) classifications of Senior Education Officer 1 and Senior Education Officer 2 (SEO1/SEO2), pending the outcome of the Educational Services review.

Applicants should refer to the [transitional](#) arrangements for further information.

Notes: Aboriginality is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised by Section 14 of the *Anti-Discrimination Act, 1977*.

Applicants for this position must be of Aboriginal descent, identify as being Aboriginal and be accepted in the community as such. Applicants who have not previously identified for the purposes of employment with the Department are required to provide a Confirmation of Aboriginality from a recognised incorporated Aboriginal Community organisation endorsed with common seal and a certified statutory declaration as defined in the NSW Department of Education Confirmation of Aboriginality Guidelines.

Applications Close: 1 July 2020

If you would like to discuss this opportunity further please contact Natalie Pierson on (02) 9203 9926.

To apply online please visit iworkfor.nsw.gov.au website and refer to the following keyword: 174178.

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Lead, Aboriginal Initiatives

We want a “Deadly” leader to join our team !

Great opportunity to be part of a diverse and inclusive workplace as a member of our Senior Leadership Team. In this newly created role you will engage with Aboriginal people to improve environmental and human health outcomes for mob across NSW. You will develop and lead Aboriginal initiatives and drive positive change across our organisation.

Environment Protection Authority overview

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is the State's primary environmental regulator. Our vision is for New South Wales to have a healthy environment, healthy community and healthy business. We do this by working with Commonwealth, State and Local Governments and community and industry stakeholders as a leader, partner and protector. The NSW EPA's role is to protect our air, waterways and land, and to work with all sectors of the community to reduce impacts on the environment.

This is a great opportunity to be a part of team of highly talented professionals, who value cultural inclusion and welcome an Aboriginal staff member to the team.

Do you have strong project management and great relationship building skills and enjoy working with various key stakeholders

Aboriginality is an essential requirement of the role, and the proven ability to engage with Aboriginal organisations, communities and individuals. Developing and maintaining productive and harmonious working relationships is a necessity.

For further information and/or assistance with applying for this role <https://iworkfor.nsw.gov.au/job/lead-aboriginal-initiatives-198367> please contact Michelle Shipp, Manager Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Development at E: michelle.shipp@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Job Notes: A Recruitment Pool may be established for future ongoing and temporary roles with similar focus capabilities. The Recruitment Pool may be available to hiring managers from the EPA and other NSW Public Sector agencies over a 12-month period.



Application Closing Date: Wednesday 1 July 2020 at 11:59 PM. For further information including role description and how to apply online, please go to <http://www.iworkfor.nsw.gov.au> and search for Job Reference No: 00007PWD



Tenancy Manager

North Coast Community Housing (NCCH) has been providing community housing in northern New South Wales since 1984. We manage over 900 social and affordable properties from our offices in Lismore, Grafton and Tweed Heads. We believe that everyone has the right to live in safe, comfortable and affordable housing.

About the role:

The Tenancy Manager is responsible for a portfolio of social and affordable housing properties.

The position is full-time and is based in Lismore.

For more information or to apply please visit the NCCH Employment section of our website: <https://www.ncch.org.au/employment>

A Career that
**CHANGES
LIVES**

SENIOR COORDINATOR, INDIGENOUS STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- Continuing Full Time
- Student Engagement Directorate
- CQUniversity Rockhampton North
- Total Salary of \$98,988 to \$111,378 plus 17% superannuation and leave loading

CQUniversity is committed to the improvement of employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The filling of this position is intended to constitute an equal opportunity measure under section 8(1) of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth) and s 105 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (Qld). This position is therefore only open to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander applicants.

Join an organisation with an unbreakable belief that quality education, training and research should be available to everyone – regardless of background, location or life circumstances.

In this role you will lead a team to reach the strategic goals of increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student participation, high-level engagement within the community and increasing student's academic success.

You will work in collaboration with the Director, Student Engagement to shape the University's future direction in the transition, support, empowerment and completion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and set clear strategies and measurable goals for improving this target student cohort's success, retention and graduate outcomes.

For more information or to apply www.cqu.edu.au/jobs

Applications Close: 11:59pm, Sunday 21 June 2020.

Vacancy Reference Number: 33602



Research Fellow (Identified)

- Level A/ B Research Associate / Fellow (Identified) position to work on a new Indigenous-led Centre of Research Excellence in Strengthening Systems for Indigenous Health Care Equity (CRE-STRIDE)
- Located at the University Centre for Rural Health (UCRH) in Lismore, NSW
- Part-time (0.6), fixed-term, 3 years with possibility of extension until 31st December 2024 with a base salary of \$74K– \$106K p.a., pro rata plus superannuation

About the opportunity

The vision for CRE-STRIDE is equitable health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through quality improvement (QI) and collaborative implementation research to strengthen primary health care (PHC) systems.

The role will work with the CRE-STRIDE research team and key collaborators to progress our vision and work program. The incumbent will be responsible for the day-to-day operations which will involve administrative and project management, financial management, implementation of policy and procedures, internal and external communication, recruitment, and program reporting. We are seeking someone with experience and knowledge of the primary health care system with a desire to strengthen research skills.

This role will manage staff and will have Human Research responsibilities (such as probation, leave approvals, resourcing, etc.)

Possibility of full time (1.0 FTE) depending on funding and meeting eligibility requirements for the University's Merit Appointment Scheme.

This position has been designated for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people only under the provisions of section 126 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW)

How to apply

For more information on the position and University, please view the position description available from the job's listing on the University of Sydney careers website.

All applications must be submitted via the University of Sydney careers website. Visit sydney.edu.au/recruitment and search by the reference number **393/0220F** to apply.

Closing date: 11:30pm, Wednesday 01 July 2020

The University of Sydney is committed to diversity and social inclusion. Applications from people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; equity target groups including women, people with disabilities, people who identify as LGBTIQ; and people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent, are encouraged.

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The University reserves the right not to proceed with any appointment.



Male Aboriginal Health Worker (Youth Health – Community Health) Permanent Full-Time

Department: South Western Sydney LHD

Remuneration: \$54,220 – \$79,857 per annum

Enquiries: Tamika Briggs on 0459 861 486

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: 5 July 2020

Applications must be lodged electronically. Please go to healthnswgov.referrals.selectminds.com and search Job Reference Number REQ168010.

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

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BLZ_KH0240



Careers with Queensland Health

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Senior Health Worker (Team Leader)

Indigenous Health Services,
Hervey Bay and Maryborough Hospitals.

Remuneration package value up to \$95,174 p.a., comprising salary between \$79,124 – \$83,415 p.a., employer contribution to superannuation (up to 12.75%) and annual leave loading (17.5%) (006) (Permanent Full Time, 76 hours p.f.) (Applications will remain current for 12 months).

Job Ad Reference: H2005WB345389.

Duties/Abilities: To enhance the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the Hervey Bay and Maryborough Hospital precincts. Provide high quality, culturally and ethically appropriate services focused on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients.

Enquiries: Consuela Morrice (07) 4150 2174 or 0437 412 868.

Application Kit: (07) 4150 2250 or Recruitment-Wide-Bay@health.qld.gov.au

Closing Date: Monday, 29 June 2020.

You can apply online at www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au

A criminal history check may be conducted on the recommended person for the job.
A non-smoking policy applies to Queensland Government buildings, offices and motor vehicles.



REC004871

wellways

Program Worker

- Full-time, fixed-term opportunity to 31 December 2020.
- Based in Lismore
- \$30.77 per hour + salary packaging benefits + superannuation + leave loading

The Youth Community Living Support Services (YCLSS) program is an initiative of NSW Health. It aims to provide intensive outreach support to young people aged 16-24 years (inclusive) with serious mental illness and who have or are at risk of developing significant functional disability and their families. Service delivery will require flexible working hours, Monday to Friday, with weekend shifts and an on-call component.

The Program Worker will work with YCLSS participants to address key development areas that support transition into adulthood: social skills, leadership, decision making teamwork, healthy lifestyle, community service, responsibility, self-identity, self-esteem and resilience. A key outcome will be supporting the participant to identify and nurture natural supports that sustain recovery and assist in the development of self-management skills.

Join us in supporting individuals to live a fulfilling and meaningful life in their own community.

To apply and to download a copy of the position description please visit our Careers page www.wellways.org/careers-wellways

For a confidential discussion about the role, please contact **Roxie Collett, Program Coordinator on 0439 632 710** or rcollett@wellways.org

We warmly encourage people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and people with a lived experience of mental health and disability to apply.

www.wellways.org

www1044_NSW1702



Senior Client Service Officer

- Department of Communities and Justice
- Location: Strawberry Hills
- Salary range: \$85,488 – \$94,327 p.a. plus employer's contribution to superannuation and annual leave loading

Are you:

- Passionate about making a difference and delivering innovative solutions for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless
- Focused on strong customer service
- Commitment to person-centred, culturally sensitive client outcomes.

Then this role might be just for you!

We can offer you:

- professional support and training
- flexible working conditions
- great career opportunities.

Apply Now!

