



Koori Mail

The Voice of Indigenous Australia

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What a champion! Mills donates \$1.5 million to Black Lives Matter



BASKETBALL star Patty Mills will donate almost \$1.5m to Black Lives Matter Australia, Black Deaths in Custody and the We Got You campaign.

Patty Mills is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander man who plays for the San Antonio Spurs in the NBA in America. He has said that the money will go directly to Black communities for these causes, putting a global spotlight on the need to end police violence and Black deaths in custody in Australia.

Mills is no stranger to helping community, having created the Team Mills Foundation, a not for profit organisation dedicated to championing culture, the environment, diversity, women and underprivileged families.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service co-chair Cheryl Axelby thanked Mills. "It is incredibly inspiring to see one of our people using the world stage to call for justice and real change. Australian Governments must hear this call and immediately act. There have been 437 Black deaths in custody since 1991 in Australia and no justice," she said.

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Patty Mills enjoys the newly constructed basketball court with the Mutitjulu community in central Australia. Picture: Team Mills Foundation

Time for the truth



VICTORIA will introduce the nation's first truth-telling process to recognise historic wrongs against Aboriginal people. The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, the Aboriginal-elected

voice to advance the treaty process in Victoria, overwhelmingly voted to call for a truth-telling process at its meeting last month.

And last weekend, the State Labor Government agreed.

First Peoples' Assembly co-chair Marcus Stewart said that the

Andrews Government's acceptance of the need for a truth-telling process, and commitment to work with the Assembly on establishing one, will go down in history as a momentous decision.

"This is an historic moment in time. For the first time, we're

seeing a commitment to a truth-telling process in this country or state," Mr Stewart said.

"Truth is critically important to treaty, so much so that without truth there cannot be treaty."

Co-chair Geraldine Atkinson said a truth-telling process will help unite all people in the state

by giving them a greater connection to, and knowledge of, a shared history.

"Truth-telling gives Victoria the opportunity to make the invisible visible and the pain of so many both heard and reconciled," she said.

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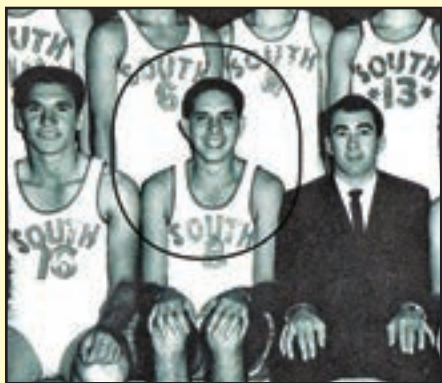
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Allies join fight against racism

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MY FAMILY Nicole Ross (Garbutt Magpies/Townsville)

FOUR generations of Indigenous families including mine were present at an historic and emotional unveiling of our jumpers for the Garbutt Magpies Australian Rules Club here last Saturday.

I am the president of the Garbutt Magpies women's team, which will make its debut in the Townsville Australian Rules competition on July 15.

We are one tight family in a club which was formed in 1955 with mainly Indigenous players from the suburb of Garbutt.

They were Aboriginal players and others from the Torres Strait Islands who came to Townsville for work.

The last time Garbutt Magpies had a senior team was a men's side back in 1988 and it won the premiership in 1982 so this is history.

Some of the founding members were brothers Fred and Ray Aldridge and the late Anastasia Maria Ross (nee Kanak) of Darnley Island descent and her husband Manny Ross of Juro and Kunjuun heritage. (I am descended from them.)

My father was Emmanuel 'Porky' Ross, who was a player for many years along with his brothers Noel and Gordon Ross.

Over the years many Ross family members have been part of Garbutt Magpies.

Our youngest player is 16-year-old Taynamre Jeffress, who is a great granddaughter of Anastasia and Manny.

Current and former players, officials, Elders and supporters were there to see the new jumpers.

Many of the current



Nicole Ross (second from left back row) with the Garbutt Magpies women's team. Nicole has a strong family connection to the club.

players are members of extended family of the early founders.

Descendants of the Aldridge brothers were at the jumper presentation along with several hundred others.

We had a Welcome to Country by respected Elder Alec Illin, a smoking ceremony was done by Alfred Smallwood and a blessing by Brad Henaway.

Another highlight and very emotional part was when we sang the Magpies club song to the music of guitarist and former player Francis Tapim.

We also remembered those who have passed away who were an important part of the club in days gone by.

Gaining entry to the comp means everything to me and it has been a long journey

over about four years.

Our home ground is Harold Phillips Oval, which is part of the Castle Hill PCYC Complex.

Already our volunteers have developed a green oval there and by March next year we will have a clubhouse, dressing rooms and lighting to enable night games.

Garbutt Magpies Club has been active in getting behind local Indigenous youths with its popular 'Boys To Men' carnival earning acclaim.

This will be a great place for Indigenous families to meet socially and for the games.

Our entry after so many years is much more than about sport but is where families can gather and communicate.

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



Children at the state funeral for Lyaal Munro Senior, held in Moree last Saturday. Read the family's tribute to the respected Gomeroi Elder on page 19.

Koori Mail

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Patty pays it forward for better future



WHILE three-time Olympian, NBA Champion and proud Indigenous man Patty Mills has just announced he will donate \$1.5million

to social justice causes, the basketballer is no stranger to giving back to community.

In May, Patty Mills announced the formation of the Team Mills Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to supporting and championing culture, diversity, women and underprivileged families and enacting positive change for the environment worldwide.

Mills said that he hopes through innovative strategies and a creative approach, the Team Mills Foundation will create a new model for communities across the globe to come together, spark conversation and ignite action to achieve the ultimate goal of a brighter future for those who need it most.

The Foundation is welded to the ideal of community, shared values and respecting traditions, and is brought to life by Patty Mills' passion and desire of giving back and thriving on the success and wellbeing of others.

"I am incredibly excited to announce the launch of Team Mills Foundation, an organisation built on taking courageous and ongoing action to bring long-lasting improvement to people's lives," he said. "Our foundation is personal but relatable, as it reflects values that have been instilled in me by my previous generations and through our



Patty Mills: "I am incredibly excited to announce the launch of Team Mills Foundation, an organisation built on taking courageous and ongoing action to bring long-lasting improvement to people's lives."

customs and traditions. Our vision is to make a tangible difference at the intersection of those values and people's lives, shining light on critical issues, as well as providing opportunities and pathways of success to empower and unlock people's tremendous potential.

"I play basketball, and I'm grateful for what the sport has provided for me and my family, but I'm even more appreciative for the voice and platform that has come

along with it. It has allowed me to follow through with my successes on the court to inspire, support and make change in other people's lives, especially the ones who need it most."

The Team Mills Foundation will strive to bring awareness and opportunities to the issues and causes that align with the six core values that the Foundation is built upon: family, environment, culture, pathways and opportunities,

empowering women, and multicultural diversity.

In 2019, the Community Water Project was launched in partnership with Zero Mass Water and Australian Indigenous Basketball, an initiative aimed at providing clean, sustainable drinking water for six very remote drought-stricken Indigenous communities.

The Team Mills Foundation is also partnering with The Firesticks

Alliance, a relationship that stemmed from Mills' trip to Australia in March while visiting the bushfire-affected communities. Learning from Indigenous land management expert Victor Steffenson and The Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation, Team Mills Foundation aims to share the knowledge of cultural burning practices, and improved reading of country, to help restore the land.

Self-determination: way to Close the Gap



PAT Turner believes the new approach to the Close the Gap campaign finally delivers on what governments have been promising but never delivered for decades: self-determination.

Ms Turner is the lead convenor of the Coalition of the Peaks (a group of national First Nations community-controlled organisations) and is the chief executive of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO). She said that last week's National Agreement on Closing the Gap had been developed in genuine partnership between governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"We are making history," she said. "I'm proud to say that we are in the home stretch of bringing this historic National Agreement to light.

"A real game changer for this next phase of Closing the Gap is that the expertise and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on what works and what is needed is at the centre.

"Self-determination has been a policy of the Commonwealth since 1971, but we have never been given agency to exercise it to the fullest extent.

"There's been so much government neglect of programs, and the way they've implemented programs and their lack of accountability for the poor outcomes leaves us in the desperate situation we are in today."

The Close the Gap campaign was established by the Rudd Government in 2008

and aimed to close the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and other Australians.

But, by last year, just two of seven Closing the Gap targets set in 2008 — early childhood education and Year 12 attainment — had been met. Targets were not met on school attendance, child mortality, employment, life expectancy or literacy and numeracy.

The National Closing the Gap Joint Ministerial Council was formed in early 2019. The Joint Ministerial Council is the first of its kind and comprises national ministers responsible for Indigenous people sitting alongside an equal number of Indigenous members from the National Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations.

Ms Turner said that the new draft National Agreement is informed by a comprehensive engagement process, led by the Coalition of Peaks in late 2019, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the country on what should be included.

"The draft National Agreement does not include everything that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people want, but I know that we have pushed governments in their commitments because the Coalition of Peaks have been at the table," Ms Turner said.

"There is a significant difference from what governments alone were prepared to



Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt and lead convenor of the Coalition of Peaks Pat Turner.

commit to in December 2018 and where we are now. That change has come about because of the work of the Coalition of Peaks."

The draft National Agreement sets a strategy to close the gap that is strongly based on, and underpinned by, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's priorities. It is built around four new priority reforms about transforming the way governments work with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in order to improve outcomes.

Ms Turner said that the agreement establishes 16 targets in areas including education, employment, health and wellbeing, justice, safety, housing, land and waters, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. The targets will help to monitor progress in improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"The Coalition of Peaks have always said

that targets alone do not drive change. We have seen this from the past 10 years," Ms Turner said. "It is the full implementation of the priority reforms that will make the difference to our people's lives. This is where we need to focus governments to focus and this is exactly what the new National Agreement will do.

"The Joint Council considered the ambition of the closing the gap targets in the draft National Agreement and agreed that parity of outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians is the only acceptable outcome.

"Expected parity dates are not fixed dates. If governments implement the priority reforms in full and invest in the outcome areas of health, education, employment and housing, parity will be achieved earlier."

Indigenous Australians Minister Ken Wyatt said he had noticed a "bounce" in the step of Indigenous leaders.

"The level of enthusiasm is something I've not heard from a ministerial forum," he said.

The council will monitor progress over the next decade, pending the sign-off from governments.

There has been debate within the community and the council on the lack of ambition in some of the Closing the Gap targets and low rates of achievement over many years.

While the new targets include reducing incarceration rates of Indigenous people — which many First Nations people had been advocating for inclusion for years — when they were released, they were met with some criticism for not being ambitious enough.

Timely promotion for Seaman Savage



PROUD Torres Strait Islander man Jimmy Savage is a crucial member of the Navy team assisting with the building of the Arafura-class patrol boats at the Osborne naval shipyard in Adelaide, South Australia.

Leading Seaman electronics technician Jimmy Savage, a proud Italgil man from the Torres Strait Islands, never imagined the opportunities Navy could offer him when he enlisted.

He joined the Navy in 2015 through the Defence Indigenous Development Program (DIDP).

After graduating as a boatswain's mate, he was awarded the 'Recruit of the Intake', and on completion of recruit training Leading Seaman Savage was one of the first DIDP graduates to be accepted to transfer to a technical category.

On transfer to the electronics technician category Leading Seaman Savage completed his apprenticeship through Ultimo TAFE before posting to Her Majesty's Australian Ships *Coonawarra* and *Broome*.

"I've had fantastic experiences serving on operational deployments and representing Australia overseas," he said.

"One of my proudest achievements was the privilege of being involved in the build of the Arafura-class offshore patrol vessels.

"When I look at the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on people, I realise how lucky I am to have such a stable job and that I am contributing to something so important to the Navy and the nation.

"It's also important that we keep the



Leading Seaman electronics technician Jimmy Savage is proud of his involvement in the build of the Arafura-class offshore patrol vessels at the Osborne Naval Shipyard. *Picture: Defence Media*

shipyard working during this time as it has such a positive impact on not only the local economy, but the national economy also.

"I am proud to play my small part in the overall effort."

Leading Seaman Savage was honoured to be promoted during National Reconciliation Week.

"It meant a great deal to me and my family because it highlights the range of opportunities available to other

Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander people," he said.

"It also demonstrates to the broader Australian community that the Navy values our significant contribution to the nation."

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Court protects details of cop facing murder



THE Northern Territory policeman charged over the alleged murder of Aboriginal teenager Kumanjaji Walker has faced court, and has persuaded a judge to keep his personal details private to protect him and his family.

Constable Zach Rolfe was charged after Kumanjaji Walker, 19, was fatally shot last November as two officers tried to arrest him in his home in Yuendumu, 300km northwest of Alice Springs.

Rolfe is on bail and appeared in Alice Springs Local Court via phone from Canberra last week. He is yet to enter a plea but has previously indicated he intends to plead not guilty, which will result in a Supreme Court jury trial to be held in Alice Springs.

Rolfe's lawyer, David Edwardson, applied for a suppression order, restricting the publication of Rolfe's residential address after he

recently moved homes.

Local Court Judge John Birch granted the non-publication order after reading a sworn affidavit containing sensitive material in support of the application.

He would not release the details, but it was implied that both Rolfe and members of his family had been approached and contacted at their home in Canberra because people knew where they lived.

Rolfe, a 29-year-old police officer and army veteran, was based in Alice Springs, but moved to the nation's capital, where his parents live, after he was charged over Mr Walker's death.

Mr Walker's death has been a flashpoint for anger over police treatment of Aboriginal people. Numerous rallies have been held around Australia citing his death, which was also highlighted at recent Black Lives Matters marches.

Judge Birch told the court he was "satisfied that it is in the interests of justice that I make

an order" prohibiting the publication of Rolfe's residential address.

"I note the matters contained in the affidavit in support of the application and the conduct that is alleged to have taken place towards the defendant, as well as his family," he said.

Rolfe's lawyers have previously tried but failed to get his trial moved to Darwin, citing inflamed tensions and division within the community, but Yuendumu residents that want to attend can only do so in Alice Springs.

Judge Birch has said he was concerned about prosecution delays in gathering evidence, including from a biomechanics expert to assess the confrontation and an expert regarding police bodycam footage.

Part of Rolfe's defence is that Mr Walker stabbed him and attacked another police officer, which the family disputes.

The case is due back in court on August 14. – AAP



Protesters at the Nambucca State Forest on Gumbaynggirr land where the State Government has announced the protection of 130 hectares of old growth forest.

Gumbaynggirr people protect their country

By **DARREN COYNE**



GUMBAYNGGIRR traditional owners have won a hard-fought victory to protect the Nambucca State

Forest from logging by the NSW Forestry Corporation.

After weeks of campaigning and protests to stop the desecration of cultural sites, logging machinery was escorted out of the forest late last month.

Now the forest campaigners have shifted their focus to Wild Cattle Creek State Forest, about an hour and half north-west of Coffs Harbour.

Both Nambucca and Wild Cattle Creek are considered biodiversity hotspots, and were spared from the bushfires earlier this year, while much of the surrounding country burned.

Gumbaynggirr custodian Sandy Greenwood told the *Koori Mail* that

the success in the Nambucca State Forest came about as a result of a "relentless" campaign by Gumbaynggirr people, supported by conservationists.

"The NSW Forestry Corporation has been given the permission (by the NSW Government) to log 140,000 hectares of coastal forests from Taree to Grafton, which they refer to as intensive harvesting zones," Ms Greenwood said.

"If we don't act now our deeply significant cultural heritage will be desecrated, our beautiful old growth trees will be logged, rare flora will become extinct and our koalas and endangered species will literally have nowhere else to go.

"We will continue to stand up for country. This isn't the end for us."

The group is calling for Nambucca State Forest to be protected as a cultural heritage park to boost local jobs and protect sacred forest only just spared from the fires.

Ms Greenwood said after weeks

of protests, victory was swift and a little unexpected.

She said the NSW Forestry Corporation withdrew from harvesting the forest on the Tuesday without explanation and the Government announced the protection of 130 hectares of threatened old growth in Nambucca State Forest the next day.

Following the win, Gumbaynggirr traditional owners issued a statement, putting the NSW Government on notice that they would not back down from protecting their land.

"This is a notice of trespass and a demand to stop the logging of all Gumbaynggirr country for lack of jurisdiction and no conciliation or consent.

"The NSW State Government and Forestry Corporation are trespassing and are breaching international and domestic law under the international declaration of indigenous people's rights and the covenant of human rights to us,

the Gumbaynggirr people, sovereign custodians of Gumbaynggirr country, land and waters.

"If the above mentioned trespassers continue to trespass without consultation and consent with senior Gumbaynggirr Elders and Custodians this will severely impact ongoing court proceedings."

As part of the weeks long campaign in Nambucca State Forest, campaigners collected 23,000 signatures that were tabled in NSW Parliament.

They also maintained a vigil camp attended by hundreds of supporters.

"We have sent a strong message to the NSW Forestry Corp that their relentless destruction of sacred country will be met with fierce resistance," Ms Greenwood said.

"Our ancestors fought hard to protect country and it has been their presence and protection that has given us an enormous strength

to continue this fight.

"The alliance has been made aware that the machinery has moved into Wild Cattle Creek, another biodiversity hotspot only just spared from the fires.

"The alliance is pledging to extend their campaign to protect other native forests in the area from logging."

Ms Greenwood said the campaign would continue to use whatever means necessary to protect Gumbaynggirr land, including litigation.

Indigenous Justice Network legal advocate Al Oshlack said NSW Forestry legislation had prohibitive clauses which prevented groups from challenging forestry approvals in court.

Mr Oshlack said however that the Australian High Court had ruled against legislation containing such clauses in the past.

He said every legal avenue was being explored to protect the forests into the future.



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2020 Music Awards set to showcase the diversity of First Nations talent



THE nominations for this year's National Indigenous Music Awards (NIMAs) have been announced, with a huge geographic and genre range, representing a true snapshot of Australia's First Nations talent.

The awards, produced in partnership with NITV, will be broadcast at 7pm (AEST) on August 8 across a host of platforms including NITV free-to-air television, Double J on digital radio, National Indigenous Radio Service broadcasters on terrestrial radio and Twitter, Facebook and YouTube across the online world.

The night will be hosted by Elaine Crombie (*Top Of The Lake, Top End Wedding, Black Comedy*) and Steven Oliver (*Faboriginal, A Chance Affair, Black Comedy*).

Miiesha and Baker Boy lead the nominations with three appearances each in the seven categories.

Finalists also include Jessica Mauboy, Archie Roach, Thelma Plum, Mau Power, Briggs, Electric Fields, Dallas Woods and Kee'ahn, showing a rich breadth of talent from the grassroots, right through to chart-toppers and ARIA nominees.

It has been a huge year for Indigenous artists with Jessica Mauboy hitting the number 1 spot on the ARIA Albums chart with *Hilda*, while



Jessica Mauboy has been nominated as Artist of the Year for the National Indigenous Music Awards.

Miiesha's *Nyaaringu* was triple j's Feature Album and is already making many critics' lists for 2020.

Thelma Plum's *Better in Blak* was a finalist in the prestigious Australian Music Prize while Uncle Archie Roach released his inspirational autobiography

and the companion album *Tell Me Why*.

Our First Nations artists are more visible than ever before, raising their strong voices for #blacklivesmatter and taking centre stage in the nation's response to COVID-19, providing inspiration and innovation with webcasts and

online performances which have pushed our music and culture to an increasingly international audience.

Overseen by Creative Director Ben Graetz, the NIMAs will be live from Larrakia country (Darwin), with artists joining in from around the country performing live,

accepting awards and joining in the national celebration of Indigenous music.

Performers, guests, the Hall of Fame inductee and a few very special surprises will be announced soon for what is sure to be an unmissable community event.

"What makes this year so exciting is that we are able to involve and showcase many more of our First Nations artists and musicians through the virtual platform.

"Also to be able to connect regionally and remotely is extremely exciting," said Ben Graetz.

For the first time, the NIMAs will welcome a 100% First Nations camera crew for the production as well as a majority First Nations production crew as it moves towards a path of First Nations self-determination.

Head of Indigenous Content at SBS and NITV channel manager Tanya Orman, said: "Here at NITV, the NIMAs always hold a special spot on our events calendar.

"In a year that has been particularly challenging, we can't wait to celebrate the biggest and brightest talents in the First Nations music community and share the experience Australia-wide."

The National Indigenous Music Awards air at 7pm AEST on August 8 across NITV, Double J, National Indigenous Radio Service, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Victoria recognises it's finally time for the truth



VICTORIA will introduce the nation's first truth-telling process to recognise historic wrongs against Aboriginal people.

First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria co-chair Marcus Stewart said that the Government's acceptance of the need for a truth-telling process, and commitment to work with the Assembly on establishing one, will go down in history as a momentous decision.

"This is an historic moment in time. For the first time we're seeing a commitment to a truth-telling process in this country or state," Mr Stewart said.

"Truth is critically important to treaty, so much so that without truth there cannot be treaty."

Co-chair Geraldine Atkinson said a truth-telling process will help unite all people in the state by giving them a greater connection to, and knowledge of, a shared history.

"Truth-telling gives Victoria the opportunity to make the invisible visible and the pain of so many both heard and reconciled," she said.

"It can create a future Victoria that we all belong to, we all connect with, and that our children embrace as their own piece of history."



Marcus Stewart and Geraldine Atkinson.

The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, the Aboriginal-elected voice to advance the treaty process in Victoria, overwhelmingly voted to call for a truth-telling process at its third Chamber meeting on June 18.

The Assembly said that members understand that among general society, only

part of history has become the historical narrative. Little is known of Aboriginal histories extending back to time immemorial or the injustices perpetrated against traditional owners and Aboriginal Victorians over the past 200 years.

The Frontier Wars, massacres, enslavements, policies of protection and assimilation, Stolen Generations and ongoing removal of Aboriginal children, overincarceration and deaths in custody are largely hidden from Victoria's collective narrative.

"These injustices cannot be undone. We cannot change history, but we can change how history is viewed," Mr Stewart said.

Aunty Geri said truth-telling processes have been shown to help in countries experiencing division and it will do the same here.

"Truth and reconciliation commissions have helped societies heal and recover from fractures and wounds across dozens of countries, including South Africa after apartheid and in Canada to acknowledge abuses of its Indigenous peoples," she said.

"Now it's time for truth here as well."

Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Minister Gabrielle Williams said the truth-telling process represents a significant step forward on Victoria's path towards treaty.

"There is nothing more powerful than the truth," she said. "Because with honesty comes healing. It's going to take courage from all sides to uncover the truths of our past and understand ongoing impacts – establishing this process brings us one step closer to genuine reconciliation.

"We owe it to Aboriginal Victorians to be frank and honest about the injustices they have faced – and continue to face. This will help us to address these injustices and build a stronger Victoria on a foundation of trust."

The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria is the voice for Aboriginal people in the next phase of the treaty process.

It represents communities in setting, along with Government, the 'ground rules' for treaty. This includes a framework for negotiations – which sets out how treaties can be agreed in Victoria. It will also help set up the Treaty Authority, which will be an independent umpire through the treaty process, and a self-determination fund so Aboriginal communities can negotiate on a level playing field with the Government.

It has not been established to negotiate treaties.

The Assembly has 31 members: 21 elected by a statewide vote held in 2019 and 10 nominated by formally recognised traditional owner groups.

Nova Peris weighs in on ownership of flag

By DARREN COYNE



FORMER senator Nova Peris believes Aboriginal people should unite to launch a class action against non-Indigenous company WAM Clothing to reclaim their flag.

"As an Aboriginal person, I have only known one flag," Ms Peris told the *Koori Mail*.

"And as a race of people we need to fight for what is ours."

Ms Peris pointed to a two-page article published in the *Daily Mail* in 1972 featuring Aboriginal activist Gary Foley, then a good friend of the flag designer Harold Thomas.

"Gary Foley took the flag to Canberra in 1972 asking Aboriginal people to adopt the flag," she said. "We adopted the flag and gave it value and notoriety throughout the world."

"In 1994 when Cathy Freeman ran with the flag at the Commonwealth Games it sent the continent into a frenzy because the world was asking why this Black woman was flying that flag."

"The next year the Prime Minister Paul Keating promised to make it a flag of the nation and when that proclamation was made (in July 1995) we got given the same rights to the Aboriginal flag as the Australian flag."

"Harold scrambled two years later to take court action (to prove he was the flag's designer) but where was he when Foley took the flag to Canberra and we adopted it?"

"You can't take back what you gave us."

Harold Thomas' claim

Mr Thomas gained legal recognition of his ownership following the Federal Government's 1995 proclamation of the design as a Flag of Australia under the *Flags Act 1953*.

His claim was contested by two others, George Brown of Adelaide, a former art student of Harold Thomas, and James Tennant of Canberra, both of whom also claimed to have designed the flag.

The opposing claims, however, did not stack up in court. Following his win, in 1997 Mr Thomas awarded rights to Flagworld Pty Ltd, which produces the actual flags which are flown on buildings throughout Australia, and then later to Birubi Art Pty Ltd for the manufacture of products featuring the flag's image.

"What I don't get is that when Harold went to court he never once produced a drawing of the flag," Ms Peris said.

"He gave an off-cut of material as proof that he designed it."

"Then in 2004 ATSIC (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission) paid \$200,000 to Harold for the rights to the flag."

Ms Peris blames the Federal Government for not acting at the time ATSIC was disbanded under former Prime Minister John Howard to preserve the flag for Aboriginal people.

"According to the final ATSIC report the flag was listed as its



Spark Health Australia co-founder Laura Thompson and former senator Nova Peris.

most valuable asset, yet we have been made to understand that when ATSIC went down so did the licence to use the flag," Ms Peris said.

She points out, however, that the agreement signed between ATSIC and Harold Thomas granted rights to ATSIC and any Aboriginal representative body that followed.

"Those assets should have been transferred, but then old mate (Ben Wooster, managing director of Birubi Arts) comes along and gets the licence from 2005 until 2018 until the ACCC takes him to court and Birubi is fined \$2.3 million," Ms Peris said.

Birubi Arts fined

In 2018, the court found Birubi Arts breached Australian consumer law and misled customers by promoting its products as genuine Aboriginal art, when in fact they were mass-produced in Indonesia.

Justice Melissa Perry said there was "powerful" evidence Birubi's

conduct caused great social, economic and cultural harm to Indigenous communities and artists.

In her judgment, she said while it was unlikely the company would ever pay such a fine, it was in the interest of general deterrence that such a hefty penalty be handed down.

Following the court loss, Birubi resolved to enter voluntary liquidation as of October 29, 2018, and a liquidator was appointed on the same day.

By November, Mr Wooster was back in business, founding WAM Clothing as a minority shareholder with Semele Moore, the wife of Leslie Moore, who was Mr Wooster's lawyer.

Mr Wooster also runs a separate company, Gifts Mate, which was registered in May 2018, but appears to be Birubi rebranded.

Hypocrisy

Ms Peris and others are angry that despite being placed in

liquidation, products bearing the Birubi Art logo are still available for purchase, the fine remains unpaid, and no action has been taken against Mr Wooster as a director.

"It's as if our lives don't matter and our dreams don't matter," she said.

"The law has allowed him to be above the law. Ms Dhu (a Western Australian Yamatji woman who died in police custody) gets thrown in jail for unpaid fines, yet nothing happens to him."

A spokesperson for the Australian Securities and Investment Commission said he was unable to confirm whether there was a current investigation into the matter.

Meanwhile, another long-time critic of Birubi and Mr Wooster, Michael Connolly of Dreamtime Kullilla Art, said he had been waiting a long time for his day in court after being sued for defamation by Mr Wooster.

"He started it and we have to finish it. When I win in court in

November it will be shown that I was speaking the truth. He did import fake products," Mr Connolly said.

Mob urged to be wary

Mr Connolly urged Aboriginal people to be wary of the products they purchased featuring the flag, and from whom.

He said WAM Clothing was demanding a licence fee of 20% on any product bearing the Aboriginal flag, but was only passing on 5% to Mr Thomas.

The *Koori Mail* has attempted to contact WAM Clothing for comment but has received no reply.

Meanwhile, a petition started by Spark Health Australia co-founder Laura Thompson calling for changes to the licensing of the Aboriginal Flag has been signed by more than 80,000.

Ms Peris has also written to the Governor General of Australia requesting his support for divesting WAM Clothing of the copyright.

NAIDOC celebrated with virtual concert



THE Victorian Government put together a star-studded virtual concert to celebrate

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture following the postponement of NAIDOC Week.

Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Minister Gabrielle Williams said the Government was proud to support a variety performance event that was live streamed on Saturday – what would have been the penultimate day of the landmark week-long celebration.

The concert was hosted by comedians Shiralee Hood and Dion Williams and featured artists including Uncle Archie Roach, Troy Cassar-Daley, Allara, Lady Lash, Alice Skye and Mau Power.

NAIDOC Week was scheduled to be held from July 5-12 this year, but for the first time in its 64-year history, has been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

It is traditionally marked each July to honour and pay tribute to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history and achievement, with celebrations held across the country. It is now scheduled for November.

The Vic NAIDOC 2020 Concert: Always Was,



Alice Skye was one of the artists who performed in a virtual concert to mark what would have been NAIDOC Week.

Always Will Be was held at Hamer Hall and closed to the public.

The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) chair Donnella Mills says postponing NAIDOC Week 2020 from July to November was a

small price to pay for protecting First Nations people and safeguarding culture.

"What is happening in Brazil amongst their Indigenous populations is devastating to see and it could have happened to our people," she said.

"Our COVID-19 sector response, ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are treated as a priority, has resulted in remarkably low occurrences of COVID-19.

"This year's NAIDOC theme – Always Was, Always Will Be – is

particularly apt and relevant in this unprecedented time and the rescheduling is aimed at protecting our Elders and those in our communities with chronic health issues from the disastrous impacts of COVID-19.

"We would like to recognise the work our affiliates and our 143 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) have put in during this pandemic to protect our communities and ensure our culture will live on."

Back into lockdown



RESIDENTS of one of Melbourne's public housing towers, including Aboriginal people,

recently released from 'hard' lockdown have been forced back into their apartments after a spate of new coronavirus infections.

There are 145 COVID-19 cases linked to the Flemington and North Melbourne estates, but the state's chief health officer on Sunday warned the number could be much higher.

The Flemington building was one of nine public housing towers to be put into a strict lockdown from July 4 to 9.

Eight of the towers reverted to stage-three restrictions on July 9, while residents of Alfred Street, North Melbourne, remain in self-quarantine.

Premier Daniel Andrews issued a plea to all Victorians to follow the latest lockdown rules.

He said health authorities could not contain the virus on their own, with those in locked-down metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire urged to limit their movement.

"We need every Victorian to acknowledge that you are on the frontline. Don't leave it to nurses and doctors to be the last line of

defence," Mr Andrews said on Sunday.

"We all need to make smart choices for ourselves and each other. That is the only way we will stabilise these numbers and drive them down."

Chief health officer Brett Sutton said the pandemic had not yet reached its peak and authorities were throwing "absolutely everything at it".

"It is the public health challenge of our lifetime," he said.

Professor Sutton said he was particularly concerned about outbreaks in hospitals and aged care facilities in recent days, which have forced hundreds of workers deemed close contacts into quarantine.

"The workforces know what to do, but it is a risk that can't be mitigated down to zero," Professor Sutton said.

"I have been an emergency department doctor for years and they are brave and they are brilliant in responding to the challenges of positive cases that need to be managed there."

There are 145 cases linked to public housing blocks in Flemington and North Melbourne, but Professor Sutton warned the number could be much greater.

Twenty-two people at a public housing tower in Carlton have



Victorian Aboriginal Health Service chief executive Michael Graham.

also tested positive to the virus.

The state has recorded a week of triple-digit increases in new cases, including a record 288 infections on Friday.

Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire are again under stage-three restriction until at least August 19 because of the spike. People in those areas are only allowed to leave home for food and supplies, receive or provide care, exercise, and study or work if they can't do so from home.

Students in prep to year 10 in the locked-down areas will return to online learning from July 20 as part of efforts to minimise the movement of people.

"These next six weeks are not an ordinary winter. We all have to

play our part. We cannot ignore the circumstances we face," Mr Andrews said.

"Nobody wanted to be in this position, but this is where we find ourselves."

On Sunday, July 5, Aboriginal organisations met with Victorian Government representatives to plan legal, medical and community care support for Aboriginal families and residents affected in the Melbourne high-rise shut down.

The lockdown of Flemington, Kensington and North Melbourne sees 1345 units in the nine towers impacted, housing 3000 people, including many Aboriginal people, without access to their family and other support services, such as face-to-face access to workers from Aboriginal services, leaving many vulnerable and isolated.

In response the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) has extended the operating hours for Yarning SafeNStrong hotline (1800 95 95 63) to operate seven days a week, for 24 hours.

The free and confidential statewide helpline will not only focus on the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal Victorians, but will also act as a emergency response line to provide assistance with health, family violence, housing, and legal services.

VAHS chief executive Michael Graham said the Yarning SafeNStrong helpline "will now offer critical emergency response services as well as counselling support during this growing crisis" with counsellors available 24 hours to take calls, and connect to support services.

"We've seen incredible resilience within our communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, but it's important that we stay connected and accessible at all times to support our people who are highly vulnerable during this time," he said.

In addition to providing the Yarning SafeNStrong crisis line, VAHS will play a central coordination role in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Sectors' response to the most recent high-rise lockdown, to ensure those affected stay informed, manage outbreaks and provide on-the-ground legal, medical and community care support for Aboriginal families and residents.

VAHS will work closely with the families impacted, assessing and triaging needs across organisations, and continue an innovative approach to supporting Aboriginal communities during COVID-19.

Yarning SafeNStrong counsellors are available by calling 1800 95 95 63.

The Art Gallery of South Australia brings Murlapaka shield home to Kurna Miyurna



A RARE 19th century Murlapaka shield of the Kurna people from the Adelaide Plains will find a home at the Art Gallery of South Australia.

Senior Kurna man Mickey Kumatpi O'Brien said to have the shield back on Kurna lands is Paitya (deadly).

"The Murlapaka shield shows strength in its design, protection in its history, connection to country in its image, and the spirit of its creator in its life," he said.

"We know the land is the oldest living thing, the trees are connected to this land, the knowledge and wisdom of the land is in the trees.

"The shield itself was cut from a tree and its shadow remained in the tree and the shield took with it the knowledge and wisdom of the land, culture and people.

"It returned to its home of the Kurna Miyurna (Adelaide Plains People). And now it tells many stories, when we listen, observe and share its journey and place, thanks to the support of the gallery."

Barkandji artist and Art Gallery of South Australia curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Nici Cumpston said the Murlapaka (also spelt Mulubakka) is made from the inner bark of a eucalyptus tree with remnants of red earth pigments over the shield surface.

It is one of two types of



Senior Kurna man Mickey Kumatpi O'Brien and Barkandji artist and Art Gallery of South Australia's curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Nici Cumpston.

shield made by the Kurna people and a powerful symbol of Kurna identity.

"It is the first shield made by a Kurna person, dated to the early contact period, to enter the gallery's collection," Ms Cumpston said.

"Through its significant acquisition, the gallery continues its commitment to building and sharing

understanding of Kurna culture while acknowledging that AGSA Kurna yartangka yuwanthi (AGSA stands on Kurna country)."

The Morrison Government has announced \$100,000 to support the acquisition of the Murlapaka shield.

Federal Arts Minister Paul Fletcher said the Government is pleased to support this

important acquisition, which is the first shield of its kind to join the gallery's collection.

"The Art Gallery of South Australia has a close relationship with the Kurna community established over many years through ongoing connection with community and an artist-led approach to acquisitions," he said.

"This shield will be a

visual reminder for all visitors to the gallery that they are on Kurna land.

"The gallery has now reopened to the public following COVID-19 social distancing restrictions and I encourage members of the public to visit the gallery to view this shield, one of only seven known examples from the 19th century, a significant time in the story of Adelaide's traditional custodians."

Art Gallery of South Australia Director Rhana Devenport said the gallery was immensely proud to now be home to this revered Murlapaka, made possible through the support of the Australian Government's National Cultural Heritage Account and through Tarnanthi: Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art, supported by BHP.

"To celebrate this milestone acquisition, the Art Gallery of South Australia is committed to having the Murlapaka permanently on display in the gallery, for all visitors to Kurna country to appreciate and acknowledge," Rhana Devenport said.

The Australian Government's National Cultural Heritage Account helps keeps items of cultural significance in Australia so they can be preserved and made available to the public.

Public cultural organisations can apply for funding to purchase and provide permanent public access to these items.

Push is on to raise age of legal responsibility



ENTERTAINERS Archie Roach and Jack Charles have joined a campaign that is calling on Australian governments to change laws that can result in 10-year-old children being sent to prison.

The campaign is being organised by a coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, medical and human rights legal experts.

They want the Council of Australia's Attorney-Generals to vote to raise the age of legal responsibility from 10 to 14 years at their meeting on July 27.

Archie Roach said his Foundation supported the push to raise the age.

"Me and Uncle Charles have been involved in the youth justice space in the past and we would like to lend our support to the campaign," Uncle Archie said.

"Children as young as 10 shouldn't be in jail. They should be learning about their culture and history, their family and their country.

"They are not going to learn that behind bars so let's raise the age to 14 and get behind the change."

Advocates say that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are disproportionately impacted by the laws, representing about 70% of young children being criminalised.

Australian Indigenous Doctors'



Change the Record co-chair Cheryl Axleby points to trauma caused by locking up kids.

Association president Associate Professor Kris Rallah-Baker said all children deserved to grow up in safe and fair environments.

"For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children this includes having strong connections to family, culture and country," he said.

"Locking up Indigenous kids is traumatising and severely impacts their health and wellbeing.

"It is time to end the cycle of disadvantage by properly supporting communities and addressing laws and practices that unfairly impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids."

Change the Record co-chair Cheryl



Shaleena Musk, senior lawyer with the Human Rights Law Centre.

Axleby said locking up children could cause lifelong harm.

"Separating Aboriginal children from their families, country and culture just compounds their trauma," Ms Axleby said.

"The medical evidence is clear — kids are still developing at 10, 12 and 13 years old and need to be in school, at home and with their peers, not behind bars.

"Aboriginal children are being taken from their families and thrown into detention centres at far higher rates than the rest of the population.

"If governments are being honest when they say they want to end the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in

prisons, and end deaths in custody, then they must raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14 and stop the criminalisation of our kids."

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services co-chair Nerita Waight said governments across the country needed to commit to raising the age to at least 14 years.

"The health research is clear. The human rights principles are clear. It's common sense. It's time for governments to reimagine archaic laws that lock children as young as 10 years old up," she said.

"Raising the age and investing in community led solutions will drastically improve the course of the lives of children in our communities, and provide them with the opportunity to learn and grow with culturally appropriate support."

Human Rights Law Centre senior lawyer Shaleena Musk said children need care, love and support to help them reach their full potential, not handcuffs and bars.

"Too often Aboriginal children are ripped from their homes, their families and community because of unjust laws and policies," Ms Musk said.

"Closing the gap on Indigenous justice outcomes must start with closing off prisons and police cells for children."

The Raise the Age coalition has launched a petition that can be found at www.raisetheage.org.au

The sea gives up its secrets



UNDERWATER
Aboriginal archaeological sites have been discovered off Western Australia's north, dating back

thousands of years when the current seabed was dry land.

Hundreds of stone tools including grinding stones were discovered in the Dampier Archipelago off the Pilbara coast by a team of Australian and British archaeologists, partnered with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation.

Flinders University Associate Professor Jonathan Benjamin said more than 30% of Australia's massive land mass was inundated when sea levels rose after the last ice age, hiding a huge amount of ancient artefacts.

"Now we finally have the first proof that at least some of this archaeological evidence survived the process," he said.

The discoveries were made through a series of archaeological and geophysical surveys in the Dampier Archipelago, as part of the Deep History of Sea Country Project, funded through the Australian Research Council's Discovery Project Scheme.

An international team of archaeologists partnered with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation to locate and investigate ancient artefacts at two underwater sites which have yielded hundreds of stone tools made by Aboriginal peoples, including grinding stones.

In a study published in PLOS ONE, the ancient underwater sites, at Cape Bruguieres and Flying Foam Passage, provide new evidence of Aboriginal ways of life from when the seabed was dry land, due to lower sea levels, thousands of years ago.

Radiocarbon dating and analysis of sea-level changes show the first site at Cape Bruguieres is at least 7000 years old while the second site at Flying Foam Passage is at least 8500 years old.

Flinders University's Chelsea Wiseman, who has worked on the project as part of PhD research,



Hundreds of stone tools have been found underwater off the coast of Western Australia.

said dry land stretched out 160km from the current shoreline at one point and would have been lived on by generations of Aboriginal people.

"Although these sites are located in relatively shallow water, there will likely be more in deeper water offshore," she said.

The researchers say the discoveries highlight the need for stronger federal legislation to protect underwater heritage.

"Managing, investigating and understanding the archaeology of the Australian continental shelf in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander traditional owners and custodians is one of the last frontiers in Australian archaeology," Associate Professor Benjamin said.

"Our results represent the first step in a journey of discovery to explore the potential of archaeology on the continental shelves which can fill a major gap in the human history of the continent."

He said that in Murujuga this adds substantial additional evidence to support the deep time history of human activities accompanying rock art production in this important tentative National Heritage listed place.



One of the artefacts found in the Deep History of Sea Country Project.



Cookbook Competition

Ngunya Jarjum staff would like to invite you and the children to put together our cookbook!

Simply send to us your favourite family recipe with a drawing done by one of the children in your home before **31st July 2020** and we will work on publishing our very own cookbook – featuring your recipes and the drawings of our children living in Bundjalung Country.

On drawing be sure that children write their first name and, on the recipe, add the age of the child who drew the picture.

A small prize for the best drawing (to be used as the front cover and participation certificates for all the children who add a recipe!

Due date now extended to 31st July 2020 4.30pm

Submit drawing and recipe to:
info@ngunyajarjum.com

Questions? – call 02 6626 3700 and ask for Nikita Hughes



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Behold, the night sky

By KIRK PAGE



UNDER the Stars – a new exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW – gives us a glimpse into how artists imbue meaning in the night sky and the connections that emerge across cultures and countries.

The showing at the Art Gallery of NSW is a diverse collection by First Nations artists, with free admission, and will run till 2021 with works including Gulumbu Yunupingu's delicate paintings of *Garak (the universe)* and Sylvia Ken's monumental depiction of *Kungkarangkalpa tjukurpa (Seven Sisters)*.

The collection features a series of older and traditional style works, which uncover our fascination with the stars featuring work from the gallery's archival collections.