For more information and to apply visit www.iworkfor.nsw.gov.au or phone Thuy-Vi Le on (02) 8303 6394. Job reference number: 1001-33215419

Job closes Monday, 29 June 2020

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The Voice of Indigenous Australia

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Recovery and Rehabilitation Worker

- Based in Lismore
- Part-time (0.6) and full-time fixed-term opportunity til 30 June 2022
- \$30.77 per hour + salary packaging benefits + superannuation + leave loading

The Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative (HASI) is designed to work with participants to address key areas that support people who have mental health issues so they can maintain successful tenancies and participate in their communities. Using the Wellways Community Recovery Model, the Recovery and Rehabilitation Worker will provide practical support to people with a mental illness through HASI and work with participants to address key areas that support the development of decision-making skills, social skills, independent living skills, community access, healthy lifestyle, self-identity, self-esteem and resilience.

Join us in supporting individuals to live a fulfilling and meaningful life in their own community!

To apply and to download a copy of the position description please visit our Careers page www.wellways.org/careers-wellways

For a confidential discussion about the role, please contact Sammy Ibrahim, HASI Team Leader on 0448 642 415 or sibrahim@wellways.org

We warmly encourage people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and people with a lived experience of mental health and disability to apply.

wellways.org

WM1741_NSW1742



JOB VACANCY: Kids 4 LIFE Supported Playgroup Worker (Identified)

YWCA Australia is currently seeking a dedicated Supported Playgroup Worker (Identified) to join our Service Delivery Team. This role is offered on a part time basis on a maximum term contract ending on 30 June 2021 and is based in our Lismore office.

The primary focus of the Supported Playgroup Worker role is to assist the Coordinator with the design, implementation and evaluation of all YWCA NSW Kids 4 Life Programs.

To find out more or apply for this position please visit <https://www.ywca.org.au/vacancies/>.

Please contact Kayeleen Brown at: Kayeleen.Brown@ywca.org.au for any questions.

Applications close 26/06/2020



Health
Justice Health and
Forensic Mental Health Network

Aboriginal Health Worker

Location: John Morony Correctional Centre

Employment Status: Permanent Full-Time

Salary: \$54,220 - \$79,857 pa, plus employers contribution to superannuation and annual leave loading

Enquiries: Shahana.Vanjour@health.nsw.gov.au

Closing Date: 24 June 2020

Applications must be lodged electronically. Please go to healthnsw.gov.referrals.selectminds.com and search Job Reference Number REQ168457.

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

BLZ_KH0241

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Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

The Ngullingah Jugun (Our Country) Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC is seeking a candidate with strong leadership qualities for the role of CEO. This is an exciting opportunity to help lead a developing corporation, which is responsible for holding on trust and managing the native title rights and interests of the Western Bundjalung People.

The role will be part-time (22.5 hours equivalent) for a 12-month contract.

The role will be based in Grafton or Casino NSW. The salary is to be negotiated, depending on skills and experience.

Applications from Western Bundjalung People are strongly encouraged. Previous experience working with Western Bundjalung People and knowledge of Western Bundjalung culture is essential.

Applications close at 5.00pm EST on Friday 3 July 2020.

For a copy of the position description and application details, please contact Sloane Donnelly at Sloane@nsoair.onmicrosoft.com.



Aboriginal Partnerships Specialist – Community Housing

This is an identified position and applicants must provide Confirmation of Aboriginality.

Position type: 18-month contract full time (36.75 hrs per week).

Salary range \$80,856 – 88,522, subject to skills and experience + superannuation + option to salary sacrifice

CHIA NSW is the peak industry body for community housing in NSW. We are looking for a dedicated and skilled Aboriginal Partnership Specialist to help us extend our work with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organisations.

The Aboriginal Partnerships Specialist will focus on building on Community Housing Providers' commitment to Aboriginal cultural competency and safety in their workplaces and service delivery. You will help to build genuine partnerships between the Community Housing and Aboriginal Community Housing sectors to support improved outcomes for Aboriginal tenants living in community housing.

About you

You will have excellent facilitation and advocacy skills and a demonstrated ability to run Aboriginal cultural competency and cultural safety events as well as demonstrated experience in engaging Aboriginal and mainstream organisations.

How to apply

If you would like to be considered for this position, please submit your resume together with your responses to the essential criteria in the Position Description to: Recruitment@communityhousing.org.au

Closing date for applications is 22nd June 2020

For further information and to download the Position Description visit:

<http://communityhousing.org.au/services/job-listings/>, or contact Adam West 0403 845 366



Supporting community,
driving change.

www.aes.org.au

WE ARE
HIRING

Come join the AES Movement!

AES is an employer of choice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the country, and offers a flexible workplace to ensure a healthy work/life balance. We are an Aboriginal organisation that is passionate about careers for our Mob! We call ourselves the AES Family. Our national footprint provides our staff with exciting opportunities to travel and work in diverse locations and work across a number of challenging and rewarding portfolio areas. We practice what we preach in that we develop career pathways within the AES for high-performing, talented staff. AES encourages Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to apply for our positions.

Group Training Field Officers – Part-Time – 2 positions Newcastle and Coffs Harbour Offices

About this role

You will be responsible for coordinating Group Training related activities across the region to support our Mob into careers through traineeships and apprenticeships. You will do this by working with schools, students, employers, local businesses and Training organisations as well as the Aboriginal community to promote the vision of the AES.

Career Recruitment Officers– Fulltime – 3 positions Tamworth / Newcastle / Coffs Harbour Offices

About this role

As a Career Recruitment Officer you will assist our career seekers into employment through sourcing, assessing and referring Indigenous career seekers into careers and training. You will develop and implement employment career action plans to support the ongoing development of our Mob. You will working closely with employers, Aboriginal communities and other key stakeholders to create deadly employment opportunities for our Mob.

Career Mentor – Fulltime Redfern Office

About this role

You will be an integral part of the regional team by working closely with our Indigenous candidates that have been placed into a career. You will support them closely in their employment and career development in order to ensure long term employment retention and to maximise personal, educational and career outcomes. You will also build invaluable relationships with employers, Aboriginal communities and key stakeholders.

The successful applicants will need to demonstrate:

- Ability to work effectively with Aboriginal people and communities
- High level of customer service, energy and commitment to making a positive impact
- Ability to work autonomously and as part of a high performance team

To request an application pack, please email HR@aes.org.au or contact HR on 0429 013 345.

Applications close 5pm Wednesday 1 July 2020.
Join the AES movement!

Training Services Manager

- Department of Education
- Clerk Grade 9/10
- Full-time ongoing appointment
- Identified role for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders only
- Location: Bankstown

\$135,279 Package includes salary (\$110,745 - \$122,038), employer's contribution to superannuation and annual leave loading.

About the Department of Education

We ensure young children get the best start in life by supporting and regulating the early childhood education and care sector. We are the largest provider of public education in Australia with responsibility for delivering high-quality public education to two-thirds of the NSW student population.

For more information about the Department of Education, please visit <https://education.nsw.gov.au/>

Training Services NSW (TSNSW) leads and manages the implementation of funded vocational education and training programs and services across the NSW training market including contracting and funding providers, quality assurance, leading reforms and administering apprenticeships and traineeships and Aboriginal programs.

About the role

In your new role as Training Services Manager (Aboriginal identified), you will lead the delivery and implementation of vocational education and training and employment programs and services to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community, apprentices, trainees and their employers. The role also leads a team of staff providing regulatory, quality assurance, program administration and advisory functions for the delivery of vocational education and training and related programs, including Aboriginal Initiatives, across the region.

This role is key to assisting Training Services NSW with increasing the engagement and participation of Aboriginal people in VET, employment and business development.

Talent Pool

A talent pool may be created through this recruitment process. A talent pool is a group of candidates who have undergone an assessment process and have been identified suitable for this role or similar roles. The talent pool will be valid for a period of 18 months. Being part of a talent pool means that you may be considered for ongoing, temporary or term employment for a range of similar roles. This offers exciting opportunities for you to gain a wide range of experiences to build your public service career.

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 any pre-screening questions and any essential requirements. 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.

Pre-Screening Questions

1. Tell us why you are interested in this role and demonstrate how your skills and experience suit the role? (300 or 400 words maximum).
2. Outline a time you had to connect and collaborate with key stakeholders in the community to build commitment and understanding to drive results? (300 or 400 words maximum)

Note: it is a requirement that all candidates submit their applications online via [iworkfor.nsw](https://www.iworkfor.nsw.gov.au/)
No paper based, email based or late applications will be accepted.

Note: Aboriginality is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised by Section 14 of the *Anti-Discrimination Act, 1977*.

Applicants for this position must be of Aboriginal descent, identify as being Aboriginal and be accepted in the community as such. Applicants who have not previously identified for the purposes of employment with the Department are required to provide a Confirmation of Aboriginality from a recognised incorporated Aboriginal Community organisation endorsed with common seal and a certified statutory declaration as defined in the NSW Department of Education Confirmation of Aboriginality Guidelines.

Essential Requirements:

- Aboriginality is an essential requirement for this role. The role has been identified as an Aboriginal role in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977*.
- A Working with Children Check is an essential requirement for this role. The role has been identified as requiring a check in keeping with the *Child Protection (Working With Children) Act 2012*.
- Current drivers licence and a willingness to travel.

The selection process will include a range of assessment techniques to assist in determining your suitability for the role.

Applications Close: 24 June 2020

If you would like to discuss this opportunity further please contact Rob Macmaster, Training Services Manager on 0412 664 851.

To apply online please visit [iworkfor.nsw](https://www.iworkfor.nsw.gov.au/) website and refer to the following keyword: Requisition Number 00007RXX

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13 11 14

Apprentice Painter

Department: Hunter New England LHD
Location: John Hunter Hospital
Enquiries: Brendan Cork on
Brendan.Cork@health.nsw.gov.au

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: 24 June 2020

Applications must be lodged electronically. Please go to healthnsw.gov.referrals.selectminds.com and search Job Reference Number REQ169202.