Under the Stars also presents a new work by Gail Mabo. The renowned dancer, actress and painter has created a major new work informed by celestial concepts from her Mer (Murray Island) heritage.

Mabo is the daughter of the late land rights pioneer Eddie Koiki Mabo and educator and activist Bonita Mabo. Both her parents have stars named after them, with Mabo's father's sitting in the heart of the southern skies constellation. Torres Strait Islanders know this star as Tagai.

Gail Mabo's latest work *Tagai 2020* references the constellation used to navigate from island to island in the Torres Strait. In former times bamboo star charts detailing water currents and land masses assisted navigation by Tagai's stars and Mabo draws on this tradition in her work. *Under the Stars* displays a short film of Mabo telling the story of Tagai and revealing the centrality of star mapping to the Torres Strait land title claim.

Cara Pinchbeck is a proud Kamilaroi woman from north-west NSW and is one of the curators of *Under the Stars*.

"It was a privilege to work with artists like Gail Mabo and it was fantastic to see this work from seed stages to completion. I feel fortunate to be able to do that and to be constantly learning about the artists and groupings of works," Cara said.

Under the Night Sky also commemorates Cook's documenting of the transit of venus



Gail Mabo with new work *Tagai 2020*, showing at the exhibition *Under the Night Sky* running at the Art Gallery of New South Wales until 2021.

before he landed in this country. The exhibition presents stargazing and mapping from a diverse range of viewpoints, our shared attempts to understand the night sky and our place and relation to it.

"As a state cultural institution there was almost an expectation that the gallery would do something to mark 250 years since that fateful moment of Cook's landing at Camay," Cara said.

"We had discussions with the curatorial and exhibitions team and decided that we would create an exhibition inspired by Cook's documenting of the transit of Venus before he landed here.

"We decided to look across the gallery's collection and invited colleagues inside the curatorial department to suggest works that would fit the exhibition.

"We had several works put forward that we may not have considered before. Bringing the exhibition together was a great collaborative process."



Gulaga by Julie Freeman.

Cara's role as senior curator at the Art Gallery of NSW is to make the collection accessible to artists and researchers, community and

the general public. She studied fine arts at Sydney University and enjoys the role of curating and programming for the gallery.

"I always new I wanted to do something in art but never planned on being a curator.

"My degree at university was more a hands-on experience but now I can't imagine doing anything else. At this point in time I'm looking after other people's work rather than having to make art myself," Cara said.

"There's one work that I found most interesting, by artist Binyinyuwuy from Arnhem land, named *Banumbirr – morning star (Venus)*. The narratives really highlight the connections that the Yolngu people have made between the morning star and the evening star. It's the one consistent element in the night even though it moves across the night sky.

"The night sky shows us our place in the world and where we are and who we are.

"We project our own meanings on to certain things so we can have a greater understanding of ourselves in the universe."

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Bags of fun planned for Children's Day

By NICK PATON



TENS of thousands of people took part in Children's Day last year, with over 600 events held around the nation and more than 15,000 Children's Day bags sold.

So when the COVID-19 pandemic hit earlier this year, the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) was quick to respond, moving most of the 2020 Children's Day activities and events online.

SNAICC is the peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and has been coordinating National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day (Children's Day) for over 30 years.

And as the National Voice for our Children, SNAICC advocates for the rights, safety, development and wellbeing of Indigenous children.

Children's Day falls on August 4, the date that stolen Indigenous children were assigned as their birthday. It now marks a day for First Nations children and families to come together with other Australians to celebrate the strengths of culture in raising strong Aboriginal children.

Children are the Elders of tomorrow

The theme for Children's Day this year is 'We are the Elders of tomorrow, hear our voice', and SNAICC encourages people to explore their new website for ideas and resources to help acknowledge the importance of the knowledge and wisdom of Aboriginal people, starting in childhood.

SNAICC chair Muriel Bamblett said that Children's



Amira Mason, Lulla's Children and Family Centre, Shepparton. Picture: Sarah Francis



Leila from Djirri Djirri dancers, Victoria. Picture: Sarah Francis



Wurundjeri Elder Aunty Dianne Kerr with Wurundjeri and Kalkadoon girl Jedda Peden-Hunter. Picture: SNAICC

Day is an important day for everyone.

"Children's Day is a perfect time for us to centre ourselves

and celebrate what's really important," Professor Bamblett said.

"Every parent and

grandparent, and uncle and aunty and carer, will tell you that the children in their lives are their absolute priority.

"That's something we all share."

Hearing children's voices today plays a crucial role in them growing up to being influential Elders and leaders of the future, so to support Children's Day this year, SNAICC are inviting people to find innovative ways to mark this important day.

Children's Day bags jam packed with fun

On the Children's Day website people can order reusable Children's Day bags, which are jam packed with fun items, educational activities, and other useful resources, for \$6.

SNAICC spokesperson Sue-Anne Hunter said the cost of the Children's Day bag is really just to cover the cost of postage and handling.

"So it really is a small price to pay for some really fun, stimulating and meaningful activities," Ms Hunter said.

"These kids will one day emerge as our Elders of tomorrow so we need to figure out ways we can nurture that concept, so we can keep our children connected to culture and community."

During the COVID-19 lockdown, SNAICC urged children to draw: What does culture mean to me? To check out all the amazing drawings, and to share a picture on social media showing how your child/children are keeping connected to culture, use @SNAICC and hashtag #NATSIChildrensDay2020 #KidsConnectedtoCulture.

Download for 2020 Children's Day

To download a free Children's Day poster, register an event, and access resources visit www.aboriginalchildrensday.com.au

Students walk out on teacher's racist rant

By DANNY TEECE-JOHNSON



IN the middle of Australia's Black Lives Matter campaign four Indigenous students in a Year 9 cooking class were victims of racism when a teacher allegedly made several offensive comments after a diversity presentation.

Fourteen-year-old Wonnura girl Alaura Fabian told the ABC that the presentation at Singleton High School in Hunter Valley sparked discussion around the Black Lives Matter movement and the death of George Floyd.

Miss Fabian said this resulted in the teacher "going off" about Indigenous people, and making offensive comments about the state of living conditions in public housing and saying that Aboriginal people were taking free government money.

The comments caused four Indigenous students to walk out of the



Mary Franks with daughter Alaura Fabian.

classroom in disgust.

Alaura said, when she confronted the teacher, she was told she was "too white" to be recognised as Indigenous.

This comment enraged the mother of the 14-year-old, Mary Franks, who told the

Koori Mail that she was deeply disappointed with the school.

"My daughter said she felt disrespect and disgusted and shocked that a teacher would say that," Ms Franks said. "We are hoping that all staff in all schools be educated on Aboriginal culture and procedures."

Speaking to the ABC, the NSW Department of Education said the remarks were totally unacceptable and that the teacher had since met with the students and their families and apologised.

Deputy NSW Education Department secretary Murat Dizdar told the ABC that the educator would be placed on "alternate duties" while the incident was investigated.

Mr Dizdar said about 15% of the students at Singleton High School identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, and praised the school's response.

"I applaud them for trusting and believing in our young people who raised the matter of concern," he said.

"They've acted in our children's best interests and have been providing them with support and guidance."

Alaura was told she did not have to attend the class for the remainder of the term.

Her mother was disgusted that the teacher wasn't suspended and had continued to teach for the rest of the week.

"That's their response. They're protecting the teacher and my daughter just has to sit back in the corner and shut her mouth basically," Mary Franks said.

"That teacher shouldn't be there."

The Year 9 student said the experience made her feel unsafe in class, but wanted it to be a learning experience for the teacher involved.

Speaking to the Koori Mail Ms Franks said, "I would just like to say how very proud I am of my strong girl and that we all need to stand up to racism and not let this happen again to any child again. Black Lives Matter."

App helping to revive language



MALAK Malak traditional owners, who are from the Northern Territory's Daly River region, have funded the

development of a language app containing more than 300 words and phrases. The Malak Malak Vocab Builder is now available on Google Play and App Store.

Only five fluent Malak Malak speakers are left.

Prior to 2012, little work was done on preserving and revitalising the language besides some grammar work undertaken by a researcher in the 1970s.

In 2012, Dr Dorothea Hoffmann, a linguist with nonprofit organisation the Language Conservancy, began working on documenting and recording the language.

Malak Malak traditional owners then began working with the Northern Land Council's Community Planning and Development Program (CP&D) in 2016, allocating a portion of their income to community development.

A Malak Malak working group was formed, and preserving language with the help of an app was identified as a priority.

Using existing technology from the Language Conservancy, Dr Hoffmann developed a vocabulary builder app and NLC's CP&D team assisted with project management.

"I'm delighted to see the app



Nicole Brown, Joy Cardona and Jamie Damaso show young Josh the app.

come to life. I hope it will help this beautiful language to thrive and gain new interest," Dr Hoffmann said.

Malak Malak traditional owner Joy Cardona said it's important to preserve the language and hand it on to the next generation.

"We needed to capture the

language while the aunties are still alive to keep the language and Malak Malak clan strong and to pass it on to our children," she said.

Matthew Shields, a Malak Malak traditional owner, was one of the first to download the app.

"This is the first time I've seen

our language on websites. I feel really happy I can listen to it over and over," he said.

NLC chief executive Marion Scrymgour said the app is a great example of how traditional owners are driving their own development on their own land, working side by side with the NLC.



Malak Malak traditional owners have made a language app to preserve and share their language.

"The Malak Malak mob are leading the way in community development – creating a language app is a huge achievement. Keeping language alive is vital for the younger generation," Ms Scrymgour said.

The app is organised into 22 lesson categories, such as family, animals and useful words. It contains around 200 illustrations and phrases, for example: What's your name? (Wari ni eyiny?) and region specific words, for example: Banyan tree (puenyu).

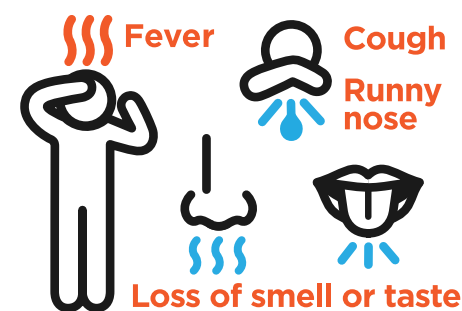
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A good time for love

By KIRK PAGE



PROUD Gamilaraay/Birri
Gubba musician and
songwriter Mitch
Tambo shot to fame
after appearing on the
TV show *Australia's Got
Talent*. His evocative

performance shone a light on
contemporary music in this country
and catapulted Indigenous culture into
the mainstream with his original,
contemporary music inspired by the
language of his countrymen.

"Being on the television during that
time, everything is put in a timeframe.
You have to break through elements of
fear and doubt and really place
yourself in an empowering position by
stepping on to that stage and make it
happen," Mitch told
the *Koori Mail*.

It's been a
massive 12 months
for the Melbourne-
based singer, who
came to national
attention when he
performed John
Farnham's anthem
You're the Voice
wearing the
Dhinawan and
Murray crest, which
have significant
meaning to his
family.

"The Black
Cockatoo, 'Murray',
brings us the fire,"
Mitch said. "It's a
contemporary
metaphor in regards
to keeping that fire
burning and that fire
being our culture and keeping it alive
through our artistry, but always
returning home to nourish the spirit."

Tambo also competed to be
Australia's entrant in the Eurovision
song contest, performing an original
song called *Together*.

"Coming fourth in the Eurovision
heat was a phenomenal experience.
Being amongst artists like Casey
Donovan and Vanessa Amorosi was a
win for me. If you embrace it, it's a
really great opportunity to grow. It's
intense but, whether you win or not,
it's always about growth and taking
yourself to the next level with your
artistry."

His songs have appeared on music
charts around the world, including
United Kingdom, United States of
America, Denmark, France,
Switzerland, Malta, Indonesia,
Thailand and New Zealand and Mitch
is excited about his latest single

release. The upbeat anthem sung in
Tambo's Gamilaraay language *LOVE*
delivers a powerful message of hope
to a world undergoing crisis.

"Within this current climate, we find
ourselves in isolation craving for many
of the things we love in this world.
LOVE is a reminder to reach deep
down within, heal and set our spirits
free with love, healing and hope for a
better tomorrow," Tambo said.

"If we can use this time to work on
loving ourselves better and loving
others better, when this is all over we
will be ready to move forward as a
collective like never before. It's about
that place we go to find peace. Some
people go to the beach or for a walk or
the football or with family. For me, it's
about being on country and around the
fire.

"We have to
make sure that
through these crazy
times we look after
our wellness and
take care of our
hearts and that's
what the new
release is all about –
self preservation
and wellness."

The song was
written prior to the
global COVID-19
crisis, but Tambo
says its universal
themes have taken
on a new meaning
as we are isolated
from the things,
places and people
we love.

"I wrote *LOVE* on
my way back to
suburbia after being

on my country and feeling the
unconditional love that I feel when I'm
there," he said.

"Being back out in the bush on my
country, hearing the cockatoos sing at
sunset, watching the stars light the sky
with ancient stories and being lost in
the dance of the campfire gives me
the fuel to continue.

"Language in music is important
because it says that we are still here,
we are the first people of this country.

"From a wholistic perspective, our
languages should be on radio. We
aren't just one nationality and there is
a diversity of cultures to enjoy. What
we hear on the current airwaves is not
a true representation of what our
nation is and it needs to be reflected
across all platforms.

"I want to encourage all young
people out there to embrace their
culture and identity and bring that to
the forefront."

Mitch Tambo:
Language in music is
important because it
says that we are still
here; we are the first
people of this country.



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Javan Siebert lino cutting a crocodile.

Young entrepreneurs are ready to hit the market



A GROUP of business trainees is turning lino cutting and printing into a successful enterprise. The 15 novice capitalists are years 9 and 10 students at Gunbalanya School. The entrepreneurs were spurred to begin the venture after months of research. Secondary teacher Amanda Marshall said development of the embryonic industry was spurred by the school's Employment Pathways program. "Using lessons from the program, and

extensive investigation, the students developed an art business based on just a few steps," she said. "The children create designs by manually cutting away some parts of the lino sheet while leaving other areas untouched.

"Black ink is rolled onto this printing plate. When it is hand-pressed on paper, the cut-out areas appear white, and the uncut areas appear black.

"The designs have been inspired by old Gunbalanya stories, rock art, and students' daily lives.

"The community attended the students'

first classroom shop, where the lino prints were sold for \$10 each. Most of this money has been used to buy bags and t-shirts to print on."

Each print is accompanied by a narrative on its subject and a photograph of its creator.

The young industrialists plan to market their products in Darwin and online.

The Employment Pathways program aims to boost skills valued in the workplace, including enhanced numeracy and literacy, teamwork, and the ability to accept fresh challenges and master new techniques.

Wadjemup Project reveals the history of island prison



THE hundreds of Aboriginal men and boys who died while imprisoned on Wadjemup (Rottne Island) will be commemorated in a bid towards healing and reconciling the past. Elder Farley Garlett said that the

Whadjuk people would lead the Western Australian Government project, aimed at reconciling the history of Aboriginal captivity on the island off the coast of Fremantle.

"It is a responsibility we take up in the spirit of healing and moving forward," he said.

Elder Neville Collard said it was an important issue for Indigenous people and believed it was time to work with the West Australian Government to recognise the island's history.

The Wadjemup Project will honour almost 400 Aboriginal men and boys who were buried there in unmarked graves between 1838 and 1931.

During those years, more than 4000 Aboriginal men and boys from across WA were sent to the island, imprisoned and used as forced labour.

Statue of Cook in indigenous hands



THE fate of a statue of James Cook in the city of Anchorage in the US state of Alaska will be decided by the local indigenous people.

Cook and his crew were the first Europeans to set foot in the region in 1778, arriving in what is now called

Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet while searching for the Northwest Passage on behalf of the British Government.

Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz and Native Village of Eklutna president Aaron Leggett wrote a joint letter saying that "the statue is but one symbol among many that fail to fully and fairly recognise Anchorage's First People".

The letter was written in response to the Anchorage Sister Cities Commission, which suggested modifying the monument to reflect the history of Alaska's indigenous people.

"Consequently, as part of the government-to-government relationship between the Municipality of Anchorage and the Native Village of Eklutna, we seek to establish a process that respects the crucial role and sovereign authority of local tribes as we more fully and fairly portray Alaska's past," the letter said.

A decision has not yet been made on what will happen to the statue, but Leggett said he would like to see modifications at the statue site that represent the history and voice of the Dena'ina people.

It comes as cities around the world take steps to remove statues that represent cultural or racial oppression, following the death of Black man George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis.

Conservative politicians in Australia have resisted calls to remove statues of Cook, with NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian considering tougher laws to protect monuments after memorials to the explorer were defaced. —AAP

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b l m



Spokesperson for the Queensland Stop Black Deaths in Custody Committee, Dr Noritta Morseu-Diop.



Queensland Stop Black Deaths in Custody Committee coordinator Adrian Burragubba.

Action urgent on custodial deaths

By NICK PATON



SOUTH-east Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are calling for urgent government intervention to stop Aboriginal deaths in custody, police violence and racial discrimination.

And now the Queensland Stop Black Deaths in Custody Committee has written to the Queensland Premier, the Police Commissioner and various government agencies, demanding action be taken to address the long-running failure of the Government in these areas.

Wangan Jagalingou man Adrian Burragubba told the *Koori Mail* that as coordinator of the committee his role is to approach government bodies like the Queensland Premier's office, the Minister for Corrections office, and the Police Commissioners office, to liaise with them about the serious issues affecting Aboriginal communities.

He said the committee has written to Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk's office and the Police Commissioner to demand action on Aboriginal deaths in custody.

Mr Burragubba said the committee's letter also demands police officers be required to wear body cameras and have them activated at all times, but most importantly, demands a review of policing powers and a reformation of the entire police system.

Torres Strait Islander woman and spokesperson for the committee Dr Noritta Morseu-Diop said the Queensland Government needs to take immediate action to address the ongoing injustices and harm Aboriginal people suffer through legal discrimination and inappropriate policing.

"We are asking the Government to work with the Queensland Stop Black Deaths in Custody Committee and our legal team to build a new agenda for reform to the laws, policies, policing and correctional measures that leave our people vulnerable to injustice, violence and death," Dr Morseu-Diop said.

"These issues have come to the fore again owing to the extraordinary response from the Aboriginal community, with the support of many tens of thousands of people from the wider Australian community, to the Black Lives Matter movement.

"In recent weeks, the Black Lives Matter movement has taken hold here in Australia and has drawn international attention to the unconscionable record of Aboriginal people's deaths in custody, racialised policing and violence, and the overrepresentation of our people in the judicial and prison system."

It is to the state's shame, Dr Morseu-Diop said, that cases of Aboriginal deaths in custody, police violence and racial discrimination continue nearly 30 years after the findings and recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

On June 17, Aboriginal rights campaigner Wayne Wharton and another man were arrested at the Brisbane Black Lives Matter protest.

The Queensland Stop Black Deaths in Custody committee, together with activist group Warriors of the Aboriginal Resistance (WAR),

and other peaceful protesters, marched down to the Brisbane police watch house on Roma Street asking for the release of the activists and demanded a meeting with the Police commissioner. The police commissioner agreed to a meeting with representatives from the group that afternoon, but only after the group refused to leave the watch house until an agreement had been made.

"We were surrounded by police, but we refused to be intimidated, and so after serious negotiations with police who were there, we were finally able to organise a meeting with the commissioner which we agreed to schedule for June 24," Mr Burragubba said.

"From that meeting with the commissioner, we were able to establish open dialogue with the police on various matters relating to the high rates of Aboriginal deaths in custody, and suggested also that some of the answers to combatting racism and police brutality might be found in the recommendations of the RCIADIC."

Mr Burragubba said the issues Aboriginal people face when they come into contact with the justice system in Australia are so serious that the Special Rapporteur for Human Rights from the United Nations will be meeting with Queensland police.

"We now have the *Queensland Human Rights Act*, which was legislated and made law in Queensland in 2019, which the police are very wary about," Mr Burragubba said.

"And so the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights will be looking over the shoulders of the Queensland police, and checking on their policies and procedures, to make sure they don't form the types of chokeholds like we see in America.

"Aboriginal deaths in custody have been occurring in Australia since day one of colonisation and we have suffered at the hands of the colonial state through various protection acts which never served to protect us at all."

The current method of policing, Mr Burragubba said, needs to change immediately and the entire police system needs to be reviewed and reformed as a matter of urgency.

"The sad thing is that many Aboriginal communities in Queensland have little to no faith in the Queensland police system, and things need to have changed for our communities – yesterday," Mr Burragubba said.

"There needs to be a vehicle that can drive this change, and that's why we have the Queensland Stop Black Deaths in Custody Committee: to act as an administrative arm and speak for our people from the grassroots level."

Mr Burragubba said the committee is gaining momentum with their interactions with the Government and the police commission, and are hoping that in time they can expand to help other communities set up their own committees.

"Which will help with the creation of a National Stop Black Deaths in Custody representative body," Mr Burragubba said.

"If the local, state and federal government are at all interested in closing their gap targets, and reducing their incarceration rates, and stopping the deaths of Aboriginal people in their custody, then they must listen to us.

"Only then can we begin to lock arms and move forward."

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Leetona Dungay and family raise fists at the Sydney Black Lives Matter protest. *Picture: Getty Images*

BLM rallies roll on



MARCHES for the Black Lives Matter movement have continued around the country, with activists calling for an end to systemic racism.

In Perth, protesters at a recent march called on the Western Australian Government to put the same level of energy into ending systemic racism and institutionalised violence as it has in protecting the community from COVID-19.

Hundreds of people gathered at the Supreme Court Gardens in Perth for the city's third major Black Lives Matter protest on Saturday, July 4.

Several young speakers passionately addressed the physically distanced and mask-wearing crowd, which repeatedly chanted, "Black lives matter."

As they marched through the city, protesters held the Aboriginal flag and signs, including some

that read "Systemic racism exists here too" and "White silence equals violence".

The family of Tane Chatfield led a silent march through the streets of Sydney, last Saturday, July 12, before the inquest into his death, which was scheduled to start on Monday.

Tane was found unresponsive in his cell in Tamworth prison in 2017.

Chatfield had been on remand for two years at Tamworth Correctional Centre, charged over two separate violent home invasions in northern NSW in 2015.

He was awaiting trial for one of the incidents, the other was before the Armidale Court at the time of his death.

According to his family and lawyer, he was feeling confident he would be found not guilty.

Less than 24 hours after he gave evidence professing his innocence, he was found unresponsive in his cell. He was

due to return to Armidale Court that morning.

After he was found he was taken to the Tamworth Base Hospital where he remained on life support for two days, before dying surrounded by his family.

And the previous weekend on July 4-5, marches were held around the country including in Kempsey – the hometown of David Dungay Junior – and at the Domain in Sydney.

I can't breathe

David Dungay Junior died in Sydney's Long Bay Jail in December 2015 after repeatedly screaming 'I can't breathe', when he was restrained by five officers and pinned down on his bed.

Before the Sydney march, the father of an Aboriginal teenager who had his legs kicked out from beneath him while being arrested in Sydney told the crowd that they are waiting for the police officer to be punished.

Footage of the 16-year-old

boy's arrest was shared via social media last month after he was arrested at Ward Park in Surry Hills.

The officer can be seen telling the teenager to turn around and put his hands behind his back. He then kicks the boy's legs out from beneath him and handcuffs him face down on the ground.

Referring to his son as Kuta – a pseudonym which means brother in the language of the Pitjantjara people of Central Australia – his father says the family is determined to fight injustices experienced by Kuta and other Indigenous people in custody.

"There're no words in the dictionary that describe how I felt that day seeing my son treated unjustly by the cop," he said.

"My son was the only Black person among his white friends. He was targeted by these police and I just want to say that today is our time to get our voice up."

Police had not been in contact

with the family since the incident occurred and he had little faith in "police investigating police", he said.

The police force's professional standards command was investigating and the constable has been placed on restricted duties

"We want our own investigations toward that action," he insisted.

"We just want to keep away from them. They terrorised my kid; they terrorised my family; and that's it. Enough's enough."

The father said his son was still suffering from the experience but joined him at the protest in solidarity.

"To other fathers and uncles – we have a job to do. We have to look after our young people. We need to look after our young warriors that are coming up," he said.

"This is a time for change. It's time for power for all of us as Black people."



Kempsey was the hometown of David Dungay Junior. *Picture: Paddy Gibson*



Hundreds of people turn out in the northern NSW town of Kempsey for the Black Lives Matter protest. *Picture: Paddy Gibson*

Songman is home

By JILLIAN MUNDY



TRIBUTES have flowed for Ronnie Summers, a beloved pillar of the Tasmanian Aboriginal

community.

Revered as the Tasmanian Songman and celebrated for keeping the Cape Barren Island style of music alive, to his family, friends and community Ronnie was also known for his big heart, contagious smile, sense of humour, gentleness, storytelling, woodcraft and his rapport with children.

Ronnie passed away, aged 76, beside his soulmate and wife of 35 years Dyan Summers in their Flinders Island home, on June 15, following a couple of weeks of illness.

Born Ronald John Summers on Flinders Island in 1944, to Ronald and Lialetta Summers (nee Brown), and taken straight back to Cape Barren Island, he was one of six children. Ronnie's mother died of TB when he was only seven and three of his siblings died in early childhood.

He was raised on Cape Barren Island Reserve by his father and family, surrounded by the Cape Barren music – a unique mix of Cajun, blues, country and Irish folk, recognised as a rare example of Australian musical folklore, which went on to define his life in many ways.

Following in the footsteps of his mother, who was also a singer and the granddaughter of 'old muso' Ben Brown, and all of his uncles who played music, it was on the Furneaux Islands where Ronnie learned the guitar chords he referred to as 'the Hank Williams,' 'the flat finger,' 'over the top,' 'three on the bottom' and 'the Carter family chords'. He also played ukulele and a bit of accordion.

His first performance was in a mutton bird shed on Babel Island when he was 12 years old, singing the Hank Williams classic *Take These Chains from My Heart*. The next day a bloke paid him ten pounds to sing it again – it could be said the rest is history.

Ronnie went on to play in bands including the Country Walkabout, Alltones and the Island Coes, performing in pubs, at Aboriginal community events, festivals, schools and even for Kevin Rudd and his Cabinet when he was prime minister.

As a young man Ronnie worked at meatworks, wool stores and pulp mills, on fishing boats and building dams. In later years he became well known within the Tasmanian education system teaching students about Tasmanian Aboriginal culture and sharing his music, alongside Dyan.

In 2009 his autobiography, *Tasmanian Songman Ronnie*, with an accompanying CD, was published by Magabala Books.

It tells stories of the freedoms growing up on Cape Barren Island and the music passed on by his uncles and the Island's old fellas. It tells stories of a childhood working the mutton bird



Ronnie Summers plays for his people on Cape Barren Island in 2018.



Ronnie and Dyan on a mutton bird island (supplied)

islands, a 'kangaroo court' prison term as a bewildered teenager, and then turning to alcohol after the death of his baby son.

His story documents his struggle for a place in his own country, echoing and amplifying that of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

A collection of his stories has also been audio recorded for the National Library of Australia.

In 2002 Ronnie was awarded a Centenary of Federation medal 'for service to the community through music and communicating the history of the Furneaux Islands'. He has also received a National Reconciliation Award and had a patch of bush

on Tasmania's east coast named after him.

But it was recognition from his own people, when he was awarded Aborigine of the Year at the 2014 Tasmanian NAIDOC Ball, that meant the world to him.

That night he said it was the best thing he had come across and that he was going home to put his head on his wife's shoulder and cry tears of joy.

There is no doubt Ronnie has left a legacy. He has inspired school children to learn music, mentored Tasmanian Aboriginal musicians, and friends have already written a tribute song about him and Dyan.

The father of two also raised

five of Dyan's children and four grandchildren, some of whom he taught music to and performed with.

A memorial on Flinders Island and a funeral in Launceston were held to celebrate Ronnie's life, both featuring live music and recorded songs of his. Another will be held in Frankston, Victoria, for family and community, at a date to be determined.

In the eulogy, Ronnie's story was described as "simple yet immense" and "sacred" to his family and the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

He was commended for his commitment, passion and generosity in teaching culture and

history, and for his songs which tell the stories of his people.

"He loved all children and loved to tell them stories and sing his songs to them. And it didn't matter where they came from, what their race was, whether they were rich or whether they were poor, black or white, and any shade in between, whether they were top of the class or struggling to understand what was expected of them.

"Any children he had the opportunity to teach he did, and children everywhere loved Uncle Ronnie," read his cousin Karen Brown at the Launceston service.

"For Ronnie, music and song was an essential part of his soul.

"He has used music to teach people that Tasmanian Aborigines actually exist. We're vibrantly cultural people and had an unknown story to be told and to be heard.

"Ronnie's music has broken down the barriers of history at all levels of society.

"He was a great, great musician and recognised everywhere."

The service closed with *The Songlines of the Moonbird*, written by Dyan and sung by Ronnie.

*Your ancestors, they will wait for you
Your family will be by your side
To take you back to your 'ome once again
Where the songbird of the moonbirds still lies*

(Extract from *The Songlines of the Moonbird*. Moonbird is another name for mutton bird.)



Reflecting on the life of a tireless campaigner



THE family of Lyall Munro Senior would like to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the large number of

condolences received from Aboriginal communities, organisations and members of the broader public.

Throughout his life, Lyall Senior worked tirelessly to bring about effective change for Aboriginal people and the assertion of self-determination, acting at all times in the interests of his people.

Lyall Senior started his working life as a junior staff member on the NSW railway at Currabubula, transferring to Moree to continue work as a relief assistant station master.

He was an employed staff member of the Moree District Hospital and worked closely with the McMaster Ward, which was a segregated section of the hospital reserved for Aboriginal people only.

In his early years he also worked on the land as an itinerant worker in the farming industry, ring barking, in shearing sheds as a hut keeper throughout northern NSW and with the North West County Council as an electrical linesman.

Lyall was a prominent leader on the Moree Aboriginal Advancement Committee whilst a resident on the Moree Aboriginal Mission. In 1969 he was elected to the NSW Aboriginal Advisory Council which directly advised the NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, following the abolishment of the NSW Aboriginal Welfare Board. The council proposed the first Aboriginal Police Liaison Unit under NSW Police Commissioner John Avery.

Lyall was involved in the Freedom Rides when they drove into Moree in 1965, increasing awareness to urban Australians about racial segregation in rural towns.

He was a member of the NSW Aboriginal Lands Trust and National Aboriginal Consultative Committee (NACC).

With a change of Federal Government, the NACC was reconstituted to the National Aboriginal Conference (NAC) – a body that had United Nations status. Lyall was elected as deputy chair of the NAC and in 1979 accepted the task of treaty negotiations with the Fraser-led Federal Coalition Government.

Lyall later served as chair of the National Aboriginal Conference and was an executive member of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples.

He was instrumental in Australia hosting the Third General Assembly of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples in Canberra in 1981.

In 1983, as chair of National Aboriginal Conference, he supported and encouraged an NAC delegation to five African



Mourners at the state funeral for Lyall Munro Senior at Moree Boomerangs Oval.



Lyall Munro Senior with the NSW Law and Justice Foundation award he won in 2013.

nations to gather support for the treaty negotiation process.

The National Aboriginal Conference was a major contributor in the development of the draft Declaration of the Rights of the Worlds Indigenous Peoples where they contributed to the development of the first 19 principles in Panama City in 1984.

He was involved in discussions with Jose Ramos Horta seeking independence of East Timor.

On two occasions he met with Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser and, with his support, organised a meeting of the full cabinet and the board of the NAC.

In association with the NSW Aboriginal Legal Service Ltd he

was very vocal against James Hardie Company in Baryulgil Aboriginal Mission on the north coast of NSW and the effects of asbestos mining in the community.

He actively contributed to the Royal Commission Into Aboriginal Deaths In Custody and was a long-serving chair of the Kamilaroi Regional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC). All these boards were democratically elected bodies.

Lyall Senior was also a prominent member of the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Movement, an inaugural board member of the NSW Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO) and AHO Regional Aboriginal Housing Committee.

Lyall was a director of the Moree District Hospital for 10 years and held positions in numerous community organisations including Moree Aboriginal Sobriety House (MASH), Moree Local Aboriginal Land Council and community Housing organisations.

Lyall was involved in the establishment of the NSW Aboriginal Legal Service Limited, Australian Legal Aid Commission which was modelled on the NSW Aboriginal Legal Service structure of free legal representation – an Australian first, the Pius X Aboriginal Corporation (Moree), Aboriginal Legal Service Moree, Aboriginal Employment Strategy (AES), Aboriginal Homecare (Moree).

Lyall was involved in the naming of the Kamilaroi Highway in north-west NSW which is the first highway to be named after an Aboriginal nation in NSW.

Lyall Munro was a direct descendant of the victims and survivors of the Myall Creek Massacre near Bingara, NSW.

Later in retired life he worked tirelessly for the recognition and creation of a memorial to honour the Myall Creek Massacre, serving as co-chair of the Friends of Myall Creek committee since its inception and the creation of the Memorial in 2000. He worked to have the Myall Creek Massacre and Memorial site listed on the NSW State Heritage Register and National Heritage List.

Lyall was a life member of the Moree Boomerangs Rugby League Football Club, Miyay Birray Youth Service Inc, Moree and the Friends of Myall Creek Committee.

He was one of the silent achievers who was recognised in 2002 as a joint recipient of the National NAIDOC Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male Elders of the Year Award and the NSW Law and Justice Foundation in 2013. The award recognises Lyall's work with the Myall Creek Memorial and his involvement in the fight to stop the development of Taylor Oval, Moree, an iconic local sports ground, to protect the immense historical and cultural value of the site.

He continued to advise and consult with people on issues relating to Aboriginal affairs locally and more broadly and mentored many Aboriginal leaders and politicians.

He was not averse to confrontation on political and social justice issues relating to Aboriginal people.

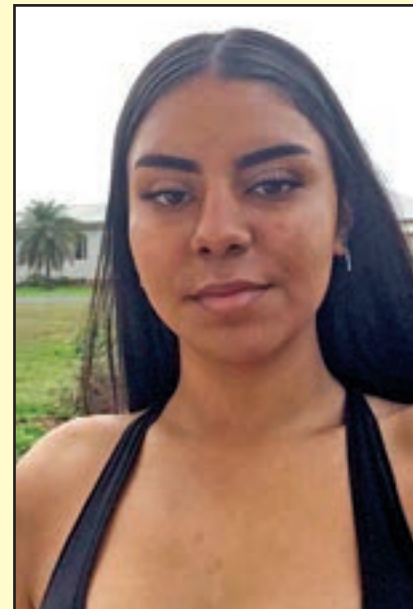
He passed peacefully surrounded by members of his large family and will be deeply missed by the Komerioi/ Gomeroi nation, by the wider Aboriginal community throughout Australia and by all Australians who have shared in the cause of justice and equality.

A state funeral was held for Uncle Lyall in Moree last Saturday, July 11.

Danny Eastwood's view



A YARN WITH...



Dorothy Willis-Castle

Bundjalung Nowra NSW

Favourite bush tucker?
Kangaroo.

Favourite sport?
Rugby league.

Favourite holiday destination?
Sydney.

Which black or indigenous person would you like to meet?
Jessica Mauboy.

What would you do to better the situation for Aboriginal people?
Help more in the Aboriginal community.

Which people would you invite for a night around the campfire?
Nan and Pop, Bundjalung Elders and family friends.

What do you like in life?
Being surrounded by family.

What don't you like in life?
When people are fighting and people don't respect each other.

What is something about your family that makes you proud?
Having people to look up to.

Favourite music?
Hip hop, rap.

Favourite other food?
My nan's burgers she makes for us kids.

Quote



"Dance is about song, story, ritual, the passing of intergenerational knowledge. Each day, with the passing of a custodian or a boss man of a particular song, story or dance, we literally lose that bush library. Younger generations are helping to keep the continuation of our culture now, and more than ever our youth are wanting to learn these cultural aspects of ritual and ceremony and particularly the story of country."

*Widjabul woman and artist
Rhoda Roberts*

● See page 25

Unquote

Paying tribute to leadership

TOO often this space is taken up with calls for truth, justice and action from governments after we highlight the various trials and tribulations facing our communities.

But this time we simply say thank you to three special people.

Uncle Lyall Munro Senior, who was farewelled at a state funeral held in Moree last Saturday, was a true, humble leader of his people.

To list his achievements would fill this entire space, but it's suffice to say that his passing is keenly felt by everyone who knew him.

From humble beginnings working on the railways, Uncle Lyall Senior rose to become a legend of his community; a voice of reason and passion for his people.

His voice resounded not only at a community level on numerous boards and committees, but also around the globe as an executive member of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples.

Uncle Lyall Senior rubbed shoulders with world leaders as comfortably as with his mates at the footy.

He mentored young leaders, and worked tirelessly for a better deal for his people.

Another to have passed recently was Ronnie Summers, a beloved pillar of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community.

Uncle Ronnie was raised on Cape Barren Island Reserve by his father and family, surrounded by the unique Cape



Barren style of music that went on to define his life.

He was a songman and storyteller, and he shared his gifts widely, teaching younger generations of their history and culture.

He leaves a legacy that has helped guide generations of children who sat at his feet, spellbound by the stories of their country and culture.

And finally we pay tribute to one still living.

Three-time Olympian and NBA champion Patty Mills has just announced that he will donate every cent of the \$1.5 million he will earn playing for the San Antonio Spurs in the upcoming NBA restart to social justice causes in Australia.

The veteran Australian point guard said he had been encouraged by the public response to the Black Lives Matter movement since the police-arrest death of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May. Like those who have gone before him, Patty Mills realises that his personal success is reliant on strengthening and supporting culture and community.

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

Poet breathing new life into our stories

By KIRK PAGE



GROWING up in Meanjin (Brisbane), Ellen van Neerven spent many childhood days at the local library, where Ellen's mum was employed.

"My mum is a really creative person. We come from a creative family," Ellen said.

"Mum always took us to the library. She had a job there and we would go there during the school holidays and I always remember loving reading as a kid. I remember thinking when I was younger that I wanted to become a writer of children books."

Ellen has Mununjali/Yugambah and Dutch heritage with strong ancestral ties to south-east Queensland and writes fiction, poetry and non-fiction.

Curiosity for story and knowledge led Van Neerven towards pursuing creative writing at the Queensland University of Technology and it was there that Ellen was introduced to the works of Oodgeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker).

"I didn't really see myself represented in many books as a child growing up. I hadn't read many books written by Black authors until I began my studies in creative writing at the Queensland University of Technology," Ellen said.

Ellen attended sessions at the Oodgeroo unit on campus, reading works by great artists and poets discovering writings by noted Black female writers such as Lisa Bellear and Oodgeroo Noonuccal.

"I began learning more about Auntie Oodgeroo and the wonderful collection of powerful poems and stories that she has written. It was incredible to discover that Oodgeroo Noonuccal was one of the very first Black females published in Australia during the 60s," Ellen said.

"I began writing my own things. I really needed a lot of encouragement. I didn't want to write with all of the rules. I didn't want to follow the style of writing that most institutions model. I needed to develop my own voice. There were people that I met on the way, older Aboriginal writers who were happy to guide me in the right direction and show me the way and I felt confident to then step into that space."

Ellen's first published book of poetry *Heat and Light* caught the attention of the literary community across the country and won the David Unaipon Award in 2013, the Dobbie Literary Prize in 2014 and



Ellen van Neerven
Picture: Anna Jacobson

**"With poetry it's about real listening, I think.
Through the listening, things come to me.
It's a bit like music, lyrics, like the lyrics of a song
that don't seem to want to leave you.
It really comes through like sound.
When it does I have to stop what I'm doing and
write it down or put it in my phone.
I'm not sure where it comes from."**

received the 2016 NSW Premiers Literary Award.

"There are three parts to the work *Heat and Light*. In *Heat* we meet several generations of the Kresinger family and the legacy left by the mysterious Pearl. In *Water*, we witness a futuristic imagining of a people whose existence is under threat. While in *Light* familial ties are challenged and characters are caught between a desire for freedom and a sense of belonging," Ellen said.

Ellen has also written for the stage and presented a reading of a performance piece about water sovereignty and queer bodies called *SWIM* for the Yellamundie play festival held in Sydney and produced by Mooghalin Theatre at Carriageworks.

Exploring identity, sovereignty and the restless quest for love, van Neerven offers readers a cross-cultural vision of the exotic and the familiar. Ellen's work reaches

into the experience of young Black queer bodies reflecting a voice seldom heard through poetry, fiction, non-fiction and performance.

"I would call myself a literary activist because I use literature as a way to get our stories out there," Ellen says.

"I'm really strong in who I am now. You have to make yourself vulnerable and be able to do that in a way that's safe for you, so that when you finish a project you don't fall apart. Finding the



Published by University of Queensland Press, *Throat* is van Neerven's latest offering of poetry.

things that hold you up, asking the questions: What do I need? What do I have to say? What do I have permission to say? It's all a part of the process of bringing the inside out. A lot of soul searching, I guess. It's not just a creative process. There is a lot of personal reflection and thought on my relationships with other people."

Ellen has a lot to say, but also knows the importance of listening.

"The first line of a poem will guide me, tapping into something that's almost spiritual."

"With poetry it's about real listening I think. Through the listening things come to me. It's a bit like music, lyrics, like the lyrics of a song that don't seem to want to leave you. It really comes through like sound. When it does I have to stop what I'm doing and write it down or put it in my phone. I'm not sure where it comes from."

"I often work with themes – my last book was called *Comfort Food* and it was about food and the senses, and *Throat*, my latest book of poetry, is about exploring voice and truth."

"I asked myself what are the things that I want to say, that I'm scared to say. I wrote this down and it became the theme of *Throat*."

Throat is the explosive second poetry collection exploring love, language and land. Unforgiving in its interrogation of colonial impulse, this book is fiercely loyal to voicing truths and telling the stories that make us who we are.

Ellen is also the editor of *Homeland Calling*, another recent collection written by First Nations youth/artists exploring their place in the world, expressing the future they want for themselves and their communities.

Calling for action



Ambelin Kwaymullina belongs to the Palyku people of the eastern Pilbara region of Western Australia. Kwaymullina is an award-winning writer, illustrator and law academic who works across a range of genres, including science fiction for young adults, poetry, non-fiction and children's picture books.

Living on Stolen Land is Ambelin Kwaymullina's call to action, an original and compelling address inviting Australia to come to terms with its own past and its place within and on Indigenous countries.