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

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We are hiring, join us in our mission to drive nationwide change in the structures, norms and practices driving violence against women and their children.

We are currently recruiting for a

Senior Advisor Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women & Their Children -

This is an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander designated position, classified under *Section 12 Special Measures of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010*.

This employment opportunity is only available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Our Watch is committed to increasing its employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Our Watch recognises and values diversity amongst its staff and encourages applications from people with a strong understanding of intersectionality, particularly how it applies to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people either by working with diverse groups and/or lived experience. The ability to translate evidence into practice is desired..

To apply for Our Watch positions please visit <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/Who-We-Are/Careers-at-Our-Watch>

**Our
WATCH**



Aboriginal Practice Lead

Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative is based in North Geelong (Victoria), this is an exceptional opportunity to change lives by leading high quality, culturally safe and effective responses to Aboriginal people seeking support and safety.

The Role

The Aboriginal Practice Leader is a practice leadership position in each Support and Safety Hub located at Orange Door (Hub).

Auspiced by Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative, the Aboriginal Practice Leader will work in close partnership with the Hub Manager, Practice Leaders, the Aboriginal Hub Practitioner, and Team Leaders to lead high quality, culturally safe and effective responses to Aboriginal people seeking support and safety through the Hubs.

The Aboriginal Practice Leader will be responsible for providing practice leadership and expert advice to the Hub workforce on culturally safe and inclusive specialist family violence services, child and family services and perpetrator interventions. The Aboriginal Practice Leader will provide secondary consultations to internal and external stakeholders and proactively build cultural safety and competence in the Hub.

In addition, the Aboriginal Practice Leader will work with the Hub Manager and the Service System Navigator to build and maintain effective partnerships with Aboriginal services and communities within the Hub Network to support choice for Aboriginal people.

About You

- The successful candidate will have:
- Strong contemporary knowledge of Aboriginal culture, aspirations and self-determination
- Expert knowledge and have held practice leadership roles within Aboriginal services
- Relevant tertiary qualifications and professional practice experience in family violence services, child and family services and or broader social services sector is essential.
- The ability to work collaboratively to drive cultural change and have a clear concept of the culture required to deliver effective, culturally safe and responsive services for Aboriginal people within an integrated practice context.

Benefits

Geelong boasts beautiful beaches, award-winning wineries, laneway dining, a fascinating heritage and an enormous range of recreational opportunities from fishing and golfing to diving and surfing. Victoria's second largest city offers a fantastic lifestyle with affordable housing, stress less traffic and fantastic employment opportunities.

Our employees enjoy a range of benefits including:

- Generous annual leave
- 9.5% superannuation
- Not for profit salary packaging options
- Employee Assistance Program
- Accredited training opportunities and study leave

Applications close on the 10th July 2020 and may be submitted via SEEK or emailed to jobs@wathaurong.org.au

Please visit our careers page to view the Position Description for this role at:

<http://www.wathaurong.org.au/careers-with-us/>



For all your advertising needs

email: advertising@koorimail.com

or call **02 6622 2666**



Producer, First Nations Program

Full-time position: 5 days per week
Duration: July – December 2020 (with possible long-term extension)
Salary: \$80,240 per annum plus superannuation. Salary packaging option of up to \$15,900 available
Award: SACS Award: Level 5, Pay Point 1

Leading Western Sydney arts organisation Information and Cultural Exchange (I.C.E.) wishes to employ a dynamic cultural producer to lead our First Nations Program.

The Producer, First Nations Program will work with Western Sydney First Nations communities to develop, manage and produce cultural projects across a range of creative forms (including screen, digital and music); and will be selected on the basis of demonstrated experience in devising and producing arts-based projects with First Nations communities and artists.

Please email your application by **5pm, Friday, 17 July 2020** with 'Application for Producer, First Nations Program' in the subject line to: I.C.E. Executive Director, Anne Loxley at anne.loxley@ice.org.au

For enquiries: please contact Anne Loxley on 02 8821 9157 **Visit:** www.ice.org.au/jobs



Community Development Officer

- Department of Education
- Temporary full-time appointment for a period up to 30 June 2021
- Clerk Grade 5/6
- Position number and location: 221500 – Parramatta

Total remuneration package valued to: \$104,561 p.a. (salary \$85,488 to \$94,327 p.a.) including employer's contribution to superannuation and annual leave loading.

The Health and Safety Directorate is in an exciting period of expansion and positive change and we have numerous opportunities available for high performing individuals to join our busy and vibrant team.

Benefits

You will be part of our team of passionate professionals who apply their experience, expertise and passion to solve unique challenges and to help create one of the finest education systems in the world. We have an open and highly collaborative office environment located in a state of the art, new building, within walking distance from Parramatta station and close to the scenic Parramatta River. You will benefit from flexible working conditions, competitive salary package and the latest IT and productivity tools. You'll be working with a diverse mix of practical, results focused and customer orientated people who deliver services to achieve safe and healthy workplaces and schools.

About the Department of Education

We ensure young children get the best start in life by supporting and regulating the early childhood education and care sector. We are the largest provider of public education in Australia with responsibility for delivering high-quality public education to two-thirds of the NSW student population.

For more information about the Department of Education, please visit <https://education.nsw.gov.au/>

The Health and Safety Directorate shapes and leads work health and safety across the department by delivering services and support to our workplaces to assist them in achieving a safe working and learning environments.

About the Unit

The Risk Management Unit work proactively and in partnership with schools and workplaces to provide safe working and learning environments through the delivery of specialist advice, support services and programs to manage risk and compliance, fostering continuous improvement in health, safety and wellbeing. The unit provides on the ground, practical support to assist schools to continue to improve so that our working and learning environments are as safe as possible.

About the Role

We are looking for individuals who can support NSW schools in building vibrant, tolerant and harmonious school communities. The role forms part of a collaborative and consultative school support team who provide on the ground support to schools.

The Community Development Officer works as part of a team to support schools and the wider community in the development of approaches which strengthen the achievement of high expectations and common goals to improve social, emotional, health and educational outcomes. The role maintains key relationships with all partners and has a strong focus on customer service to ensure program design meets customer needs and service delivery requirements.

It's an exciting environment where no two days are the same. But on a typical day you might find yourself:

- Developing and incorporating a community engagement vision or strategy that reflects the school's context and needs
- Developing and delivering a framework for schools to improve the way they engage parents and the wider school community
- Developing and maintaining a strong understanding of departmental policies and procedures related to community engagement, cultural diversity and education
- Assisting schools to access community services by strengthening interagency collaboration and using available resources effectively to enhance educational outcomes
- Supporting the development and implementation of programs for students, in conjunction with external organisations and services, that promote inclusivity and equity.

How to apply

To apply for this role, please submit an application online and attach a cover letter (max. 2 pages) and your resume (max. 5 pages) in either Word or PDF format. Please address any **pre-screening questions** and **any essential requirements**. We are looking for you to demonstrate your competence in the focus capabilities as outlined in the role description. Please develop your responses with this in mind.

Please note that it is a requirement that all candidates submit their applications online.

No paper based, email based or late applications will be accepted.

This is a child-related position. If you are not currently employed in a child-related position in the Department of Education, you will be required to obtain a Working with Children Check (WWCC) Clearance number as a condition of employment (if you do not already have this). For more information, visit <https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/working-with-children-check>. In addition, your employment may be subject to the Department's National Criminal Records Check to determine your suitability for employment.

Note: Aboriginality is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised by Section 14 of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977*.

Applicants for this position must be of Aboriginal descent, identify as being Aboriginal and be accepted in the community as such. Applicants who have not previously identified for the purposes of employment with the Department are required to provide a Confirmation of Aboriginality from a recognised incorporated Aboriginal Community organisation endorsed with common seal and a certified statutory declaration as defined in the NSW Department of Education Confirmation of Aboriginality Guidelines.

Pre-screening questions:

1. As the Community Development Officer you will develop and implement programs and strategies to enhance community engagement in schools. Describe your skills and experience in these areas. (maximum 300 words)
2. The role maintains key relationships with all partners and has a strong focus on customer service to ensure program design meets customer needs and service delivery requirements. Describe how you have demonstrated working collaboratively and communicated effectively across a wide range of stakeholders. (maximum 300 words)

Essential Requirements:

- Aboriginality
- Relevant experience in the development and implementation of programs and strategies to enhance community engagement in schools
- Working with Children Check for paid employment or willingness to obtain one
- Current Driver's Licence and willingness to drive/travel
- Knowledge of and commitment to the Department's Aboriginal education policies.

The selection process will include a range of assessment techniques to assist in determining your suitability for the role.

Applications Close: 1 July 2020

If you would like to discuss this opportunity further please contact Jeniffer Sheringham on (02) 7814 2646.

To apply online please visit iworkfor.nsw website and refer to the following keyword: 221500 or 00007RYL.

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or call 02 6622 2666**



Human Resources Manager

Full-time continuing contract based in Darwin

About Menzies:

Menzies School of Health Research is one of Australia's leading medical research institutes dedicated to improving Indigenous, global and tropical health. Menzies has a history of over 30 years of scientific discovery and public health achievement. Menzies works at the frontline, joining with partners across the Asia-Pacific as well as Indigenous communities across northern and central Australia.

About the position:

We are seeking an experienced and highly motivated HR professional to join our Corporate Service team at an exciting time as we shape our success for the future.