Living on Stolen Land is a beautiful and powerful piece of writing. There's a simplicity to the writing, below which runs a multitude of narratives and songlines, history and countries. Ambelin has distilled forests and skies and

oceans and mountains, everything that informs her manifesto, and offers it to the reader in its entirety, a clear and complete call to action to come to terms with colonisation.

This book speaks of stubborn endurance, narrative sovereignties, kinship, time, responsibility and meaningful action, the need to continually identify, challenge and disrupt, engaging in decolonisation, the breakdown of bias in its many forms, and the ways to shift that bias.

"*Living on Stolen Land* isn't just for allies and individuals who are interested in decolonising Australia," said Magabala Publisher Rachel Bin Salleh. "This powerful and challenging book is for everyone. We ask you to journey with us in uncovering our truths and building a fairer future."

Koori Mail feature writer Kirk Page talks with Ambelin Kwaymullina about some of the ideas raised in her new book.

As an author you write for young people and adults. How does the process differ?

It's really different writing for children because it's of prime importance that you write in a way that is age appropriate. Depending on what age you're writing for, you're thinking about it all the time. You still can deal with serious issues but it will be different depending on the age. A five-year-old is different to a 10-year-old or a 15-year-old, so you are making sure that you're doing it responsibly and appropriately.

You have written children's science fiction. What is it about science fiction that you enjoy?

I enjoy both science fiction for teenagers and picture books for kids. There's a lot of Indigenous writers in this space now – there's a term that I like to use which is Indigenous futurism. It's a form of writing which uses the speculative fiction genre which challenges colonialism and imagines Indigenous futurism. Many authors, like Brenton McKenna from Broome, are doing really amazing work. More of this kind of work is coming out now and it's something that young people are particularly interested in and there's a global movement of Indigenous people writing in this space at the moment.

What does it mean to you to come to terms with colonisation?

I talk about decolonisation in the book and one of the things that comes through really clearly is that, of course, we are many voices with many different nations and decolonisation is answerable to local sovereign Indigenous people in our nations. For non-Indigenous nations it's about doing the work to break down the structures of settler colonialism.

Indigenous peoples did not create those structures and we don't benefit from them, so the people who did create them have to knock them down and do the work of forming relationships with local sovereign nations.

How would you describe a call to action and who should be called to action?

This is a conversation that a lot of people are having at this time. A lot of Indigenous people have made this point and most recently I saw Miranda Tapsell saying 'Non-Indigenous people have a lot of work that they need to do. They need to step up and really take it upon themselves to do the work of anti-racism and the work of dismantling early settler colonialism.'

Often things get categorised

Writer, illustrator and law academic Ambelin Kwaymullina.



as 'an Indigenous problem' but they are not – we didn't create it or benefit from it. This is not a new conversation. This has been talked about for so long. Some people are hearing this for the first time but it isn't something new. Indigenous people have been talking about solutions for a very long time. There are evidence-based practical things that can be done. It's just that governments have not acted upon it.

How was your time at university?

After graduating with a Bachelor of Law in 1998 I took up a role as an assistant professor of law at the University of Western Australia. My academic research focused on both public law, and on Indigenous peoples and the law. I was mostly really tired

during my time as a student. It was a hard slog. It feels like a very long time ago. After I completed my law studies I went into working for the government dealing with water and the environment before I became an academic.

Now there is a new generation of people coming through with law degrees who are filled with fire and commitment and it's great to see that they will go off into the world to do the most incredible things.

How did you come to the term 'stubborn endurance'?

I was thinking about what our old people have had to live through – for so many years. The protection legislation that was around for a long time and those extreme controls around Aboriginal people, for a long time,

and how our people dug in, and they endured through the most awful situations.

How do we as a community disrupt the status quo?

I talk about disrupting settler colonialism and those structures. We won't be able to overcome settler colonialism until the structures that have grown out of settler colonialism are replaced by respectful relationships with Indigenous sovereignties. That's what needs to happen.

Change those structures and form respectful relationships and grow new ones and rebuild and regrow structures from that.

How would you describe sovereignty and why is it important?

There is a Western concept of sovereignty and I think in lots of



Living on Stolen Land by Ambelin Kwaymullina, Magabala Books.

ways it doesn't have a lot in common with Indigenous concepts of sovereignty because Western concepts are very much about domination and are founded in a taking of something from someone else because that's what settler colonialism is founded in: taking or claiming that land from Indigenous people.

One of the things I talk about in the book is the sovereignty of Indigenous peoples. I like to call it narrative sovereignty. It's a sovereignty based in story and a sovereignty based in relationships.

For Indigenous peoples that belonging doesn't arise from taking this land from someone else. That belonging arises from having relationships with land and having the stories that tell you about those relationships and of how to behave in ways that nurture life.

What does self care mean to you? How do you decompress from your work?

I think it's really difficult and it's something that we as Aboriginal people need to be talking about and need to continually keep talking about it, particularly in times like these.

There is so much happening all of the time and of course in the age of the internet it's a 24/7 cycle. For me, I try to be very conscious. When you start to feel that you're nearing the edge of overload I try to do things like step away from technology for a while. I like to go on walks or take the dogs to the park.

I think it's about finding whatever it is that helps you. It's not the same for everyone.

Find the thing that brings calm and keep practising it because it's very easy to let it slip and we hold a lot of responsibility in many different spaces where people are often relying on us.

Living on Stolen Land is available from Magabala Books \$22.99



Compensation process still causing confusion

Thank you for the story published on July 1 about the outcome of the Queensland Stolen Wages case ('Claimants risk missing Stolen Wages payment', page 5, *Koori Mail*, July 1). In Brisbane, we are using the page with that story as a poster to remind claimants to make sure they provide all necessary documents.

The process has been confusing, especially as what is now required from claimants is different from what they were told back in September.

For instance, now payments will only be made if bank details are provided.

In September, the documents given to people informed them as follows:

"Note: compensation payments will be made by electronic fund transfer if you provide bank details. If you do not provide bank details, you will be posted a cheque to the postal address you provide."

It is also disappointing that no weight is given to length of time or conditions of claimants' work.

As with the previous reparations payment by the state government, date of birth, not years of work will govern amounts paid.

Also, it seems that the large amounts earned by people now deceased are forever lost.

If there are no living children of those people, other relatives such as brothers, sisters, grandchildren, cousins and so on are not able to claim those funds.

Lin Morrow
Brisbane

Claimants risk missing Stolen Wages payment
Deadline to supply details is August 28

By CHRISTINE HOWES

THEY're not budging and they won't put anyone on it - but if Stolen Wages claimants registered to the Federal Court's Payment by August 28 they won't be paid.

As of last week that could mean as many as 7,219 registered claimants won't get their money, out of a possible 15,000 people, because they haven't provided sufficient identification Grant Thornton partner Anthony Bowen said.

There were also 1,815 claimants missing address details, 2,322 missing bank account details and at the end of May there were more than 300 claimants who hadn't provided their date of birth.

"The Stolen Wages case action has been going since 2010 and, as part of the case action, people have only been required to register some basic information since 2015," Mr Bowen said.

He said the cut-off date for providing information is August 28 and the Court had ordered people be paid by December 8.

"If you haven't received a claim statement yet, or haven't updated your details, please don't leave it until August, please contact us straight away," Mr Bowen said.

"So the good offices are still open, we've been having every day during COVID, our office has been open every day during COVID, we've just reopened our office in Townsville today. We're reopening our Brisbane office on July 8, and we'll be back into Yarrabubbin the

"It would break my heart to think some of those who fought for so many years may miss out now because they were unaware of the documents they need to prove they are rightful claimants."

— Dr Ros Kidd

Claimant Joanne Winnow, who grew up in the Chertsey, Queensland, speaking with former SA President Glen Gray and AFL/CFL SA President Jason Gries speaking to a public meeting in Adelaide in November 2020.

need access to the internet for their identification and a whole lot of other things. If they can't get that in they won't be able to make a claim," she said.

"I really would ask that people in the community support those efforts for them to be able to at least get a little bit of what they have been owed through this whole reparations process."

Mr Bowen said they had they had done, and were doing everything they could to get information to people and help them as much as possible.

"We need to have a deadline and August 28, this is the deadline the court has set for us," he said.

So after the 28th, the distribution statements will be closed and there's an appeal process that's built into the scheme, where people can appeal a decision.

"So if someone hasn't provided a bank account, which means they're ineligible, they'll need a letter saying they're ineligible and they can then use the appeal process and the Court will then decide under the Stolen Wages settlement scheme."

But, he said, that appeals process would cost.

"It's going to be harder for them and the Court has, in the scheme, imposed quite a significant fee," he said.

"If there's incorrect or missing information, we just require people to get in touch with us. We have people working every day and the priority is the money will go out to people quickly and that's all we focused on."

And the quicker we do it, the more money goes out to people because there's less costs in

Monuments need to tell the whole truth about history, not one side

Following the deaths of George Floyd and Rayshard Brooks, African American young men in the United States, there has been a revaluation of race relations and race history across a number of countries.

This revaluation has been focused through organised public events such as the Black Lives Matter campaign and other forums that have seen an amendment to television, film programs and archives.

Each country will have a unique race history that will define how this revaluation occurs, and how future generations will reconcile the past with the future social and race relationships.

In Australia, an opportunity now exists for First Nations people to respond to this challenge with positive strategies to reposition the historical story in a much more inclusive and 'truth in history' approach.

One avenue for this is the current revaluation of how statues and other monuments often tell a limited or exceedingly one-sided history story, either by highlighting selective achievements or omission of key events or social contexts.

There has been a view that statues and monuments especially those that relate to the colonial history of Australia should be removed or relocated out of prominent public places.

In Port Macquarie this view has centered on the statue of Edmund Barton. While in the context of the times, Barton was a key player in drawing up the Constitution, it is only this aspect that is represented with the current statue.

What is silent is the racist and exclusionary view held by Barton and his Protectionist Party that led to the Constitution providing a platform for the appallingly divisive

White Australia Policy, and the later public policy positions that denigrated Aboriginal people and their culture, leading to assimilation policies and child removal based on race.

I suppose the question here is whether removal of the statue causes the historical record to be amended and altered in a positive and enduring manner.

The danger is that this creates a swelling of public sentiment that once again Aboriginal people are being favoured with a token gesture, or at worst, imposing an exclusive view of their own history that is not inclusive of a modern multicultural social context.

Comments in the media such as, "it is not just about what Aboriginal people want" seem to reflect this dilemma. Removal also hides history, rather than re-evaluates and promotes cultural learning.

Maybe one positive way to address the issue related to a

number of these statues and monuments is not complete removal but inclusion of a full and frank historical accounts of deeds, events, views and subsequent social impacts caused by that person or institution. So, for Edmund Barton, a truth in history approach would describe both any perceived constitutional achievements, but would equally recount his racist views and how that impacts on the Constitutional focus and social history and destruction of Aboriginal social structure and cultural status. This then provides a historical account that educates future generations, is inclusive of all historical perspectives in a way that furthers every Australians right to be equal and valued in a tolerant multicultural country that does not hide from its past, but focusses on a collective future.

Carolyn Chapman
Port Macquarie, NSW

POETRY

Challenge the current hegemony

There's been so much talk of corruption

For years politics dominated the conversation

But it's important to also expose the police force

Discriminate, assault, intimidate and co-erce

We must remember that the current hegemony

Relies on the police to enforce the dichotomy

That since the beginning of invasion

Has left a bloodied handprint on this nation

One cannot survive without the other

So rise up and challenge the current structure

That is so systemically entrenched in this country

Open your eyes Australia and you will see

Things are not as they have been misconstrued

Search for the facts that have been kept from you

Break the heavy chains of injustice

To free a people systematically oppressed

Angela Aversesh
Cairns, QLD

Lament For Fairness.

Fought the invaders from over the sea, what chance against advanced technology?
Ever since suffered from racist policy, marginalised by capitalist ideology,
What's changed after the grandiose apology? How long until all people can be free?
Is Australia still wilfully too blind to see? No need for this sad but true reality.

Peter Mudd
East Lismore, NSW

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

Education is the key

TO put an end to the ongoing national disgrace that is Aboriginal deaths in custody, and to prevent the destruction of ancient sites of world significance, Australians must value and understand our true history and the incredible, unique culture to which we are all heirs.

There is one sure way to do this – through education.

Every school in Australia needs to employ a local Indigenous cultural educator. With traditional knowledges and practices embedded in schools as an educational standard, we could transform our understanding of our land, our cultural heritage, end systemic and societal racism.

And we must do this now.

Recent news reports such as Rio Tinto's destruction of a significant sacred site of the Puutu Kuntj Kurrama and Pinikura people in the Pilbara region, and prominent Australians denying the use of slave labour in the past has coincided with tens of thousands of First Nations and non-Indigenous Australians protesting Indigenous deaths in custody and police brutality.

If anything speaks to the systemic racism that we all live in, it's the irony of police guarding



Anne Pattel-Gray

statues of questionable colonial figures and Netflix removing offensive content, when First Nations people are dying in cells, and it's legal for mining giants to destroy irreplaceable 46,000-year-old sites comparable to the Roman ruins the world also treasures.

This is why recent comments on Australians needing to know our own history from Federal Education Minister Dan Tehan were so welcome.

We need a deeper commitment at all levels of government to First Nations perspectives across the school curriculum. The protests are highlighting the urgency of

systemic change to deliver justice.

These changes should include an education system that provides a culturally safe place for all First Nations children to learn and grow and meaningful teaching of Indigenous history and culture.

Around 100,000 people attended these rallies, and a recent poll by Essential found that while most respondents didn't attend due to COVID-19 risks, 62% believed the protests were justified, while a recent Change.Org petition on a First Nations subject being compulsory in schools is approaching 150,000 signatures.

Australia is speaking. Racism must be addressed.

If you're not sure racism exists, consider this: The Australian National University survey found that around 75% of people polled held an unconscious bias which can lead to racial discrimination, and that the discrimination experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples was not imagined.

The evidence, frameworks and public will are clear: It's now time to act.

Placing a local Indigenous cultural educator in every Australian school would instill in

future generations the truth about First Nations people – our achievements, and the resilience of a culture that's survived more than 200 years of colonisation. This is not about attacking teachers, but rather providing better support for teachers and students alike.

World Vision is also calling for cultural immersion programs that go beyond the classroom, with students taken on excursions by First Nations people to experience our living, breathing history.

This will create a future where First Nations values and ways of being are grounded in a stronger and inclusive Australian society.

This position is consistent at an international level with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples where signatories have a responsibility to deliver culturally relevant education for Indigenous children.

A local Indigenous cultural educator would:

- provide cultural awareness education in the classroom, including sharing First Nations history, language and stories;
- coordinate on country learning experiences for students, teachers and school staff;
- provide cultural awareness

training for teachers and school staff; and

- support cross-curriculum embedding of First Nations knowledges, such as teaching science, geography and mathematics through First Nations practices and approaches.

There are around 7000 public schools across Australia, and several have Aboriginal education assistants, particularly where there are high Indigenous student numbers.

However, these are primarily focused on education support, pastoral care and to enable engagement for First Nations students across Australia.

With dedicated cultural educators, we have a real opportunity to transform Australia into a country that treasures its unique First Nations heritage alongside the other traditions that form our complex and amazing society. We can eradicate injustice and suffering.

Fair, inclusive, generous and culturally enriched – this is the Australia that together we can work towards.

● *Bidjara woman Dr Anne Pattel-Gray is the head of World Vision's Australia programs.*

Let's focus on domestic violence

EVERY time I go home to country, I notice something different. This has been from the very first time when as a 14-year old my Mother first took me to Toomelah. What I witnessed, despite the third-world poverty stated by Justice Marcus Einfeld after the 1987 Human Rights Commission Report, was love, solidarity, belonging and identity.

On a recent visit my cousin Glynis said, "We may not have money, the education and jobs they have over the (QLD) border in Goondiwindi, but, when one of our babies is born, they have the biggest mob in the waiting room and that child is handed around, nursed by a hundred people the first three months of its life. That makes us richer than people can ever imagine."

I remember two years ago being confronted with the lack of water when going home. I could walk across the MacIntyre River where I once swam and did micky-flips off the rocks at the back of the mission growing up as a teenager. The MacIntyre and Dumaresq River (called the Sovereign River by the local mob), remain integral to the cultural, historical, environmental, spiritual, social, and economic survival of our people.

At a consultation meeting at Toomelah, mob recalled having to live under Government rations, and



Woolombi Waters

the river was the main food source, contributing towards a staple diet over the food rations. Over time, the rivers have been diverted through a number of weirs, that have contributed to the lack of water I witnessed two years ago.

The water stored in Goondiwindi, a town that is predominantly non-Aboriginal and a major producer of cotton only 10 minutes from Toomelah and Boggabilla, which are both predominantly Aboriginal communities, is of a far higher volume and quality.

This disparity, not only the water, but infrastructure, housing, employment education and resources, creates a sense of isolation despair and a feeling of inequality that has a detrimental effect on the

wellbeing and mental health of our community. There is no doubt segregation, as a form of structural and historical apartheid, is occurring in 21st century Australia.

Since having that consultation meeting a lot of time and energy including an Aboriginal Water Assessment has taken place, and together with the coming of rain and in working tirelessly with the community water is now once again flowing on the mission and mob are fishing again and providing for families through the river.

I was always told to get an education that best serves the needs of our community, and to see the water flowing again, and know that I played some small part gives me great pride. And here lays the conflict many of us have in rearing our own children. Once we look through the romanticism of place and belonging we are conflicted with the cold hard statistics that outline the real gap in Australia, not only between white and black, Toomelah and Goondiwindi, but the privilege and opportunities that come for our own mob with education compared to family remaining on our homeland communities.

In having a nominated position with the Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations (NBAN) and as an elected applicant on our Native Title claim, I have found myself the victim of lateral violence,

both caught in structural racism, and also the keyboard warriors on social media.

Nothing I have faced compares to the domestic violence that I witnessed on my last trip to country and other Aboriginal communities. No matter my own privilege due to education I have always associated with mob who are suffering, with my own personal trauma and abuse public record.

I remember when my son, the first Aboriginal school captain of his primary school, was chosen to attend a young leaders' forum. When we picked him up from the station, my sista was there drinking with the park mob in the subway and, despite him being in his school blazer, wearing a tie and his slacks ironed, shirt tucked in, he went straight up to her gave her the biggest kiss, and she was so proud showing him off, and he was right at home, not shame at all.

As romantic as this sounds, it also puts us in confrontational positions. My latest trip, I saw one of my nieces with a black eye and a broken arm having been assaulted; I sat with one of my closest brothas as he opened up on his struggle with schizophrenia and yarndi marijuana and his being dependent, despite knowing he could lose his family if he doesn't give it up. I then witnessed a young girl very close to me

being punched in the face by her man as her mother-in-law was screaming at her. Yes, screaming at the girl being beaten, not the man beating her, as her brotha and father stepped in to stop him and another brotha who had joined in. All the while their babies, one two-years-old and the other nine months, are screaming and crying, exposed to the violence between not only the mother and father, but with both the grandmother and uncles encouraging it.

Sounds horrific, but for many of our people and much of my youth this is every day and it is our woman and children who pay the price. Due to the recent marches on Aboriginal Deaths and Custody and Black Lives Matter, which I support and was part of, we are all able to reference the 432 people who have died in custody since the 1991 Royal Commission. What many people can't reference so easily is just how many of our people have died through domestic violence in the same period.

I am a researcher and was not able to get an exact number, but what I did find was that our Aboriginal women are 45 times more likely to experience domestic violence than White women. Our women are also murdered as a result of domestic violence 11 times higher, which increases to 17.5 times higher for our women on

traditional Aboriginal communities.

I found a number of references that cite Alice Springs as having the highest number of stabbings in the world due to cultural practices. Make no mistake, research shows clearly these patterns of violence are passed on from parents to their children.

The most frightening statistic of all, and this is not only attributed to physical violence, is that in the NSW Aboriginal community of Wilcannia a young person faces a life expectancy of only 37 years. I can't get my head around this.

As stated, I was part of the recent marches across Australia. I support Black Lives Matter but I can't help feeling that if tens of thousands were to also march against domestic violence and the living conditions of our people this would put the perpetrators of violence and the drug dealers on notice that we no longer accept such behaviour.

It's heartbreaking, but I will continue to go home and always represent those most vulnerable.

It's simple: If we left our people and our communities behind where else is there to go?

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





Last year's Dance Rites winners Muggerra Dance. Pictures: Joseph Mayers

Feel the power of our culture through dance

By KIRK PAGE



RHODA Roberts is a Widjabul woman of the Bundjalung Nation. Her clan's country runs from the seaside town of

Evans Head in the south to Nimbin in the west and Wollumbin (Mount Warning) in the north.

Rhoda is one of the pre-eminent Australian arts figures. She is the artistic curator of the Parrtjima Festival of Light in Alice Springs, and director of Boomerang, the First Nations festival within a festival of Bluesfest, and head of Indigenous programming at the Sydney Opera House.

Dance Rites is a yearly event held on Gadigal land at one of the oldest meeting sights in Sydney – Tubowgule. And it's one of the nation's biggest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural events. This year Rhoda Roberts and the team of Indigenous programming at the Opera House are taking Dance Rites online because of COVID-19.

Dance Rites began as a festival produced by Roberts to provide a platform for our languages, songlines and dances – both old and new.

"It's important we maintain our culture so that it is passed on to our young ones," Rhoda told the *Koori Mail*.