You will have the opportunity to utilise your vast HR skills and experience to develop HR strategy, lead organisational change projects, provide expert advice and enable contemporary HR initiatives and processes that support our workforce and enhance service delivery across our organisation.

What we offer:

- 6 weeks annual leave
- Option to increase super to 14%
- \$150,880 - \$161,361 salary package (comprising gross salary \$120,643 - \$129,837 pa, superannuation and salary packaging benefits).

Closing date: 12 July 2020

Contact: Esther Miller on 08 8946 8628 or esther.miller@menzies.edu.au

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply

Applicants are required to address the selection criteria. For information on how to apply for this position and to obtain the Position Description and Selection Criteria please visit <http://careers.menzies.edu.au/> or phone 08 8946 8626.



Butchulla Land and Sea Ranger Biosecurity, 005

Positions Duration: Full-time, 1 year temporary

Location: Hervey Bay

To perform in these roles, it is essential that the person who holds the position be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. It is therefore a genuine occupational requirement under section 25 of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991* that applicants are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.

Job brief

This temporary BLSR (Biosecurity) position, developed in partnership with the Queensland Department of Environment and Science (DES) and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), is available due to funding awarded through the National Heritage Grants program. The specialised position will continue and expand upon the preliminary work the current BLSR team have been undertaking in collaboration with DAF and DES on biosecurity and myrtle rust.

This BLSR position focusses on biosecurity, forest health and the development and adoption of strategies to help protect and conserve the cultural and environmental values of K'gari.

Culture and Heritage Advisor

Positions Duration: Temporary/Part-Time 12 months

Location: Hervey Bay

Job brief

This temporary Culture and Heritage position will work with the BAC, the Butchulla Land & Sea Range program, and Departmental staff, as appropriate, focussing on culture and heritage and biosecurity activities. The culture and heritage advisor will also develop relevant protocols and cultural values which will be applied to the assessment and approval of proposed works on World Heritage listed K'gari.

To Apply

To request a copy of the Position Description and Selection Criteria please contact Christine Darvell, Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation, by email at: admin@butchullaaboriginalcorporation.org

Your application should address the Selection Criteria and be no longer than two pages.

Closing Date: Friday, 3rd July 2020.

No late applications will be accepted.



Health
Justice Health and
Forensic Mental Health Network

Aboriginal Health Worker

Location: Silverwater Men's Correctional Centre

Employment Status: Permanent Full-Time

Salary: \$54,220 - \$79,857 pa, plus employers contribution to superannuation and annual leave loading

Enquiries: Shahana.Vanjour@health.nsw.gov.au

Closing Date: 24 June 2020

Applications must be lodged electronically. Please go to healthnswgov.referrals.selectminds.com and search Job Reference Number REQ168529.

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

BLZ_KH0242



Registered Nurse Child and Family Health

Department: Hunter New England LHD

Location: Newcastle Community Health Service

Enquiries: Kelly Drury on

Kelly.Drury@health.nsw.gov.au

Reference Number: REQ164309

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Worker

Department: Hunter New England LHD

Location: Manning Base Hospital

Enquiries: Paul Townsend on

paul.townsend@health.nsw.gov.au

Reference Number: REQ166300

These are targeted Aboriginal Positions. 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: 24 June 2020

Applications must be lodged electronically. Please go to healthnswgov.referrals.selectminds.com and search Job Reference Numbers above.

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

BLZ_KH0237

WATERSNSW

PEEL FRACTURED ROCK GROUNDWATER SOURCE

An application for a NEW WATER SUPPLY WORK APPROVAL has been received from **TARADALE FARMS PTY LTD** for one (1) X 320MM New Groundwater Works/Bores on Lot 15 DP996743, County of Parry, Parish of Tangaratta, for Industrial purposes.

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to WaterNSW, P O Box 1251, Tamworth NSW 2340 or email to customer.helpdesk@watersnsw.com.au within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address, specify the grounds of objection and note the application number – A023172

Any queries please call 1300 662 077 or email the above.

Ben Hutt, Water Regulation Officer North.

KH0246

WATERSNSW

SHOALHAVEN RIVER WATER SOURCE MID SHOALHAVEN RIVER MANAGEMENT ZONE

An application for a WATER SUPPLY WORK AND USE APPROVAL has been received from **YANDIAH PTY LIMITED** for a 125mm centrifugal pump on Lot 30 DP1055709, Parish Jinero, County Murray for the irrigation of 35.0 hectares on Lot 30 DP1055709 (A023862).

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to WaterNSW, PO Box 398, Parramatta NSW 2124 or email to -Customer.Helpdesk@watersnsw.com.au within 28 days of this notice.

The objection must include your name and address and specify the grounds of the objection. Any queries should be directed to 1300 662 077 or the above email address.

Wayne Connors, Senior Water Regulation Officer Coastal.

KH0248

WATERSNSW

LOWER MURRUMBIDGE DEEP GROUNDWATER SOURCE

An application for an amended WATER SUPPLY WORK APPROVAL has been received from **GANERA PTY LTD** for a bore on Lot 42 DP 80979 (Waradgery/Nerang), for industrial purposes. Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to WaterNSW, PO Box 156, Leeton NSW 2705 or email to customer.helpdesk@watersnsw.com.au within 28 days of this notice.

The objection must include your name and address and specify the grounds of objection. Contact us prior to lodging an objection for further information (A023923)

Any queries please call 1300 662 077 or email the above.

Paul Morsanuto, Water Regulation Officer, South.

KH0252

WATERSNSW

MID ORARA RIVER WATER SOURCE

An application for a new WATER SUPPLY WORKS AND USE APPROVAL has been received from **TARLOCHAN, AMARJIT, BALBIR AND JUSBINDER BENNING** for a by wash dam and a 65mm centrifugal pump (9L/S) located on an unnamed watercourse, and irrigation on Lot 6 DP1126225 Parish of Sherwood, County of Fitzroy (Ref: A023685).

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to WaterNSW, PO Box 1400 Grafton NSW 2460 or email to customer.helpdesk@watersnsw.com.au within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address and specify the grounds of objection. Objection forms can be downloaded at <https://www.watersnsw.com.au/customer-service/water-licensing/objections> Any queries please call 1300 662 077 or email the above.

Kristin Blain, Water Regulation Officer North.

KH0250

NATURAL RESOURCES ACCESS REGULATOR

Sydney Basin—North Coast Groundwater Source

Wilpinjong Coal Pty Ltd has applied for a **water supply work approval** for three test bores to supply water for industrial purposes on Lot 1, DP 602213, Lot 211, DP 755425 and Lot 17, DP 755425 in the Parish of Phillip, County of Cumbo (ref: A023886).

If you object to this application, email the Natural Resources Access Regulator, Licensing and Approvals—East, at nrar.enquiries@nrar.nsw.gov.au within 28 days of this notice being published. You must include your name and address and the reason for your objection.

If you have questions, call Water Regulation Officer Ellie Randall on (02) 4275 9308.

SB1463

NATURAL RESOURCES ACCESS REGULATOR

Lachlan Unregulated and Alluvial Water Source—Upper Lachlan Alluvial Groundwater Source

Cowra Shire Council has applied for a **water supply work approval** for three new bores for Town Water supply purposes on road reserves adjacent to Lot 2, DP1036671 Parish of Bangaroo, and Lot 129, DP750361, in the Parish of Billimari, County of Bathurst (ref: A023841).

If you object to this application, write to the Natural Resources Access Regulator at email nrar.enquiries@nrar.nsw.gov.au within 28 days of this notice being published. You must include your name and address and the reason for your objection.

If you have questions, call Water Regulation Officer Jeanette Nestor on (02) 6841 7447.

SB1468

NATURAL RESOURCES ACCESS REGULATOR

Lachlan Fold Belt, Murray—Darling Basin Groundwater Source

Bogan Shire Council has applied for a **water supply work approval** for a bore to supply water for town water supply on Lot 7004, DP 1060977 in the Parish of Boonum, County of Gregory (ref: A023215).

If you object to this application, write to the Natural Resources Access Regulator, Licensing and Approvals—West on email nrar.enquiries@nrar.nsw.gov.au within 28 days of this notice being published. You must include your name and address and the reason for your objection.

If you have questions, call Water Regulation Officer Jeanette Nestor on (02) 6841 7447.

SB1480

0278PK_0815



Australian Government

**Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science**

Do you want to make a positive contribution towards climate change?

We are seeking high performing and motivated people with policy and/or technical skills to fill immediate vacancies in our Climate Change and International Climate Change and Energy Innovation Divisions.

Opportunities exist across a number of teams. These roles include:

- Executive Level 1 (Assistant Managers) in the Safeguard and Industrial Policy team, Geospatial Analysis Unit and National Inventory Systems Unit
- APS Level 6 (Senior Policy Officer and Data Analyst) in the Hydrogen Taskforce and Geospatial Analysis Unit
- APS Level 5 (Policy Officer) in the Technology Roadmap Taskforce.

This is an Indigenous Affirmative Measure and is only available to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people. The department's reconciliation vision supports a workforce with opportunities and career pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples where they feel empowered, ensuring that the department and broader community can benefit from the knowledge and experience of Australia's First Peoples.

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

The process will also be used to develop a merit pool for filling vacancies over the next 12 months, including in other teams.

Should you require further information, please go to

<https://careers.industry.gov.au/en/listing>, job reference **505669**, or contact Stephanie Motwani via stephanie.motwani@industry.gov.au or on **02 6243 7381**.

Applications will close at 11.55pm on **Sunday, 21 June 2020**.

SPONSOR A PUPPY AND GIVE SOMEONE WITH A DISABILITY A NEW LEASH ON LIFE.

Each puppy takes two years and more than \$27,000 to train. We receive no government funding so rely heavily on the generosity of people like you to carry out this vital work.



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Or visit www.assistedogs.org.au

Just fill in this form and post to Assistance Dogs Australia,
PO Box 503, Surry Hills, NSW 2010 or fax it to 02 9699 1171

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Suburb _____ Town/city _____

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Email _____

Thank you!

WATERNSW

HAWKESBURY AND LOWER NEPEAN RIVERS WATER SOURCE

UPPER HAWKESBURY (GROSE RIVER TO SOUTH CREEK) MANAGEMENT ZONE

An application to amend a WATER SUPPLY WORK AND WATER USE APPROVAL has been received from JOHN AND MARY-ANNE CAMILLERI to relocate the location of an existing 65mm centrifugal pump to Part Road East of Lot 1 DP199701, Parish Wilberforce, County Cook for irrigation purposes (Amending 10CA105385) (A023827).

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to WaterNSW, PO Box 398, Parramatta NSW 2124 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 the objection. Any queries should be directed to 1300 662 077 or the above email address. Wayne Connors Senior Water Regulation Officer Coastal.

KH0247

WATERNSW

NEW ENGLAND FOLD BELT COAST GROUNDWATER SOURCE

An application for a WATER SUPPLY WORKS & USE APPROVAL has been received from YIYI WANG, for up to 3 Bores and irrigation on Lot 2, DP258968, Parish of Willawarrin, County of Dudley, for irrigation purposes (15 Megalitres).

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to WaterNSW PO Box 1400 Grafton NSW 2460, or email to customer.helpdesk@waterNSW.com.au within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address and specify the grounds for objection (Ref. A016279). Objection forms can be downloaded at:

<https://www.waterNSW.com.au/customer-service/water-licensing/objections>

Any queries please call 1300 662 077 or email the above.

Mark Bonner, Water Regulation Officer, Water Regulation North.

KH0251

WATERNSW

ALSTONVILLE BASALT PLATEAU GROUNDWATER SOURCE

An application for a new WATER SUPPLY WORKS AND USE APPROVAL has been received from MERVIN PTY LTD for a bore extracting 15ML annually for irrigation of Lot 4 DP787370, Parish of Lismore, County of Rous. (Ref: A021214).

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to WaterNSW, PO Box 1400 Grafton NSW 2460 or email to customer.helpdesk@waterNSW.com.au within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address and specify the grounds of objection. Objection forms can be downloaded at:

<https://www.waterNSW.com.au/customer-service/water-licensing/objections>

Any queries please call 1300 662 077 or email the above.

Kristin Blain Water Regulation Officer North.

KH0260

WATERNSW

HAWKESBURY AND LOWER NEPEAN RIVERS WATER SOURCE

UPPER HAWKESBURY RIVER (CATTAI CREEK TO COLO RIVER) MANAGEMENT ZONE

An application for a WATER SUPPLY WORK AND USE APPROVAL has been received from GARY SAMUEL BUGEJA for a bywash dam and two (2) 50mm centrifugal pumps on Lot 8A DP417987 and a bywash dam and a 50mm centrifugal pump on Lot 8B DP417987, all Parish Currency, all County Cook for the irrigation of 4.0 hectares on Lot 8A DP417987 and Lot 8B DP417987 (A023854).

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to WaterNSW, PO Box 398, Parramatta NSW 2124 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 should be directed to 1300 662 077 or the above email.

Wayne Connors Senior Water Regulation Officer Coastal.

KH0249



Matildas goalkeeper Lydia Williams (left) could play at a World Cup on home soil if FIFA makes the right decision. *Picture: Getty Images*

Notice of an application for determination of native title in the state of Western Australia Notification day: 1 July 2020

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

A person who wants to become a party to this application must write to the Registrar of the Federal Court, GPO Box A30, Perth WA 6837 **on or before 30 September 2020**. After **30 September 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: Joombarn-buru and State of Western Australia & Ors

Federal Court File No: WAD575/2019

Date filed: 3 March 2020

Registration test status: The Native Title Registrar has **accepted** this application for registration

Description: The application area covers approx. 940 sq km and is located approx. 70 km north east of Broome and approx. 55 km west of Derby

Relevant LGA: Shire of Broome

For assistance and further information about this application, call Claire Smith on 08 9425 1000 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.

Notice of an application for determination of native title in the Northern Territory Notification day: 1 July 2020

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

A person who wants to become a party to this application must write to the Registrar of the Federal Court, GPO Box 1806, Darwin, NT, 0801 **on or before 30 September 2020**. After **30 September 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: Peter 'Coco' Wallace v Northern Territory of Australia (Unemarre Arlatyeye Polygon Claim)

Federal Court File No: NTD10/2020

Date filed: 28 April 2020

Registration test status: The Native Title Registrar has **accepted** this application for registration

Description: The application area covers approx. 2 sq km and is located approx. 70 km north east of Alice Springs and approx. 3 km south of the Alatyeye Homestead

Relevant LGA: Central Desert Regional Council

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



AUSTRALIA and New Zealand will learn whether they will host the 2023 Women's World Cup when the FIFA Council meets

online on Thursday, June 25.

Brazil, Colombia and Japan are the other three candidates in what FIFA described as "the most competitive bidding process" in the event's history.

The 37-member FIFA Council will hold an open vote, with the result of each ballot and each voter's choice to be made public on the FIFA website.

FIFA conducted inspection visits of the bidding member associations – none of whom have hosted a Women's World Cup before – in January and February, and will publish an evaluation report this month.

"FIFA remains committed to implementing the most comprehensive, objective and transparent bidding process in the history of the FIFA Women's World Cup," FIFA general secretary Fatma Samoura said.

The hosts were originally going to be decided at a FIFA Council meeting in Addis Ababa, but that was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The 2023 Women's World Cup will be the first to host 32 teams, up from 24 at France 2019.

"We believe that our proven ability to deliver the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 is a key strength of our

bid," Football Federation Australia (FFA) president Chris Nikou said.

"Our world-class infrastructure, modern stadia, high-quality football facilities in both Australia and New Zealand, and major event-hosting experience ensure certainty in delivering the first 32-team FIFA Women's World Cup.

"From operational excellence, record-breaking crowds, commercial success, strong government support, a warm embrace from our 200 diverse cultures to a genuine profound legacy across the Asia-Pacific region, Australia-New Zealand offers certainty in uncertain times, as well as impact."

New Zealand Football president Joanna Wood said the joint bid's ability to bring together two football confederations – Asia and Oceania – presented an opportunity for women's football.

"Our proposal offers FIFA a groundbreaking approach to hosting its greatest women's tournament," Wood said.

"We are two nations from two confederations, united in proposing a historic and exciting step forward for world football.

"We will be a tournament of firsts.

The first ever co-Confederation-hosted FIFA World Cup, the first ever FIFA Women's World Cup to be held in the Asia-Pacific region, and the first ever to be held in the southern hemisphere."

South Korea and South Africa dropped out of the bidding in December. –AAP

Footy's back and we're

By **DARREN MONCRIEFF**



IT was like the olden days: a full complement of NRL and AFL games from Thursday through to Sunday, which some of us had almost

forgotten what that was like. Almost.

With the height of the COVID-19 pandemic now hopefully behind us, the easing of social restrictions also meant the staggered return of the two most popular football codes which enjoy the highest rates of participation of Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander players in the country.

And it seems the games and its players have picked up where they left off way back in March.

Both the NRL and AFL have tweaked their rules, primarily for player management, but also for entertainment

and the changes to their seasons.

But some of those changes have left some teams behind, notably Brisbane Broncos and West Coast.

The once-powerful Broncos are winless in the NRL since the return of competition,

● **Continued next page**



South Sydney's Dane Gagai is one-second away from completing this play for a try against Gold Coast at the weekend in round 5.



The Cowboys' Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow made a great NRL debut at the weekend in the match against NZ Warriors.



Above: The Bulldogs' Adam Elliott might need some help with his jersey in the round 4 match against the Dragons. Right: Gold Coast's Tyrone Peachey is intent on securing the ball while being tackled by a South Sydney opponent in round 5.



Souths' Cody Walker gets gang-tackled in the match against Gold Coast in round 5.



Newcastle's Edrick Lee is in the air up there and completes a great catch in the match against Canberra in round 4. Pictures: Getty Images; AAP



Left: Any other time and this figure would be embarrassing, but at the weekend it was both something to boast and be proud about when the Rabbits and Titans clashed in round 5.

totally here for it!

● **From previous page**
which our columnist Dean Widders goes some way to explain (page 62), while premiership favourites in the AFL West Coast suffered a shock 44-point loss to Gold Coast.

What will also be of interest to fans is how

the respective NRL and AFL seasons will pan out.

Football will extend right through to the end of October. Traditionally, that means warmer weather, which presents a set of challenges that clubs will need to manage. Will both leagues schedule more night

games? Will hubs still be a thing?

In the meantime, we're happy to see the almost 150 Indigenous players across both leagues able to continue their careers, and provide the many highlights that make rugby league and Aussie rules the great games that they are.