"We have 20-year-olds dancing and performing songs and ritual that have existed for thousands and thousands of generations. We don't want to lose that. Dance Rites helps focus on what we retain, but also as a living, adapting culture that is evolving with elements of the new."

This year, in response to



Rhoda Roberts and Sean Choolburra at Dance Rites last year.

nationwide measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the community, the 2020 festival will be presented as a digital event and will be broadcast on the Opera House's social media channels in November.

"Whenever there is a destabilising event – fires or floods, COVID – it's the artists and creative industry that brings people together," Rhoda said. "Films and books and songs have been written to mark our history, archiving our stories, showing us there will be better times."

"This is all a part of our creative healing and histories. Every culture on the planet has dance and music – it's how we come together and how we honour our memories, ancestors and lore."

"We are opening up

registrations with a new approach to Dance Rites. Two dance pieces, traditional and wild card (contemporary), will be filmed and with assistance from local media groups be screened during a music concert that will happen at the forecourt. This year we are going global and online, connecting to new audiences via the Sydney Opera house digital platforms.

"The wildcard category of the competition encourages the dancers to interpret the new from an older perspective. It's making culture relevant to today's society and it amazes me to witness this."

"In 2019, the Muggerra dancers won the competition and inside of that group are mob from Queensland, the Torres Strait Islands and NSW who take the utmost pride in relearning the old

ways then representing their own communities inside of that one dance group as a collective."

Rhoda believes that approach of blending and adapting traditional culture to today's world is embodied by the site on which Dance Rites is usually staged, Tubowgule, which means 'where the knowledge waters meet'.

"The Opera House is an iconic building for most of the world, but for us it's a site where communications of the Eora nation began," she said.

"It's one of the first sites where white people witnessed ceremonial dance or 'corroboree' and we want to continue the legacy of the Gadigal people as it continues to be a gathering place."

"We want to continue to make Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander culture accessible and through Dance Rites we maintain visibility."

NITV will also be screening the dance groups' performances.

"The online format has so much potential as there are a lot of communities that would not experience the event as it's usually in Sydney," Rhoda said.

Last year the event hosted 300 First Nations performers representing cultures from across the country from the Kimberley region to far north Queensland, the Tiwi Islands, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and NSW.

There was also a special performance by Indigenous Enterprise, a professional Native American group made up of dancers from tribes and First Nations across the United States and Canada.

The winning dance groups will be announced November 21. Afterwards a live music concert on the Sydney Opera House Forecourt will feature musical act Bow and Arrow and a line-up to celebrate this year's winners.

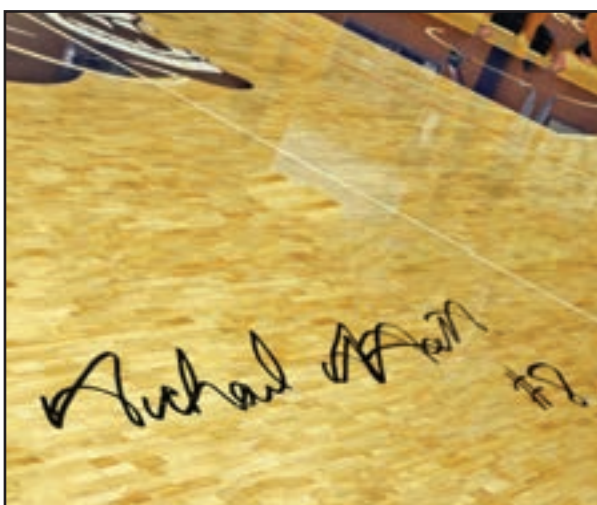
"While there is a competitive aspect of the event, it's also an expression of heritage and culture," Rhoda said.

"Dance is about song, story, ritual, the passing of intergenerational knowledge. Each day, with the passing of a custodian or a boss man of a particular song, story or dance, we literally lose that bush library. Younger generations are helping to keep the continuation of our culture now and more than ever our youth are wanting to learn these cultural aspects of ritual and ceremony and particularly the story of country."

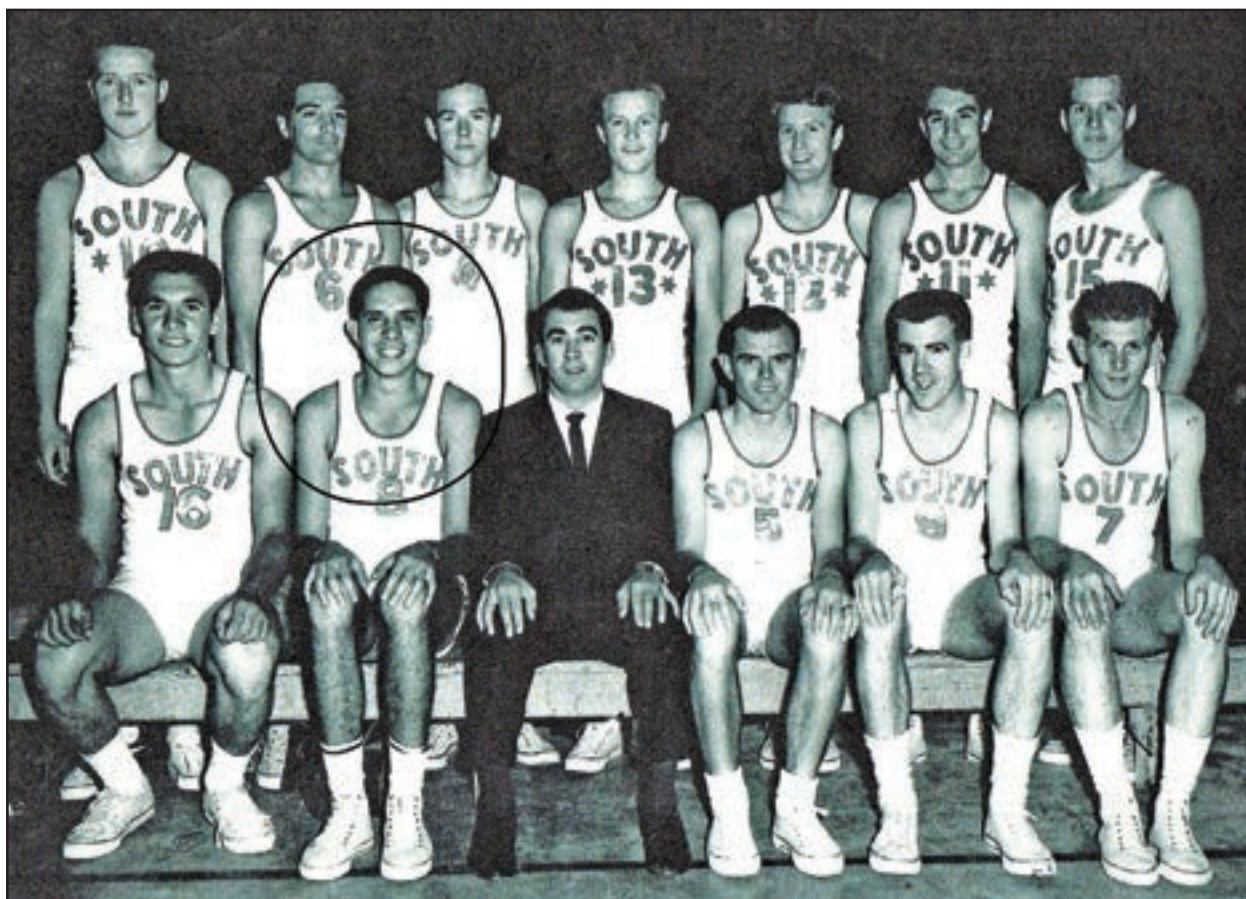
Registrations for Dance Rites are due by Sunday, August 16.



A young Malachi Ah Matt on the original Michael Ah Matt court, which was named in honour of his dad in 2011.



The Michael Ah Matt court now bears his signature.



The South Adelaide team of 1965, Ah Matt is circled. He played 588 games over 20 seasons with South Adelaide.



Michael Ah Matt's singlet from the 1968 Olympics.

A mark of respect

By PETER ARGENT



WITH the South Adelaide basketball court at Marion being resurfaced recently, it gave the chance for the club to honour Michael Ah Matt, the great Aboriginal basketballer of his era, the Michael Jordan of the 1960s and 1970s in Australia.

After playing for the Northern Territory in the 1959 Australian championships, Ah Matt came to Adelaide and played his first game of hoops for South Adelaide on February 25, 1960.

He had a career that lasted two decades and included becoming the first Aboriginal basketballer to compete at Olympic level in both 1964 Tokyo games and 1968 'Black Power' Mexico Olympics.

Ah Matt's contribution to the game was recognised in 2010 when he was inducted into the

Australian Basketball Hall of Fame, and

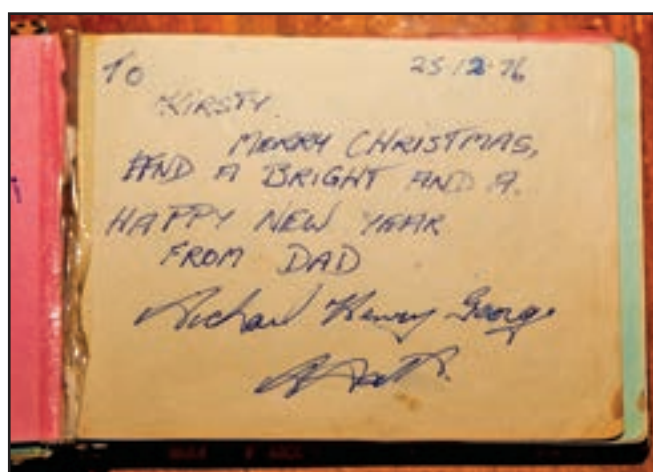


Kirsty Ah Matt with the autograph book containing her dad's signature.

it is a decade since the main court at the venue in suburban Marion was named in his honour.

The recent upgrade of the court surface has provided an opportunity to honour Ah Matt with a personal touch; etching his signature in the court, and in club history forever.

The story of South Adelaide acquiring Michael's signature is one of serendipity and all thanks to his daughter Kirsty.



The note the Michael Ah Matt wrote to his daughter on Christmas Day - 1976.

"I was approached by the South Adelaide president Bill Yeo after I mentioned I had Dad's signature in an autograph book," Kirsty explained.

"He wrote in this back in 1976 for Christmas, as it was a present. I went around and got all the family's signatures on Christmas Day.

"On reflection, it is a great piece of family history and special heirloom for our clan.

"Initially when the court was named back in 2011, Dad just had his name printed on the court.

"Now with South re-laying this main court this year, they were able to use that signature - and honour Dad, by having his actual autograph on the court."

Michael Ah Matt's three children all were talented basketball players in their own right.

Michelle, the oldest by four

years, Kirsty now 49, and son Shane, who is 43 in October, all played state league basketball for South Adelaide

"Michelle and I played in the same team for a while," Kirsty Ah Matt explained.

"As I was always wearing my Panthers uniform as a kid, the team was short one day and I sat on the bench as a 10-year-old, which makes me the youngest player to suit up at SA state league level.

"As players got fouled off, I actually got onto the court late in the game, and scored over Olympian Julie Nykiel.

"I was lucky enough to play in South Australia state underage team for a number of seasons.

"My brother Shane earned three flags for South Adelaide before going over to the American College basketball system. He won NCAA division two conference title with Denver 20 years ago. Michelle also played Women's Basketball Conference title for the Panthers."

Sadly, the naming of the Michael Ah Matt court and his 2010 induction into the Hall of Fame were posthumous.

The Townsville Community Choir Group.



Shared celebration

By ALF WILSON



ON July 1 each year, Torres Strait Islander people participate in Coming of the Light events, which celebrate when Christian missionaries arrived on Erub on July 1 in 1871, introducing Christianity to the region.

It is a significant day for many Torres Strait Islander people, who are predominantly of Christian faith. The Coming of the Light celebrates the interaction of Torres Strait Islander customs, traditions and beliefs and Christianity.

The coronavirus pandemic affected some of the usual events, which in other years have included a reenactment of the missionaries arriving on Erub.

Townsville community members sang their hearts out for the 149th anniversary on July 1, in an event that was live streamed on Facebook.

With COVID-19 restrictions, organisers turned to social media to share with community the special hymns that are only sung during Coming of the Light church service.

Velma Gara used her Ailan Style Music Show page to go live on Facebook and Genus Passi introduced the live stream.

"The live streaming is a way that families in Townsville can make a small contribution towards the celebration of July 1, a day which we recognise and acknowledge nationwide," Mr Passi said.

"It's also to plant the seed with the Torres Strait community for the 150th anniversary next year and for all Islanders living on the mainland and all denominations to come together to celebrate this milestone."

At 10am the Townsville community choir group sang four Eastern Island Language Hymns: Abele Gerger Peltotida, Debe



Louisa Hood and Mettassa Zaro.



Kerged Ghee



Wya Sailor and Allison Sailor.



Nellington Barsa

Datik Teper Geur Tum Ge, Emeret Ge Emeret Ge and Missionari Ra Mar Naiger Peke.

"The community choir group then sang five more hymns to complete the live streaming," Ms Gara said.

Members of the choir are Nellington Barsa, Loudon Dow, Eli-joan Dow, Kai Dow, Kerged Ghee, Ray Ghee, Louisa Hood, Ian Kaddy, Alma Pilot, Allison Sailor, Wya Sailor, Zane Sailor and Louisa Tamwoy.

The two-part live streaming attracted more than 6000 views in three days since going on Facebook on July 1.

Some of the comments from as far away as Western Australia and the Northern Territory were:

"So spiritual, thank you for celebrating Townsville." – Angelina

"Beautiful to see family share some language hymns." – Richard

"Love youpla (you) my families

and Happy Zulai Wan (July 1) .. my cry come por my Dad. Esso (Thanks) por share this live.. Big Esso, sending blessing from Kalgoorlie WA." – Sonia

"Lovely, I miss my home on days like this – Au Esoau for live stream." – Esther

"In NT, lovely all Ailan hymns, so miss this." – Relma

"All them songs prapa touch your heart, AU ESOAU for sharing families love yupla." – Frank

"Yagar, tears to my eyes Esso Praise to God." – Richard

"Thank goodness for social media, all kind emotions here." – Daliah

"Was such a beautiful way to start my day. Loved every moment of it. Singing was very touching." – Elisha





The NCIE holds a smoking ceremony in Redfern to kick off their online program.

Excellence celebrated at virtual gathering



WHEN restrictions imposed due to COVID-19 prevented the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE) Indigenous Digital Excellence (IDX) team from hosting their annual Champions Camp on Gadigal country, the team decided to host it virtually instead. The result was a true celebration of Indigenous digital excellence, culture and connection.

The annual camp, which is usually hosted at the NCIE in Redfern, is an opportunity for IDX's network of community champions to connect, share knowledge, and gain new skills to take back to their communities.

The IDX program is fuelled by a dedicated and passionate network of local facilitators. These IDX Champions are Elders, teachers, community service workers, parents and entrepreneurs based in the communities IDX visits. They are the people driving IDX at a grassroots level in their community.

IDX manager Grant Cameron said the camp is always an event everyone looks forward to, and he was pleased the team was able to offer the program virtually.

"The situation as a result of COVID-19 has been difficult, and for many of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities it has had a significant impact," he said.

"Even though the program focuses on technology and digital innovation, we are actually all about the people. Through our work it is important that we (IDX, NCIE) continue to connect our communities and act as a bridge to opportunities for our mob, particularly during these difficult times."



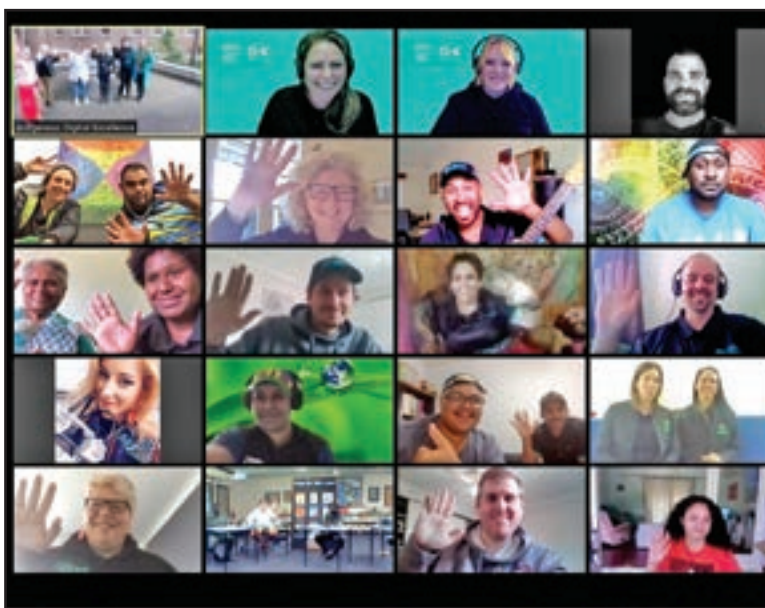
The NCIE team in Redfern welcomes everyone to IDX virtual gatherings.



Murray Bridge mob Lesley Benbolt, Harley Hall and Ali Wells-Fechner.



Indigenous Digital Excellence manager Grant Cameron and Aunty Beryl Van-Oploo.



Participants in an IDX virtual gathering.

More than 30 participants across 11 regional and remote communities took part in the inaugural IDX virtual gathering, which included 15 sessions delivered over five days, using video conferencing platforms

such as Zoom and Adobe Connect. Participants included artists and Elders from Erub Island in the far Eastern Torres Strait Islands, teachers and mentors from Newman in Western Australia, Darwin, and Bamaga in far north

Queensland, and media and arts workers from Broome (WA), Woorabinda (Qld), Roebourne WA, Birdsville (Qld), and youth workers and educators from Yirrkala (NT), Murray Bridge (SA) and Tamworth (NSW).

The virtual gathering gave people the chance to be connected in ways unimaginable a few months ago.

The inaugural IDX Virtual Gathering kicked off on May 18 with a Smoking Ceremony and Welcome streamed live from the NCIE across all participating communities.

Everyone was asked to share something special from country, creating an opportunity to remind the group that while they were apart, everyone is connected by country.

The IDX team pulled together expertise from its network of partners and supporters to help deliver the gathering, including the Telstra Foundation, Code Club Australia, NEO-learning, the Australian Museum and more.

Sessions included virtual yarnning circles, digital storytelling,

3D printing, coding, business mentoring and even weaving. All sessions were co-facilitated and grounded in culture and community.

Elaine Rabbit from Ngaarda Media in Roebourne said she'd enjoyed the sessions.

"I loved how we had families sharing this week, that sharing of generations of different knowledge and culture," she said. "And Elders present in sessions. The weaving workshop was also so special – because how often do we sit down and do something like that?"

Gamilaroi Elder, educator, mentor and businesswoman Aunty Beryl Van-Oploo took part in the virtual sessions and hadn't done anything like it before, but she loved it.

She co-facilitated the My Big Idea Workshop alongside Adelle Laing from Global Sisters, offering business advice and mentoring to the participants.

"Coming from the background I am coming from I am so proud of the all of the changes. Modern technology is the way for us to keep going and keep connected," Aunty Beryl said.

Kin and country are our kids' birthright

By NICK PATON



WHEN one in 18 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children is in out-of-home care, more than 10 times that of other Australian children, something is wrong with the system.

That's why more than half a million dollars has been pledged to the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) and the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare to co-design the Growing Up Aboriginal Babies at Home project.

Professor Muriel Bamblett, chief executive at VACCA, told the *Koori Mail* that the three-year project is set to launch in October in partnership with the University of Melbourne's Department of Social Work, and is a new approach to supporting young Aboriginal mothers in raising their babies and infants at home.

VACCA is a statewide Aboriginal community-controlled organisation, servicing children, young people, families and community members, and is the largest of its kind in Australia.

Professor Bamblett said the project will support Aboriginal women in Victoria to better meet their needs, and reduce the likelihood of their children entering the state's child protection and care system.

"You only need to look at the data and you will notice just how many children are entering out-of-home care, and the age these kids are entering the system is very upsetting, and saddens me often," she said.

"For someone to be waiting around for the birth of a child just to take it away as soon as it's born, really should be left as the absolute last resort.

"The essence of this program is about working out how we actually engage with parents much earlier, and protect children, because we know that children have the best hope when they are allowed the opportunity to grow up with all members of their family."

Intergenerational trauma

Prof Bamblett said the most critical part of the program is keeping kids connected to their mum, dad and family, which helps break the cycle of removal, particularly that of newborn babies.

"In one case we have come across, there were up to six generations of Aboriginal children being removed from their family in one line," she said.

"So when you think about six generations of Aboriginal people, all being taken from



Chief executive of the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) Professor Muriel Bamblett.

their families since 1788, it is a lot of years of child removal, and really highlights the causes of intergenerational trauma that can be traced right back to the very first Stolen Generations.

"We know the severe impacts of the Stolen Generations, which, for over 230 years, have set up and continued a cycle of poverty, trauma, displacement, drug and alcohol abuse, family violence, relentless child removals, and the subsequent involvement of Aboriginal people being caught up in the juvenile justice system."

Prof Bamblett said VACCA was thrilled to receive funding for the project, which was awarded by members of the Out-of-Home Care Philanthropic Funders Network.

"We know that once Aboriginal kids are in child protection, they often become involved in the juvenile justice system, which progresses to their involvement in adult prisons, and this all has many negative impacts on a person's right to self-determination," she said.

The project will help families build on their strengths and to recognise some of the challenges they may face.