Brisbane's Charlie Cameron launches his team forward against Fremantle in round 2 of the AFL at the weekend.
Pictures: Getty Images; AAP



Geelong's Quinton Narkle is already thinking ahead with what to do with the ball as he takes this mark against Hawthorn at the weekend.



Melbourne's Neville Jetta looks to offload a quick handball against Carlton.



Port Adelaide's Sam Powell-Pepper gets in on a tackle in the match against Adelaide.



Port Adelaide's Steven Motlop tracks the ball in the match against Adelaide.



Fremantle's Michael Walters receives a handball from his skipper Nat Fyfe who is doing his best Superman trick.



Geelong's Brandon Parfitt gets his kick away against Hawthorn.



Left: Brisbane's Corey Ah Chee shows a strong left leg in the match against Fremantle.

Who benefits most from the new rules?

THE football is back. We've had a few rounds played now and I think I've seen enough to make some bold predictions for the NRL season ahead.

It seems the enforced break has been tough on some teams.

Some have come back a bit underdone and some are struggling to adapt to the new fast-paced game, while others have adapted really well.

It has given us a good look at how each of the 16 teams is fairing: some great, some not so great.

With just the one referee in place, and with the new play-on rule, we are seeing the game opening which means that teams are playing straighter and faster.

The wrestle is out and attacking football is in.

Look at the Broncos and Dragons right now. They are playing a style of football that would have been good a few years back, where they go wide and play sideways a lot, but at the moment they are a long way off the pace.

On the flipside, the team that I think has really benefited from the extended break and the new adjustments is the defending champs the Sydney Roosters. They have had a big couple of years. Earlier in the year, I sensed fatigue setting in but now it seems they have a freshness about them. The pace they play at and the running game of their two halves has given them the early edge.

The other teams that I think will be in the top four come finals time and be serious contenders are Canberra, Manly and South Sydney.

Some people might call me crazy for suggesting the Rabbitohs, but from what I have seen from Latrell Mitchell and his play at fullback Souths will really fire once we see more of Cody Walker and James Roberts. The space Walker will continue to create for Mitchell will see his passing ability shine, which means opportunities for speed men like Roberts and also Alex Johnston outside of him.

The Raiders are a team that keeps improving and George Williams is a great buy for them. He is aggressive. Coming from the English Super League, where they play fast-paced footy, the new rule changes suit him. The maturity in Jack Wighton's game has taken him to the next level and he is ready to take his team all the way this year. They will want it more this year after going close last season.

Sea Eagles fans will love what they are seeing at the moment. After a good season last year they have improved and will go close this year. Tommy 'Turbo' Trbojevic is hitting his peak and he has all the physical attributes to dominate the game. Manly have a hungry forward pack and are a side I love to watch. I also love Marty Taupau's offloading game and what that creates in the second phase for them is very valuable. This competition is made for skilful forwards and halves that run the ball to the line and the Sea Eagles have these weapons when they play.

So yes, I am loving the new rules and how that creates an attacking brand football. This is going to be an exciting few months.

Thank God that the footy is back!

**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



NRLW and Origin locked in for 2020



THE NRLW competition has officially been given the green light for 2020 and will kick off in September.

After months of uncertainty, the ARL Commission last week confirmed a four-team women's competition would be held with the grand final played on October 25 – the same day as the NRL season-decider.

The ARLC had already confirmed a stand-alone women's State of Origin match to be played on November 13.

"The women's game is a very important element of rugby league. We are very proud of our achievements in the women's game and we should be providing it the significance it deserves," ARLC chairman Peter V'landys said.

"I want to thank the clubs for their commitment to women's sport and the players themselves for their understanding as we worked through this process.

"I also want to thank our broadcast partners Channel Nine and Foxtel for their ongoing commitment to the women's game."

● The Dragons' Steph Mooka in action in the NRLW last year.
Picture: AAP

Family ties put aside when cousins collide

By ALF WILSON



COUSINS Brenko and Edrick Lee had to put all their large, extended and close family ties aside last weekend and do what ever they could to put one over each other.

The Lee cousins play in the NRL and last Saturday their teams met in round 5 in the game's second week of return.

Edrick is a winger for Newcastle while Brenko is a centre at Melbourne.

The cousins are close. Both have played at All Blacks carnivals and sometimes for the same team in far north Queensland over the years. In the NRL, combined, they have played for six clubs and in 2016 their careers overlapped at the Canberra Raiders.

On Saturday, Brenko took the family bragging rights with him when the Storm won 26-12.

As some consolation, Edrick got in on the scoresheet with a try in the 60th minute for the Knights. At full-time, the cousins caught up for a chat, probably about footy, definitely about family, and they were joined for a time by the Storm's Josh Addo-Carr.

Careers at a glance

Edrick Lee

Canberra Raiders (2012-16) 67 games;
Cronulla Sharks (2017-18) 24 games;
Newcastle Knights (2019-) 19 games;
Indigenous All-Stars (2016) 1 game.

Brenko Lee

Canberra Raiders (2014-16) 15 games;
Canterbury Bulldogs (2017) 18 games;
Gold Coast (2018-19) 20 games;
Melbourne Storm (2020-) 2 games;
Tonga (2017) 1 game.



Cousins in life and in league, Brenko Lee (left) and Edrick Lee when they played for Torres Strait Island side Kulpiyam a few years ago.

Picture: Alf Wilson

This is the stuff of football fairytales

By CHRIS PIKE



TRUE fairytales in football are hard to come by, but there is one and that is the story of Harley Bennell.

Bennell's remarkable journey in football took a right turn at long last after he made a successful, and winning, return to the AFL with Melbourne at the weekend.

And while it is only one game, his 14 possessions, three inside-50s entries and class above his opponents told some of that story in the Demons' one-point win over Carlton.

Bennell's previous game in the AFL before last weekend was in the final round in 2017 for Fremantle.

Speaking directly after the game against Carlton, Bennell said he was just happy to be back playing and to be part of a win.

"I'm over the moon, seriously. I'm so happy that I not only got through the game, but I'm happy that we won, and I'm happy to be back out there," he said.

"I'm feeling good. We went into it knowing I'd be managed and I don't know what I played, minute-wise, but I'm just happy to get through it and get the four points. I'm feeling great. A win's a win and we'll take that."

Pre-game, the Melbourne team were played a video from Bennell's partner



Harley Bennell made a successful return to the field in the AFL at the weekend. Picture: AAP

Amy and their one-year-old daughter which was an emotional moment given his journey to this point and that many would have given up playing again.

Having played two games in four years meant there were some dark days for Bennell but he never given up; he just wouldn't admit to getting emotional with the video.

"I think the boys that were sitting behind me were the ones that were

tearing up, but I was fine and just glad to be back out there playing footy," Bennell said.

"I couldn't thank 'Goody' (coach Simon Goodwin) and 'Mahns' (football manager Brett Mahoney) enough for calling me up to come and train with the boys.

"I feel good. I played the minutes I had to, but I'll recover up and we've got an eight-day break so I'll get ready to go again next week."



Richmond's Sydney Stack kneels before the bounce at the MCG in round 2. Picture: Getty

Moments of unity we can all build on

THE symbolic gestures AFLM players took by wearing black shirts in the warm-up and taking a knee pre-game in support against racism was a sight to see.

The push for this came from the collective Aboriginal playing group. It made me proud. As did seeing all players united with us in this important stance as footy made its return.

As with anything that is socially progressive, however, there was pushback from some within the football community with players being criticised and told to 'keep politics out of sport'. None of that flies with me. Racism is all our problem and we are all needed to fix it.

The AFL has one of the biggest platforms in the country and so when people, and children, see its players take a stand against racism by taking a knee that ought to make a lasting impact.

What I am particularly looking forward to from all of this is seeing what authentic changes the AFL will make moving forward. What this will look like is entirely up to them.

I won't ever forget Neville Jetta's words when he recently spoke on the Outer Sanctum Podcast on the ABC. He said: "I want to see coaches, CEOs and non-Indigenous players embrace and lead the way, not always (leaving it to) Aboriginal players (to do that)". His coach at Melbourne Simon Goodwin heard Neville speak and he had his back. At a training session during the Black Lives Matter rally in Melbourne, Goodwin delivered a powerful message to the playing group. He said, "This is not their fight anymore, this is our fight. The power will come from non-Indigenous people making a stand. We will unite together and fight together." In response, the entire Melbourne team knelt in support.

Brisbane's Mitch Robinson, who the Indigenous boys consider a brother, posted these and similar messages on social media. He took it to the Lions' playing group and later at training they knelt in support as one.

So kudos and bravo to the world of AFL for getting behind the Indigenous boys, supporting them, providing a platform to show Australia and the world that there is at least some unity here in the fight against systemic racism.

The key now is together to provide authentic, lasting solutions to the scourge of racism that will positively further impact the healing of this country so that in unity and equality we all can flourish as a nation.

**Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide. She appears on AFL.com.au's Colour Of Your Jumper.*



Shelley Ware

Petrenko puts his plans for a flag on hold

By PETER ARGENT



THE impending arrival of his first child has given veteran Jared Petrenko pause for thought on football this year.

Petrenko will welcome his first child with his partner next month and will prioritise family over football and will not play this year as the SANFL makes plans for an abridged season.

Petrenko, 30, played in Woodville-West Torrens' 2015 and 2016 losing grand finals and in 2006 as a 16-year-old watched from the sidelines as first emergency in the Eagles' famous win over Central District.

"A premiership has been tantalising close," he said. "It's the reason you play football and we have been so close a couple of times. I'd love to tick that box.

"This time away from the club (this year) has given my body time to repair itself (but) I've always wanted to be a dad as long as I can remember. I've got so much admiration, love and respect for Jess.

"Playing football has been weighing on my mind (but) with our family being the first priority, I want to be able to do everything I can for her."

Petrenko has played 116 games for WWT in the SANFL, 76 for Adelaide in the AFL and seven for the Crows' SANFL side.

● Family comes first for Jared Petrenko. Picture: Peter Argent





Matthew Rankine Picture: Peter Argent

Rankine eyes a return to the football

By PETER ARGENT



THE weekend ritual of football across South Australia has largely collapsed due to the COVID-19 pandemic but one pair of brothers is

hoping for some positive news this week.

Matthew and Ronald Rankine signed to play for Virginia Football Club earlier this year in the Adelaide Plains Football League (APFL), joining senior coach Graham Rigney at the Rams.

The APFL, located about 100km north of Adelaide, was one of many hundreds of sports groups that were shut down earlier this year due to the spread of coronavirus. With South Australia slowly opening back up, the league this week will meet to decide on what they will do with the remainder of 2020.

For the younger Rankine, Matthew, one of the Rams' co-captains, he's become a little impatient.

"At 28, I'm at the peak of my powers and am fit and ready to go, so it's been very frustrating not knowing whether the season is going ahead or not," he said.

"If the Adelaide Plains competition doesn't go ahead, I will look to play in the amateur league (the Adelaide Football League) in Adelaide.

"I had South Adelaide contact me a week or so ago, but with family and being based at Taperoo it's just not feasible to go back to SANFL footy."



Cairns Taipans' Nate Jawai (left) leaves no room for opponent Melbourne United's Shaun Long in round 20 of the 2019/20 NBL season at Melbourne Arena in February. Picture: AAP

Basketball great calls on the NBL for greater promotion of our people

By CHRIS PIKE



THE big guy of Australian basketball has had enough. Nate Jawai, the Torres Strait Islander man who carved a fruitful career in the NBL and later the NBA and in Europe,

says he will no longer sit back and watch the game ignore Indigenous Australians.

Jawai has grown increasingly frustrated with the lack of support for Indigenous players at home while watching the NBL promote other Black athletes from overseas.

Basketball Australia (BA), and by extension, the NBL have failed to tap into the vast numbers of Indigenous people in the game. BA last year recorded the largest participation rates of all sport at all levels across the country, yet there were just two Indigenous men in the NBL during the

2019/20 season – one fringe development player and an assistant coach.

Jawai said while the NBL piggybacks on the profile that African-American athletes bring coming into the NBL it turns the spotlight back onto itself for its lack of support locally.

While the NBL held its first league-wide Indigenous Round last season, that was largely due to the hard work of Tyson Demos at the Illawarra Hawks.

"The NBL relies on Black American players coming in each season for league credibility, marketing, highlights and attendance," Jawai said.

"Indigenous Australian and African-Australian players are also represented (here) and should play a larger part in the league's future.

"Please care about our fight for basic human rights as much as you cared about

posting (US imports) RJ Hampton and LaMelo Ball content.

"The league cannot leverage and benefit from Black players, then be silent when their support in this matter is needed the most. We need more than a black square."

Jawai was nevertheless proud of the work his organisation, the Cairns Taipans, is doing with former player Kerry Williams in remote communities.

"I like to help out Kerry with the work he is doing and make sure my message gets across which is that if I can do this from a small community then those kids can, too," he said.

"I went through a path where, when I came down to play basketball, I hardly spoke English. I want to see more kids come out from the communities and do well for themselves, whether it's in basketball, (rugby) league or in education."

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Blanco heads for the hills



Alex Blanco (left) with his colleagues from Torres Health Joanna Dorante (centre) and Clarissa Laifoo. Blanco is one of 16 participants in this year's Indigenous Marathon Project.

By DARREN MONCRIEFF



ALEX Blanco was a mixture of emotions when he received the call with news that he had been

accepted into the Indigenous Marathon Project's class of 2020.

Blanco is one of 16 participants who will train for a marathon in isolation, due to restrictions following COVID-19's impact on society.

As Blanco tells it, head coach Adrian Dodson-Shaw delivered the news with the best gag ever.

"He personally rang me and he starts off with: 'Unfortunately... you have been accepted.'

"I was like, 'Wait. What? Hang on!'

"It was pretty funny," Blanco said.

After getting over the initial confusion and laughter, reality sunk in.

"Later, I actually felt sick and nauseous that I actually signed up for this and now I've got to run a marathon," Blanco said.

"I called my sister with the news first and she just started laughing at me and looking at me saying, 'What, are you really going to be running a 42km marathon?' I just said, 'Umm, yes.' That was pretty funny."

Blanco admits he never thought he would put his hand up for long-distance running. His forté is the shorter distances and sprint training. But he wanted to do this to test himself.

The immediate goal is next month's Run Sweat Inspire

event, which has 2km, 5km, 10km distances and a half-marathon and full marathon, which will be run in isolation.

"I'm not even a long-distance runner so for me this was to challenge myself and to get outside of my comfort zone," he said.

Blanco is from Mer Island in the Torres Strait and works on Thursday Island, both of which have plenty of hills which he uses as part of his training, also Thursday Island's 3.5km perimeter.

"I run around the island about 10 times, so yeah it's like I'm running around in circles," he said, laughing.

"And yes, the hills. There are a lot of hills!

"So, for my training, I run around the island; I do eight 400m sprints; and I do hill sprints, up not down. It is hard going."

But progress has come.

"I couldn't even last running 5km, but now I can," he said.

"On my first attempt it took 36 minutes but on my second attempt it was 26 minutes and that was in the space of seven days so the training is paying off."

Blanco works with youth as a case manager at Torres Health Indigenous Corporation on Thursday Island so part of his reason to do this is to set an example for a lot of the island's youth.

Already, he has inspired two youngsters to join him in training.

"That's what it's about, too," he said, "that and challenging yourself to do something you haven't done before."

Multi-million dollar boost for the top end of sport



A MULTI-MILLION dollar investment by the Federal Government will provide certainty for Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games hopefuls, says the Australian Sports Commission and Australian Institute of Sport.

The Federal Government has delivered a \$54.5 million investment toward sport at the top end, and with just over a year to go until the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Games, the funding enables the AIS to maintain baseline support for National Sporting Organisations (NSOs), thereby providing certainty for Olympic and Paralympic hopefuls, and athletes looking toward the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic and Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

Over \$3.9m of the funds will be directed towards supporting technology and innovation through key sporting infrastructure, including projects for Australia's swimmers, paddle and winter sport athletes, along with an infrastructure funding pool, managed by the AIS and enabling a wide range of smaller sports to access the very best in sports technology.

The AIS will continue with its commitment to a range of key areas in high-performance sport, including athlete wellbeing and engagement, assistance for emerging and talented athletes through Pathways programs,

and its partnership with the National Institute Network, through the National High Performance Sport Strategy.

ASC chair John Wylie said the additional investment is a huge boost for Australia's high performance system.

"No sector has been immune to fallout as a result of COVID-19, but our Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games sports have been doing it really tough," he said.

"I am incredibly proud of the work our team has been doing day in, day out, together with our sport partners to work through these challenging times. This is fantastic news for those athletes and coaches who have just returned to training and striving for success in the green and gold next year and beyond.

"Sport is a foundation of the Australian way of life and, at the ASC, we are passionate about helping athletes – at all levels – be the best they can."

AIS CEO Peter Conde said the funding boost enables the organisation to continue crucial work in the applied technology and innovation space.

"New initiatives in sport technology, infrastructure and innovative partnerships are at the heart of the evolved strategy of the AIS," Conde said.

"This investment enables a number of our key sports partners to really maximise opportunities and optimise athlete performance."

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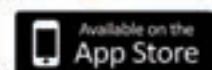
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Indigenous rugby league carnivals in far north Queensland have been hit hard by several cancellations. Picture: supplied

Bindal Sharks make big call on popular carnival

By ALF WILSON



NORTH Queensland's biggest Indigenous rugby league event has been cancelled for this year due to restrictions surrounding the COVID-19 health crisis.

Organisers of the popular Bindal Sharks All Blacks Rugby League Carnival in Townsville, which was set for its annual run in October, told *Koori Mail Sport* that after lengthy discussions with key stakeholders that the 2020 event

will now not be going ahead.

Restrictions on the number of people allowed at the event were cited as the primary reason for the decision. Organisers say they will return in 2021.

"With the restrictions of only 100 people, including players, management and spectators, it would not be a carnival for our mob," Jenny Pryor, key organiser of the event, said.

"That would mean we could only have three teams because each team would have 25 players so it's not worth it.

"The uncertainty of these times,

knowing how much our mob will miss getting together this year, made this decision very difficult (but) health is one of the key reasons why we host this carnival every year and our mob's wellbeing is the first priority."

Sharks mentor Bert Doolan said due to federal and state government restrictions and QRL guidelines it would have been impossible to run the carnival.

"Uncertain times and knowing how much our mob will miss getting together this year, made this decision very difficult," he said.

"Health is one of the key

reasons why we host this carnival every year, and our mobs well being is the first priority."

The decision leaves hundreds of players and thousands of fans without community football for 2020.

"We will be back in 2021," Doolan said.

"All teams that have nominated already (for this year) and want to carry over those nominations for next year can do so.