It will also help Aboriginal mothers ask 'how did I get to this position in my life?', because many Aboriginal people don't actually understand how their own family, or parenting, or personal tragedy has impacted on them as a person, or their ability to parent.

Strengthening families through culture

"So it's important that we take into consideration where our families come from, not as an excuse, but as a way of dealing with and addressing trauma," Prof Bamblett said.

"Aboriginal people know what causes these issues and we don't play the blame game."

"But all of these issues really arise from aspects that have been introduced to our communities, like the alcohol and drug culture we see today, which weren't part of our lifestyles for thousands of years before colonisation."

"We are working attentively with our families and our communities in relation to these issues so that they can be supported enough to raise their own children at home, because when you strengthen Aboriginal culture it has a better flow-on

"The essence of this program is about working out how we actually engage with parents much earlier, and protect children, because we know that children have the best hope when they are allowed the opportunity to grow up with all members of their family."

effect to better parenting and it works."

For Aboriginal people, Prof Bamblett said, knowing who you are and having connection to a strong cultural base is critical for good health and wellbeing, and having a strong and meaningful connection to your family helps to build resilience not only in the parent but in the child also.

She said there is plenty of information on how many Aboriginal babies are born, and how many thousands are being removed each year, and once that bond is broken between mother and child, there can be huge long-term implications.

"That's because an element of pain already exists for mothers who are agonising about their child being taken from them."

"So there has to be more eyes on the seriousness of this issue and the question needs to be asked: Why are there so many babies being taken? – so that we can figure out where the system has broken down," Prof Bamblett said.

"We would be doing things so differently if we somehow knew that the cure for cancer would one day end up in the mind of an Aboriginal child yet to be born."

"And we would be doing everything to put our effort into making sure that this child has the best possible future and that their mother is supported in the right way to nurture their child so that one day that cure might be realised."

Identity

Prof Bamblett said many of the programs run by VACCA are based around returning kids, and re-establishing connection, to country, working out their genealogy, and in some cases, their Aboriginality.

"All of our Aboriginal kids should know about their Aboriginality and be able to leave care knowing about their genealogy which they can wear as a badge of honour," she said.

"We want these kids to be able to look in the mirror and say, 'I know who I am and I know where I come from,' and for these kids to go back to their country and feel the earth beneath their feet, and so culturally rich experiences is something we need to keep creating."

"A lot of kids in care haven't had access to their language, or country, and may not even know the full extent of their Aboriginal ancestry because records have been deliberately destroyed or kept from them."

"So, for some of these kids, when someone asks them, 'Who's your mob?' or, 'What country are you from?' and if all that information is lost or yet to be uncovered, it can really make these kids feel even more vulnerable."

The project will provide Aboriginal mothers the chance to be able to work through the trauma they have faced.

"So we are saying to any expecting Aboriginal mother, don't be afraid to apply to take part in this program, because this is about setting up Aboriginal mothers with the tools and resources to take care of their own babies in their own homes," Prof Bamblett said.

"There is a crisis here in this country with the amount of Aboriginal babies continuing to be removed, and we can't hide anymore in naming this as a highly significant national issue, and we as a nation need to be bold enough to come up with innovative ways to tackle it."

Culture and science work together to warn of failing health of waterways



BIDJIGAL people are concerned that they can no longer safely harvest native seafoods in Sydney due to environmental concerns.

Bidjigal Elder Aunty Yvonne Simms said that the ill health of waterways was affecting foods that her people had eaten for many thousands of years.

"We can't eat anything out of the bay anymore and we fear this event is much greater than just seasonal storm damage," she said. "With the amount of industry surrounding the bay, chemical pollution and dredging, there are already many animals gone and this extreme event may be the tipping point for others."

The Abyss Project is a marine conservation and research organisation, which is working closely with the Bidjigal Sovereign Elders and Bidjigal Sovereign Tribal Elders Council of La Perouse (Guriwal), on the northern side of Kamay (Botany Bay) in Sydney.

A primary focus of the Abyss Project's research is to link Indigenous knowledge and story with research, exploration, and education aiming to protect Indigenous culture and heritage in the region.

The Abyss Project last week released a report outlining observations on the devastation to marine ecosystems in Sydney, which was triggered by the natural events and disasters earlier this year and late last year.

The sequence of record-breaking drought, bush fire season, and flooding rain events caused a "mass mortality event", which was observed across Sydney's inshore waterways.

Culturally significant seafoods including various shellfish populations have crashed in historic coastal harvesting areas, including the foreshore reefs of Kamay that are significant to the Bidjigal people.

When visiting Pussy Cat Bay (within Cape Banks Aquatic Reserve) on the northern shoreline of Kamay, the Bidjigal Elders and the team from the



Bidjigal people have been working with the Abyss Project, a marine conservation and research organisation, looking at marine waterways in and around Sydney. Pictures courtesy of the Abyss Project



Drought, fires and flooding rains have meant populations of conchs have crashed.

Abyss Project, confirmed that there was a distinct lack of conchs (turban shells) from along the rock platforms at low tide.

Conchs have been collected for millennia by Indigenous people in the area, as food and to make fishhooks and shell work.

Aunty Barbara Simms Keeley and Aunty Margie Scrufe both said they had observed large mounds of seaweed and piles of shells and sea urchins washed up along the foreshore of Yarra Bay and Frenchmen's Bay earlier this year. They both agreed it was more than they had ever seen in

their lifetime and deeply concerning to the community.

The report just released by the Abyss Project directly reflects the concerns by the Bidjigal Elders and shows the dramatic impacts to the submarine world following the event.

Research conducted by Gary Hamer has tracked the population crash of conchs in Kamay following the mass mortality event in February 2020. His research shows a near complete loss of individuals in the local area directly linked with the event, scientifically supporting the Bidjigal people's concerns for their culturally significant species.

Recently, the Abyss Project launched a series of research vessels including a 900-horsepower offshore research boat. The largest vessel in the fleet was named *Bidjigal Dreaming* during a naming and smoking ceremony on June 27 by Uncle Dean Kelly (Aboriginal liaison officer for National Parks

and Wildlife) and the Bidjigal Sovereign Elders and Bidjigal Sovereign Tribal Elders Council of La Perouse (Guriwal).

Director of the Abyss Project Carl Fallon said members of the La Perouse community gathered with the team of the Abyss Project to mark the arrival of Sydney's largest privately owned Marine Research fleet celebrating the symbiosis of Indigenous culture and Marine Science in Sydney.

"Being able to combine traditional stories and learnings with modern-day science is going to revolutionise the way in which people view our oceans and the way in which we can educate the wider community," he said.

"This knowledge and stories generationally passed down will enable us to obtain a clear picture on how the oceans across the Greater Sydney Region used to be, which forms anecdotal baseline data when comparing to changes in the marine ecosystem."

Heritage site to make way for airport runway



THE expansion of Perth Airport will destroy part of an Aboriginal heritage site, but the company says traditional owners have been consulted.

The airport plans to build a new runway that will consume about 10% of Munday Swamp, which the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) says has great significance to Noongar people, with customary and cultural activities still taking place.

Perth Airport says it has minimised the impact of the project, including moving the runway as far south as possible and

realigning taxiways around the swamp.

"When the new runway was first proposed in the 1970s and 1980s, it would have destroyed the entire Munday Swamp region," the company said.

"Under the current plans, around 90% of the swamp area will be retained, including the most significant water body, and we will be working hard to minimise this impact as we undergo final designs."

The airport secured approval in 2018 after lodging a Section 18 notice, which seeks the minister's consent where impact from a development is considered unavoidable.

At the time Aboriginal Affairs Minister Ben

Wyatt told parliament that Perth Airport had done everything in its engineering capacity to minimise the impact of the proposed runway.

"There will still be an impact on the site, although the vast majority of the location and its most luxuriant wetland area will not be affected," he said.

SWALSC wants the approval overturned, and has pointed to recent statements from WA Premier Mark McGowan following the destruction of ancient rock shelters at Juukan Gorge.

Rio Tinto's blowing up of two 46,000-year-old caves in the Pilbara area was legal as the miner also had Section 18 consent,

but it sparked international outrage, prompting an apology from the company for causing distress to the Puutu Kuntj Kurrama and Pinikura people.

The State Government says it is now working with miners and Aboriginal groups to ensure the destruction of such sites does not happen again. But Mr Wyatt said such a consent could not be reviewed or revoked.

"The McGowan Government is progressing new cultural heritage legislation to better protect Aboriginal heritage in Western Australia," he said.

"The Section 18 process under the current legislation will not exist in the proposed new legislation."

Preserving our languages

By NICK PATON



JINGI walla, yaama, bujari gamarruwa! (Good day in Bundjalung, Kamilaroi and Gadigal languages). Aboriginal Affairs

NSW has announced a major win for the re-invigoration and revitalisation of Indigenous languages across the state, thanks to the recent formation of the Aboriginal Languages Trust Board.

In October 2017, NSW became the first Australian state to formally recognise in legislation the importance of Aboriginal languages under the *Aboriginal Languages Act 2017*. The Aboriginal Languages Trust is a NSW Government Agency, established to provide a focused, coordinated, and sustained effort in relation to Aboriginal languages activities at local, regional and state levels.

Ngiyampaa (Ngemba) woman and new head of Aboriginal Affairs NSW Lil Gordon said nine



Head of Aboriginal Affairs NSW Lil Gordon.

Aboriginal community language practitioners and leaders had been appointed to the first Aboriginal Languages Trust Board.

"Each of the board members' knowledge, skills and experience is exceeded only by their determination and passion to revitalising Aboriginal languages across the state," Ms Gordon said.

"They will play an important role in supporting the wellbeing of our NSW First Peoples."



Jason Behrendt, Aboriginal Languages Trust Board chair.

Yuwaalaraay solicitor Jason Behrendt has been named chair of the board, bringing with him an extensive career working with Aboriginal communities across land rights, native title law and natural resources law.

"Mr Behrendt's expertise and experience with governance and legislative implementation, as well as his dedication to language revitalisation will provide strong leadership for the board to make a

significant impact," Ms Gordon said.

Mr Behrendt said that the board would continue to reawaken, grow and nurture Indigenous languages.

"The Act itself identifies the importance of language to Aboriginal people, not just in terms of our culture and how we connect to each other, but also as to how Aboriginal people connect to land, which I think is a really unique aspect of Aboriginal languages and identity," Mr Behrendt said.

"It's great that the Act and its preamble recognise the ways the Government has interfered with the passing on of Aboriginal languages historically, and that it is recognised there is a role the Government can now play in putting into place a structure that will facilitate the re-enlivening and support of Indigenous languages."

The board sat for its first meeting last month, and is made up of the following members:

Professor Lindon Coombes, co-chair of Reconciliation NSW and an industry professor at the Jumbunna

Institute for Indigenous Education and Research at the University of Technology Sydney;

Brinja-Yuin woman Patricia Ellis, teacher of the Dhurga language and founder of Minga Aboriginal Cultural Services;

Dharawal man Ray Ingrey, deputy chair of La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council with over 20 years involvement in leading language reclamation activities;

Fiona Kelly, executive principal at Menindee Central School;

Raymond Kelly, deputy head of school at the Wollotuka Institute, University of Newcastle;

Dr Lynette Riley, senior lecturer at the Sydney School of Education and Social Work, University of Sydney;

Gomeri Murri Yinnar woman Catherine Trindall, chair of the Tamworth Aboriginal Medical Service; and

Gumbaynggirr man Clark Webb, founder of Bularri Muurlay Nyanggan Aboriginal Corporation.

All board members will serve a term of five years.



Seed organisers Vanessa Farrelly and Ashleigh Pepperill. Picture: Toni Lord

Competition urges people to vote



A GROUP of young Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory wants Black votes to matter.

So they're running a competition to encourage Aboriginal people to enrol to vote.

Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Coalition NT campaigner Vanessa Farrelly, an Arrernte woman, said young Aboriginal people in the NT were outraged when they realised the high number of Indigenous adults who have been excluded from voting in previous Territory elections.

So, Ms Farrelly said, they decided to make a competition for Tik Tok (videos for smart phones) and posters encouraging other Aboriginal people in the NT to enrol for the upcoming election in August.

"Half of all Aboriginal adults in the NT have been left out of voting in previous elections," she said. "This has meant the NT Government has not heard what the

majority of Indigenous people in the NT have to say on issues that affect us – like land rights, water, housing, power, roads and mining in the NT."

Ethan Taylor, Warumungu young person and Seed communications manager, said that it was important for democracy that more Aboriginal people in the Territory enrolled to vote.

"Until 58 years ago, it was illegal for Indigenous people to vote in Australia," he said. "Our old people fought hard to get us the right to vote, and still today so many of our people in remote and regional NT can't vote."

"This competition is about breaking down the barriers for our people, by using our humour, culture and our connections to get the word out about how we can have a say this election."

Yanyuwa and Garrwa man Nicholas Fitzpatrick, Seed's remote community organiser, said that every voice was important.

"If more of our mob were empowered to vote, we could change the outcome of the election," he said.

"We saw that in the last 2016 NT election. Yingiya Mark Guyula, Yonglu countryman, won his Arnhem Land seat of Nhulunbuy by eight votes. Every vote counts, and more bush voters can mean more bush people in Parliament standing up for countrymen."

Indigenous people living in, or from, the NT are encouraged to enter to showcase their best Tik Tok videos, posters, paintings, cartoons and designs that 1) get the word out about the upcoming August 22 election 2) encourage our mob to enrol and vote.

Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Coalition has been facilitating this competition, which will run until July 23, a week before enrolments close. Winners for the poster and Tik Tok categories will receive \$1000 for first place, \$500 and \$100 for runners-up.

For more information: www.seedmob.org.au/competition

Report links bullying to suicide



INDIGENOUS people living in Victoria who die by suicide are more likely to have experienced bullying and abuse before their deaths, a new report shows.

Nearly two-thirds of Indigenous Victorians who take their lives had experienced abuse before their deaths, while a quarter experienced bullying, a report by Victoria's Coroner's Court has revealed.

Between January 2009 and April this year, 117 Indigenous Victorians took their own life. They are among 7000 Victorians who died by suicide in that period.

The report reveals Indigenous people experienced higher rates of contact with the justice system, substance use and interpersonal stressors before their deaths, compared to other Victorians.

Figures up to 2016 reveal 62% had been diagnosed with mental illness prior to their death, compared with 55% of other Victorians.

A quarter of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experienced bullying compared to 12% of other Victorians.

The report shows a spike in Indigenous deaths from suicide in 2018 and 2019, but notes it's unclear if the figures represent an actual increase or if it can be attributed to increased identification.

The court employed Troy Williamson as Koori family engagement coordinator last year.

"This is valuable data. It can inform existing programs and strengthen our communities' culturally safe response to Aboriginal wellbeing," he said.

Readers seeking support and information about suicide prevention can contact Lifeline 13 11 14 or Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467 or Kids Helpline (young people aged 5-25) 1800 551 800. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander support services can be found at www.naccho.org.au or www.sewbmh.org.au or www.healthinonet.ecu.edu.au

Mob living with disability find support

By NICK PATON



DESPERATE calls for help from Aboriginal people living with a disability in Western NSW

continue to go unanswered during the COVID-19 pandemic.

That's why the First Peoples Disability Network and the international humanitarian aid foundation AL-IHSAN have teamed up to deliver more than 800 essential food packages to Elders and mob living with a disability in Dubbo and surrounding regions.

It's the second time the First Peoples Disability Network and AL-IHSAN have united, with their first collaboration helping out Elders and mob living with a disability on the far south coast of NSW, right when the pandemic hit earlier this year.

This time the essential food packages are being distributed to Aboriginal people in western NSW with the help of the Regional Enterprise Development Institute (REDI.E) and many Local Aboriginal Land Councils from the Dubbo, Coonabarabran, Deniliquin, and Broken Hill areas.

First Nations Disability Network regional coordinator Deb King said it is important to acknowledge First Nations people with disabilities all the time, not just in times of crisis.

"Since the pandemic, we have been acutely aware that because of isolation there has been a spike in the mental health for our First Nations people, with many of our Elders still very vulnerable," she said.

"Our families have been disconnected, so it's been



First Nations Disability Network worker Deb King (centre) with AL-IHSAN foundation's Rashad Maarbani, Abdul Wali Osman, Ammar Dannoun, Ammar Hadba.

tougher for mob and our Elders, and simple things such as getting essential food supplies has been extremely difficult for many, especially for people living with someone who has a disability.

"So we need to protect our Elders and people living with a disability in communities like those in central far west NSW where we have really big Aboriginal populations."

Ms King said the barriers and red tape to getting supplies out to Elders and

Aboriginal people living with a disability need to be removed.

"Our Elders are our history. They're Australia's history. They're our knowledge keepers and we need to do whatever we can to look after them and support them, so that we don't lose them," she said.

REDI.E chief executive Tracey Shillingsworth said when the First Peoples Disability Network first reached out about the project, there was never a no in the equation.

"Since the COVID-19 outbreak, it was quite apparent to me that our First Nations people are the most vulnerable among our community," Ms Shillingsworth said.

"I knew that we were in for a bit of a ride given the remoteness of our communities and knowing how our communities are made up.

"Some communities don't even have stores."

Ms King said there is a desperate need for communities to support

Elders and First Nations people living with a disability and the first step is reaching out to organisations such as AL-IHSAN, REDI.E and Aboriginal Land Councils to see what can be achieved collectively.

"It starts with a yarn and building awareness," Ms King said.

"If the Elder or person living with a disability was your nan or pop, you would do everything in your power to look after them."

Building project to open gateway to Torres Strait

By AARON SMITH



A NEW building project in Cairns will give Torres Strait Islanders both greater autonomy and provide a new gateway to the region.

Australia's northernmost council municipality, the Torres Strait Islands Regional Council, has just secured ownership of an industrial site that will become their new base in Cairns.

The project will save the council significant operational and logistic costs, which newly-elected Mayor Phillemon Mosby said would be able to then be invested back into essential service provisions for the 14 remote Torres Strait Islander communities that his council services.

"This will be much more than a base for council outside of the Torres Strait. It will be a cultural meeting place, a safe place for our people to gather and connect back to our region," Cr Mosby said.

TSIRC partnered with the Indigenous Land Sea Corporation (ILSC) to fund the land acquisition through the Our County Our

Future program and further funding is currently being sought to refurbish and extend the buildings.

This is the first investment for a Torres Strait Islander organisation by the ILSC, which facilitates an acquisition portfolio of \$40m annually.

The savings to TSIRC and the community are expected to be in the hundreds of thousands each year.

"It's not just about the building. It will offer a gateway to the Torres Strait for our people, for investors and other organisations to engage in our region," Cr Mosby said.

TSIRC chief executive Bruce Ranga said it would help the region to have a base on the mainland.

"A Cairns footprint is essential in the effective and efficient delivery for Council's freight logistics, especially our social housing construction programs, and significant capital and major infrastructure works," he said.

"It will provide a meeting place for government and private enterprise, a place for media, cultural and community events, and a facility for disaster recovery ensuring business continuation in

extreme circumstances."

A key aspiration of this project is for Council to also facilitate community freight support, helping constituents reduce the high costs of living in the region.

There will be a library, a centre of excellence for training and apprenticeships, and a hub for Torres Strait Islander businesses and artists to grow and engage with national and global marketplaces.

The new facility neighbours AFL Cape York Boys House, which offers boarding for up to 48 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and aims to provide educational, employment and training opportunities.

The Torres Strait Islander students will have access to the new facility, which will provide connection to culture as well as offer training opportunities.

AFL Cape York House general manager Rick Hanlon said they couldn't have better neighbours.

"In terms of a relationship, it's a great opportunity for us," he said. "Our partnership with TSIRC opens many avenues for not just our boys, however, also for our boarding students at AFL Cape York Girls House in nearby Redlynch."



Torres Strait Islands Regional Council Mayor Phillemon Mosby, Deputy Mayor Getano Lui, chief executive Bruce Ranga and Luke Ranga discuss planning for the new centre.



Government support for local business



SUCCESSFUL First Nations business owners are harnessing Queensland Government

contracts to boost local training and job opportunities in south-east Queensland.

Caboolture-based Indigenous business, Aspect Cabinetmakers recently secured more than \$1 million in Queensland Government contracts through Selected Indigenous Projects including the new Caboolture police headquarters, Caboolture Special School project and Beenleigh State High School learning centre.

Aspect Cabinetmakers managing director and Mandandanji man Steve Hatchman started his apprenticeship at 16 and opened his business in 2009.

Today his family-operated business employs a local workforce, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff

and apprentices, to design, manufacture and install residential and commercial projects all over Australia.

"It's not just Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who benefit from successful Indigenous and non-Indigenous business partnerships — everyone stands to benefit if they are willing to participate," Mr Hatchman said.

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Craig Crawford, recently visited Aspect Cabinetmakers and said the Palaszczuk Government is delivering Queensland's plan to "unite and recover for Queensland jobs".

"Economies around the world are hurting in the face of the global coronavirus pandemic," Mr Crawford said. "That's why Queensland has a plan for economic recovery. One of the key aspects is supporting more jobs for Queenslanders and supporting local businesses."



Joequan Seden, Minister for Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Craig Crawford, Edward Duffill and Steve Hatchman.

Space is opportunity



INDIGENOUS Business Australia (IBA) provided the funding to construct two state-of-the-art commercial satellite ground stations in Alice Springs.

The facility is the first development of its kind on Aboriginal-owned land and transforms Australia's capability in earth observation.