"Next year will be a great celebration for all our mob to share friendship and play deadly football once again."

Island of Origin called off

By ALF WILSON



ORGANISERS of the Torres Strait's annual Island of Origin rugby league carnival have been told the event cannot go ahead this year.

The popular event based on the NRL's hugely successful State of Origin series is held each year in June.

The 2020 series was to be held at Badu Island.

Its cancellation could also have a domino effect on similar sports events on the region including at communities on the nearby mainland.

Robbie Moore, the QRL's assistant region manager, said COVID-19 had impacted on the organisation of the 2020 series.

"The COVID-19 travel restrictions and the impacts of fundraising for teams and organisers are a major concern with ongoing consultation with remote area stakeholders for a plan moving forward," he said.

"All other carnivals, including the Zenadth Kes on Thursday Island and Bamaga's Dan Ropeyarn Memorial Cup, are very doubtful if they will go ahead in 2020."

The Zenadth Kes carnival is traditionally held in early October and the Dan Ropeyarn Cup later that month.



Josh Hoffman (left) and Blake Ferguson model the Parramatta Eels' 2019 Indigenous Round jerseys. Below left: A Sherrin football used in the AFL is adorned with traditional markings for Indigenous Round. Below right: St Kilda's Matthew Parker celebrates a goal with traditional dance during last year's Indigenous Round in the AFL. Pictures: Getty Images; AAP



Footy commits to Indigenous Rounds in 2020

By DARREN MONCRIEFF



THE NRL and AFL have each made a commitment to Indigenous Round even as their respective seasons head into uncharted waters.

The leagues have returned to the field and will play out modified seasons after shutting down in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The two biggest football leagues in the country enjoy the highest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander player representation. Their respective Indigenous Rounds, which receive huge publicity nationwide, are likely to be scaled back due to the new economic reality.

The NRL has confirmed that its Indigenous Round will be held during round 12 which takes in games from July 30 to August 2. The AFL, however, have yet to nail down dates but is carefully navigating its schedule of events.

A spokesperson at the NRL said: "There will be some clubs that will wear an Indigenous-themed jersey but not all will. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has severely impacted a number of clubs' ability to fulfil this commitment, which is understandable.

"We are starting to plan out what the round might look like and this is likely to change dependent on crowds being allowed back into stadiums. It will have a strong digital component."

A spokesperson for the AFL said: "At this stage the remaining fixture hasn't been announced due to so many moving pieces. The intention is for the Sir Doug Nichols Round ... to go ahead (but) we just don't have confirmation as yet."

The NRL rescheduled a 20-round season that takes it through to the end of September before a four-week finals series culminating in an October 25 grand final.

The AFL has drawn up a 17-round season where each team plays each other once. However, it has only released a five-round fixture to the public. It is expected its grand final will be played on October 24.

The NRL will hold its popular three-game State of Origin series in November.

Edwards returns to Souths

By CHRIS PIKE



STEVEN Edwards has returned to South Fremantle and is desperate to help the Bulldogs win an elusive WAFL premiership when football in the west makes its long-awaited return.

And while the COVID-19 restrictions delayed his and the WAFL's return in 2020, he is relieved at news that August 1 has been locked in for round 1 of the new season.

"I was over the moon when I heard we'd be having a season this year," Edwards said.

"To hear that August 1 is the date is just awesome. It's a bit like we're all just counting down now. I can't wait."

Edwards, 24, was a mainstay in Souths' league team after crossing from Claremont.

Named at half-back in the 2017 WAFL Team of the Year, Edwards played in all of the Bulldogs' three preliminary final losses (2016, 2017, 2018) before returning home to Albany in WA's south-east where he won a flag with the Royals.

The hunger for league success remains.

"Towards the end of last year (Souths coach) Todd (Curley) started to talk about the possibility of coming back," Edwards said.

"Seeing them in last year's (WAFL) grand final and for me winning a premiership for the club I grew up playing with (Royals) lit that fire to come back. To win a premiership with the red-and-whites is now the dream."

● Steven Edwards has returned to South Fremantle in the WAFL after a year out.



Big events should not be forgotten post-COVID



ORGANISERS behind mass sporting events such as running festivals and ironman triathlons claim their absence is leaving a \$1.1 billion hole in Australia's economy.

More than 250 organisations last week banded together to attempt to lobby government for a road map out of the coronavirus and ask for financial relief.

The Australian Mass Participation Sporting Event Alliance (AMPSEA) say 8500 events have been cancelled or postponed this year, affecting more than 3.1 million people and 11,000 workers.

The events range in size from the 84,000-person City2Surf held each October and Spartan obstacle course

challenges down to fun runs, swims and other regional activities.

"A lot of the focus has been on community sport and big stadium stuff," ironman Oceania Group managing director Dave Beeche said.

"But I think mass participation sports have a lot to offer communities that they operate in.

"We have been suffering pretty badly as you can imagine."

It comes as community sports get the tick of approval from July with the AFL and NRL now restarted.

Beeche believes lessons can be learned from New Zealand's emergence from lockdown and upcoming return to similar mass events, where contact tracing has been implemented.

Some options could include stretching out the time for events such as the City2Surf and November's Noosa triathlon allowing limited amounts of athletes to start in smaller waves.

"We have modelled all of those in terms of flow, rolling waves start, how we monitor the transition," Beeche said.

"We've looked at how we manage stations, in terms of how food and drink get delivered, what the finish line experience is like and educating on hygiene.

"The good thing about mass participation events is you know who is there; you know who is going to turn up.

"You have timing data, you know who started the race and who might have been in the start vicinity at the time in case there is some sort of breakout." – AAP

The sacred cows of Aussie sport

FOR the estimated 1.25 billion followers of the Hindu faith, cows are considered sacred and in some regions in India they are virtually untouchable. In the west, the term 'sacred cow' is a figure of speech for something or someone considered immune from question or criticism.



Darren Moncrieff

In the Australian football commentariat a cohort of 'sacred cows' inhabit the airwaves with impunity, prominent among them are Eddie McGuire, Andrew Johns, Sam Newman, Paul Kent and Brad Fittler who occupy a space whereby sexism and racism gets a prime-time run without fear of lasting repercussion. Because what these 'entertainers' enjoy is the protective racket within the foundational structure of institutional racism – which is just a flashy way of saying that some people are more equal than others. If you harbour doubts about any of this then buckle up, buttercup, because I'm gonna get all uppity and tell you why.

McGuire's sacred cow moment happens each day with his multi-media platforms and position as an AFL club president despite in 2013 publicly likening the great Adam Goodes to King Kong. His performative tears-to-camera apology made me cringe so hard I got a cramp in my forehead.

Newman in the 1990s appeared in blackface on *The Footy Show*, with McGuire giggling nearby, and his disdain for women and vulnerable people was his schtick on that show's Street Talk segment. He was last seen walking around in silly golf pants shouting at clouds.

Fittler could barely string a coherent sentence together recently when he heaped abuse upon NRL referees who were seeking fairness in pay. I eventually figured out what he was saying but that effort gave me a headache. In 2010, as coach of the NSW Blues' State of Origin side, Johns used derogatory terms to describe Indigenous Queensland players. He may have resigned, but he was welcomed back into the establishment just as quick. Both men enjoy lucrative careers in the football industry.

And last and by no means will she be the actual last, late inclusion Erin Molan gets a participation trophy when in the midst of the Black Lives Matter movement she openly mocked a Pacific Islander NRL player's surname. On air. Oh the hilarity.

All told, a small sample that speaks volumes about a class of people who can say and do whatever they like without worry. By stark contrast, last year the NSWRL, with Blues' coach Fittler's blessing, dismissed Indigenous man and dual international Timana Tahu from his role with the NSW Origin side for publicly backing Aboriginal players not singing the national anthem. Yep.

This is the challenge of our times. What can we as First Nations people do? Alongside protestors out on the streets literally demanding safety from the state, I am happy to call this rubbish out when I see it, to chip away at this monocultural monopoly that lords it over the multicultural mosaic that enriches our games. The old guard can only stand for so long. To echo the sentiments of former US president Barack Obama, it is up to us to be the change we want to see in this world.

*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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Leagues commit to Indigenous Rounds



THE two largest football codes in the country have committed to honouring Indigenous Australia through sport even as they navigate uncharted waters in their return to the field.

- Full report, page 66
- NRL, AFL in pictures, pages 60, 61

'Over the moon' with his long-awaited return



THE sight of Harley Bennell on an AFL field in club colours doing what he does best would have warmed even the most hardened of hearts. After spending the better part of the past four years on the sidelines battling recurring injuries, Bennell made his debut for new club Melbourne at the weekend and later said he was 'over the moon' with joy on his return.

- More, page 63
- Harley Bennell has made a successful return to the field in the AFL. Picture: Getty Images



Grassroots sports hit by big-ticket cancellations



INDIGENOUS rugby league carnivals in far north Queensland have been hit by a series of cancellations as the fallout from the

COVID-19 crisis in sport continues.

Big events in Townsville and in the Torres Strait have been deemed unviable, with health concerns and financial considerations cited as primary

reasons behind the decisions.

Organisers have made the tough call on the Torres Strait's Island of Origin series and the Bindal Sharks All Blacks Rugby League Carnival, with the Zenadth Kes and

the Dan Ropeyarn Cup looking unlikely.

The cancellations leaves hundreds of players and thousands of fans without community football in 2020.

- Full reports, page 66

 **Jawai calls on NBL to do more for our people, page 64**