It was built, project-managed and owned by Indigenous companies — the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CfAT) and its subsidiaries Ekistica Ltd and CfAT Satellite Enterprises, as well as Ingerreke Commercial who laid the concrete foundations in December.

The facility forms part of a global network of ground stations operated by Viasat Inc called Real Time Earth.

This new infrastructure has the potential to reduce the time for high resolution earth observation imagery down from hours or days, to just minutes.

The result will be to enhance Australia's capability in disaster management (such as cyclones and bushfires), environmental

monitoring, border protection and search and rescue, as well as strategic uses such as monitoring the economic impacts of pandemics like COVID-19 from space.

CfAT chief executive Peter Renehan said that the facility brings together the organisation's mission of engagement and people, innovation and excellence and puts Aboriginal people at the forefront of Australia's growing space sector.

"While many have been locked down from COVID-19, our build has been full speed ahead with an Aboriginal-owned project management team and support crew that assembled the antennas," he said.

"There is currently limited supply of suitable earth observation ground stations in Australia.

"Here in Alice Springs we are strategically located to take advantage of this fast-growing market.

"The site is so perfectly located that we will be able to downlink imagery across the whole of Australia's land and waters.

"We are very excited about the future of this technology which we know has the potential to benefit many of our communities,

like our Indigenous rangers, who look after land and sea country and can use high resolution imagery from space to do their jobs.

"CfAT has also been awarded the facilities maintenance contract by Viasat, which will generate on-going Indigenous employment and training opportunities for our community."

IBA chairperson Eddie Fry emphasised the importance of this opportunity for both the Australian space industry and the Indigenous community.

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people own or control significant areas of land in remote areas where there is limited economic potential," he said.

"This first of its kind development on Aboriginal land gives the community both economic and social returns.

"The technology has many commercial applications, such as for remote asset management, agriculture, carbon abatement, insurance, finance, and mining.

"Strongly aligned with the priorities for the Australian Space Agency, this investment puts CfAT on the map as a commercial technology innovation hub.

"This is just the beginning and we can see a bright future for CfAT who are well-positioned to become one of Australia's leading participants in the satellite and space industry.

"Not only will this facility generate commercial returns for Indigenous Australians, it will create wider industry opportunities for the Northern Territory.

"CfAT will invest in training Aboriginal people in maintaining the facility and build its capacity for bringing innovative technology-based programs to Aboriginal people in the region."

Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt said the launch of this project demonstrates how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people could continue leading roles in the nation's innovation, as they have done for more than 60,000 years.

"Indigenous Australians hold a powerful economic force through their connections with land, culture and community," he said.

"This exciting project is a prime example of the power of country to help deliver commercial returns through technology, employment and career opportunities."



NAIDOC Week 2020 Indigenous Business Directory



**Always Was,
Always Will Be.**
8-15 NOV 2020

Supply Nation is thrilled to be collaborating with the National NAIDOC Committee to provide a dedicated search listing of Supply Nation Certified Suppliers that can provide relevant products and services to support NAIDOC Week activities. To review the NAIDOC Business Directory, visit: supplynation.org.au.

If you are a Supply Nation Certified Supplier that can provide products and services for NAIDOC Week activities, please contact: events@supplynation.org.au.

A target on his back



Larrakia man Jimblah.



LARRAKIA man Jimblah's new track *About These Demons* speaks to the grief, loss and dispossession experienced by First Nations communities at the hands of colonisers.

"What more can I possibly say. I'm exhausted," Jimblah said. "Running since I was 12, since I started noticing that the world was a very different place for me compared to the other kids. Running with a target on my back."

"What these songlines represent is: we as First Peoples don't want to see this happening. The difference is we aren't able to just turn our backs on it. We don't have that option. So we have to be active about confronting these demons. We have to activate in a way that is working towards this healing of country."

"So many people claim they love

this country, but the truth is they love to exploit this country. If they really loved this country, they would love us, and we would be side by side, battling these demons together."

"We need every single person who stands on this sacred country to be activated, not just on socials, but at the dinner table, at the march, at the workplace, on the stage, in the board rooms, at Parliament. That's what true reconciliation will look like: when we are actually working together on this healing and it's not just on the First Peoples to rid this country of its ongoing genocide and our beautiful way of being."

Jimblah's lyrics talk about decolonisation, challenging listeners to consider their privilege and responsibility.

Following the release of his proclaimed albums *Face the Fire* and *Phoenix*, which quickly stormed to number one on the ARIA charts and

were nominated for major awards, Jimblah was confronted with the weight of responsibility he faced as a First Nations artist.

He took some time out and found sanctuary in producing music.

But now he's back, performing solo. Last year was another big year for the rapper, releasing singles *No Clapstick*, *Black Paint*, *House N***er* and *Black Life Matters*, all referencing the deep unrest between Black and White Australia.

Jimblah aims to use his voice to push political conversations to the forefront. He sees his music as a form of resistance and protest.

In *About These Demons* Jimblah speaks directly to White people:

"Balanda Balanda y'all need an intervention" and "y'all missed the message when you fail to see what you inherit", asking White Australia to stop pretending things are getting better when it's still business as usual.

The wonders of weaving



BUNDJALUNG artist Kylie Caldwell is an ardent weaver and fibre artist interested in reviving and pursuing traditional cultural practices that her ancestors have used over thousands of years.

Her work will be shown in *Woven Dreams*, a new exhibition at the Clarence Regional Gallery in Grafton, northern NSW.

This exhibition presents a selection of recent artworks that develop ancient form and contemporary artistry to represent an enduring Bundjalung identity.

In *Woven Dreams*, artist Kylie Caldwell uses allegory, metaphor and authentic imagery to explore intimate cultural codes reverberating around her, emphasising perseverance, evolution and fortitude. The eclectic collection of woven works, thread themes willing openness and understanding to connect to femininity, humanity and our environments.

Caldwell plays with vessels and sculptural shapes, inviting the viewer to appreciate refined, tactile imagery reminiscent of traditional and contemporary sociocultural experiences and encounters, her dreaming.

"The fibre work of contemporary Aboriginal women references past generations of weaving traditions in both overt and subtle ways," Caldwell's artist statement says. "*Woven Dreams* shares the artist's dream to weave. A cultural practice has been renewed through indirect and direct opportunities."

"The collection of work celebrates revitalisation whilst bringing forth individual contemporary expression, unique creativity and artistry within the context of a rich cultural framework."



Bundjalung artist Kylie Caldwell.



Mountains by Kylie Caldwell.



Dreamboard by Kylie Caldwell.



Indigenous Connections manager Tasha James.

Space a hive of artistic activity



THE National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) of Australia will use interactive technologies to provide visitors with an insight into its collection – and the experts tasked with preserving it – in a new public space called Hive.

Hive will open in Canberra on Saturday, August 1, and entry will be free.

Hive will give visitors an opportunity to explore stories about the treasures in the NFSA's vast collection, and hear from the people who love and care for more than three million items preserved by the national institution.

The centrepiece of Hive will be a new interactive display titled *Storywall*, produced by the NFSA and SBS Digital Creative Labs.

Storywall will feature a life-size projection of six NFSA experts 'waiting' for visitors to interact with them using their mobile devices. Once selected, they will tell a story about themselves and their passion for Australia's audiovisual history, as well as digitally showcasing items from the NFSA collection.

Indigenous Connections manager Tasha James is one of the six experts.

Ms James will tell a story about the hat worn by Justine Saunders in the 1986 Bruce Beresford film *The Fringe Dwellers*. This was the first film showing all-Aboriginal cast. The hat will also be on display in the space.

Tasha says this film has a special place in her heart as it was the first film she saw in which she felt represented.

Darlow's new release looks into the dark



YORTA Yorta singer Scott Darlow has released his latest single, *You Can't See Black In The Dark*.

The song also features the voice of Ian Kenny, lead singer of Birds Of Tokyo.

Darlow describes *You Can't See Black In The Dark* as an anthemic rock song about race relations, written from his perspective as a First Nations man.

A mainstay of Australia's music industry, Scott is a versatile singer-songwriter, guitarist and didgeridoo player who has sold more than 50,000 albums worldwide.

Darlow is a passionate First Nations activist and World Vision spokesperson, regularly speaking in hundreds of schools and corporate settings about his Indigenous culture, Australian history, racial tolerance, harmony and important social matters.

"*You Can't See Black In The Dark* is a song that I've spent my whole life trying to write," Darlow said.

"It is difficult to articulate the battle I've felt as an Indigenous person, when there is still so much love, passion and connection to Australian land.

"*You Can't See Black In The Dark* isn't just a song written for the current Black Lives Matter

movement; this is the journey that I have lived and breathed my entire life."

The song was also the first release for Reclusive Records, the new venture by Michael Gudinski, of Mushroom Records fame.

The proceeds from streams and downloads of the song will be donated to the Wirrpanda Foundation.

Launched in 2005 by former West Coast Eagles AFL player David Wirrpanda, the Wirrpanda Foundation aims to lead the provision of education and employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians by working together to empower and build capacity amongst individuals, their families and their communities.

You Can't See Black In The Dark (feat. Ian Kenny)

Been here longer than time
And our blood's soaked into the earth below
I can still see the line
Kept us separated from each other that's the way it was
In 67 my name was recognised
But do you recognise the pain
Are you released from your shame
(Long) while our kids are locked up (short) like a dog inside a cage
I'm not blinded by the sins of the past
We're burning but we never struck the match
I'm gonna make a fire from this spark
We're gonna light it up you can't see black in the dark
Another 3 years gone
And still you rape the land that you've been stealing from
Digging into her soul
Like our mother's nothing to you but a handful of coal
All we own is time
But all I hear is talk about the bottom line
Have a look at the crimes
That left our sons and daughters dying before their time
Now I sleep with one eye open
Can I let go of the past?
I'm shining bright, and I won't stop
Faster than the speed of light into the black



Set to smash glass ceiling



A **YOUNG** Aboriginal artist will have the opportunity to work with the creator of one of the world's most famous trophies.

World-leading glass-design company Kosta Boda and the Swedish Women's Educational Association (SWEA) Perth have announced that visual and cultural artist Jade Penangke from Subiaco has won a new glass scholarship to develop her talents.

The scholarship is a first-time collaboration between SWEA Perth and Kosta Boda and aims to promote the tradition, skill and craft of Australian Indigenous art and the Swedish glass manufacturing tradition.

Ms Penangke, a Whadjuk/Balladong Nyoongar and Eastern Arrernte Aboriginal woman, will undertake a one-week residency at Kosta Glassworks in Sweden in 2021 under the guidance of internationally recognised designer Kjell Engman.

Now in his 70s, Engman has been designing for Kosta Boda since 1978. His focus is creating unique one-off sculptural artworks and commissions, such as the iconic Eurovision Song Contest trophy, still in use today.

During her residency, Ms Penangke will have the opportunity to follow the production process at Sweden's oldest glassworks, learning about the design process, glass blowing, cutting and painting of glass.

Jade Penangke's artworks have been featured by the WA Museum, Art Gallery of Western Australia and recently through a commission for the new Perth Stadium. She remains connected to her culture through painting and family and has a passion for making a change for Indigenous Australians, especially youth, through different forms of art, whether it be painting or dance.



Jade Penangke has won a scholarship to study glass design at Kosta Boda Glassworks in Sweden. Picture: Catarina Hansson SWEA Perth

SWEA Perth is part of SWEA International, the largest organisation outside Sweden promoting Swedish language, culture and tradition, awarding around \$250,000 a year in grants, donations and scholarships.



Public Art Opportunity - Call for Expressions of Interest from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and creative teams.

Project: Civic Centre Indigenous Public Artwork
Location: Lilydale (Anderson Street & Hardy Street)
Budget: \$125,000 (GST inclusive)
Timing: Completed by July 2021
Expressions of Interest Due: 5 August, 2020

Yarra Ranges Council is seeking Expressions of Interest from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and creative teams for a significant public art opportunity at the newly developed Civic Centre in Lilydale.

The goal of the project is to produce a site-specific permanent public artwork(s) that reflects the significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander connection to Country, history and culture of the region.

The artwork(s) may be of various media.

While a demonstration of experience working in public space is requested, artists looking to gain this experience are also encouraged to apply.

The successful artist or creative team will be selected by a panel consisting of an Indigenous advisory committee and Yarra Ranges Council.

The final artwork(s) must be completed by 31 July, 2021.

EOI submission requirements

Please submit the following via email to Lucy Davies, Community Heritage Officer, l.davies@yarraranges.vic.gov.au no later than **11.59pm, 5 August 2020**.

Applicants are encouraged to get in contact via email or phone (0419 925 575) prior to submitting an EOI.

1. A current CV.
2. A short, written or verbal (video) response to the Artist Brief. This should be no more than 500 words and highlight the artist's or creative team's experience and skills relevant to the selection criteria. It may also relate the artist's or creative team's experience to their intended approach to the project.
3. Details of the legal structure under which the artist or creative team is working (eg. sole trader, company, incorporated association etc.).
4. Examples of past works (up to 10).
5. An indication of the artist's or creative team's availability within the proposed timelines for the project and information about any existing or potential conflicts of interest.

Short-listed applicants will be advised within 2 weeks of the EOI submission deadline if they have been selected to proceed to the Concept Development phase (Stage 2).

The total size of all file attachments should be no larger than 20MB. Alternatively, use WeTransfer or a similar file hosting service, or include links to webpages.

For further details including selection criteria and Artist Brief visit:
<https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au>

Confidentiality. All submissions will be treated as strictly confidential between Yarra Ranges Council, the selection panel and the applicant.

Reserved rights. Yarra Ranges Council reserves the right to cancel this process and/or again call for further submissions should the responses be deemed unsatisfactory or insufficient.

www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

Wik Elders share ancient traditions



WIK Elders will continue to take Aurukun's young people on country to learn about cultural practices with a program run by the Aurukun Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) being extended into its third year.

Funded by the State Library of Queensland, Education Queensland and Aurukun Shire Council, the 'Walking on Wik Country – the Outdoor Living Classroom' started in 2018 as part of the Flexi Program for disengaged youth and has expanded to include students at the Koolkan Aurukun State School.

Aurukun Shire Council Mayor Keri Tamwoy said the innovative program was using Western technology such as video to help maintain language, culture and knowledge about country long after Western lifestyles had disrupted the transmission of traditional knowledge in Aurukun.

She said the Outdoor Living Classroom was run by IKC coordinator Noel Waterman and that teacher's aide Perry Yunkaporta was an integral part of the program, helping youth learn to read and write in Wik Mungkan language.

"The Outdoor Living Classroom instils pride in both the community's youth and their Elders who assist," Mayor Tamwoy said.

"We have since seen more than a dozen Elders become involved by offering to share their knowledge of collecting plants, making dyes, carving canoes and weaving.

"Up to 12 Flexi school students have been attending the IKC to study maths, English, Wik Mungkan and participate in the Outdoor Living Classroom activities.

"Students at Koolkan are participating by sitting with Elders under the school's mango trees to weave and dye pandanus leaves until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted to allow them to go on excursions.

"The lessons also include filming and post-production so the students can make their own videos.

"The IKC's Woyan-Min Biocultural Project is part of the program and has produced videos showing traditional body paint, collecting pandanus, hunting mud crab, bush foods and bushfire management.

"These are shared on social media channels so Wik people outside Aurukun continue to learn traditional culture and language."



Indigenous Knowledge Centre Flexi students Somalia and Christian dig up roots for dye, guided by Elder Aunty Sharon and her mother Granny Marybelle Ngallametta.



Elders teach students at Koolkan Aurukun State School to weave.



Students collect mudshells.

Training gives Kristen the skills that inspire



A PROUD Wailan woman and Bathurst local who left school at the age of 15 has embarked on a life-changing employment opportunity, thanks to a new training program delivered by TAFE NSW in partnership with Legal Aid NSW.

Kristen Gee's biggest goal in life was to show her seven children they are capable of great things through education, which is why she took advantage of the new training partnership, which offers Indigenous people from NSW access to TAFE NSW training designed to equip them with the practical skills they need to thrive in a job with Legal Aid NSW or more broadly in a business environment.

Kristen was part of a group of five students to complete the Statement of Attainment in Office Skills at TAFE NSW Campbelltown as part of the 12-week training program. The students learned hands-on skills like how to deliver a service

to customers as well as effective communication strategies to give the students a competitive edge in the workplace.

After completing the course, Kristen was offered a job as a legal support officer with Legal Aid in their Orange office and could not be more proud of her career transformation.

"It feels amazing to be in a meaningful job where I can help the community and for my kids to see that, although I was a teen mum, I didn't let that stop me and am now in my dream career," she said.

"I was so nervous to begin the program but with the help of my TAFE NSW teachers, I now feel empowered and ready to take on the workplace."

Inspired by their mother's success, Kirsten's oldest children have become some of the first in their family to graduate from high school.

"To hear my children tell their friends and teachers how proud they are is the greatest

feeling — to know that they have seen me struggle and come out on top," Kristen said.

Don Giron, Legal Aid NSW Strategic Human Resources projects manager, said the graduates had demonstrated not only the core program skills, including workplace communication, but also remarkable perseverance.

"The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the program, and participants really embraced online learning," Mr Giron said.

"All five graduates have been successfully placed in a Legal Aid NSW talent pool, where they will be considered for employment as legal support officers across our network of offices around NSW."

TAFE NSW offers customised training to businesses and organisations like Legal Aid, where employees can receive flexible, on-the-job training.

To enrol in the career pathways courses at TAFE NSW, visit www.tafensw.com, or call 131 601.



Kristen Gee wants to inspire her kids to pursue success through education.

Keeping COVID-19 at bay



LIKE many Aboriginal health professionals, Worimi man Dr Kelvin Kong has been exceptionally busy the past few months, helping to keep communities safe from COVID-19.

Dr Kong is a surgeon at the University of Newcastle's School of Medicine and Public Health, and has lent his voice to support Aboriginal communities across NSW, sharing videos and tips for communities to protect themselves during this time.

Over his career, Dr Kong has worked in rural, urban and remote communities and knows firsthand the challenges some communities face in overcoming barriers to health care.

Dr Kong says it's now more important than ever to keep up with regular appointments, and is encouraging people to get tested

if they have any concerns about COVID-19 symptoms.

"It's important we detect any cases in our community early by getting tested if you have even minor symptoms. Don't be afraid of the people who are taking the tests, because they're going to be in protective gear. It's to help keep us all safe from the spread," he said.

Testing is available to all members of the community, for free.

Aboriginal communities can contact their local Aboriginal Medical Service or Local Area Health District for information on where to access the test in their area.

"The type of test you get might vary depending on where you live and where you go to get tested. You might be tested at the hospital, you might be at a GP practice, or it might be in a drive through testing location," Dr Kong

said. "The test is relatively straightforward and simple. It's not painful at all but can be uncomfortable. The common test involves a nasal swab, which is like a big cotton bud. A swab is taken from inside your nose. It might make you want to sneeze, but it's over before you even realise that they've actually started."

Dr Kong said that it's important to continue testing people who are unwell, to quickly detect any positive cases and stop the spread in the community.

"If you test positive for COVID-19 you will need to self-isolate, and this can be a really difficult thing for many families. For our mob there can be extra barriers," he said.

"Sometimes, it's really hard because we don't have the space to actually self-isolate, but when you can, and if you can, it's important to be in your own room.

If you do have to be in the same room as someone, wear a mask.

"If you're going to be getting food, make sure that you're getting it alone.

"Wipe down surfaces. Don't interact with other people. It's better if people can place food at your door."

While the whole community plays a part in maintaining good hygiene and regular hand washing, health workers also play a key role in helping to stop the spread between patients.

Dr Kong is urging health workers and the community to look after their own health and wellbeing too.

"It's important to have a break. It's a stressful time and we all need to look out for each other.

"If you're feeling stressed or anxious, or concerned about someone close to you, call the Coronavirus mental health line 1800 512 348."



Worimi man Dr Kelvin Kong.

New machines give quick test results



ON-the-spot COVID-19 testing has started at the Mallee District Aboriginal Services (MDAS) medical clinic in Mildura.

MDAS Clinical Coordinator Jack McSwain said the tests would make a positive or negative result available within 45 minutes, rather than waiting up to four days for a result to come from pathology tests.

"The on-the-spot testing is available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their families, and it means we can effectively deal with a potential case of COVID-19 much more quickly," he said.

"It will ensure the person has the care they need, and we can slow the spread of the virus by notifying the people they have been in close contact with sooner.

"The machine gives a positive or a negative result, so if someone does test positive to COVID-19 additional pathology tests would need to be done, but it means we can start caring for them sooner."

Indigenous people over the age of 50 or those who have a pre-existing health condition, such as diabetes, asthma, heart and lung conditions, or immune problems are at higher risk of developing a severe illness associated with COVID-19.

The introduction of on-the-spot testing comes as Victoria battles to contain COVID-19 outbreaks around metropolitan Melbourne. While COVID-19 cases have not recently been confirmed in regional areas such as Mildura, people are being urged not to become complacent about the highly contagious virus.

"Now is not the time to let our guard down. Our fight against this virus is far from over," Mr McSwain said.



Rebecca Wilson, Aboriginal health practitioner (holding the testing swab), with nurses Alex McWilliam and Celia Fox.

"It's really important people in our community continue to put their health first and get tested if they have any of the COVID-19 symptoms, even if the symptoms are mild."

Symptoms include fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, loss of sense of smell or taste.

The on-the-spot COVID-19 testing machine has been made available to MDAS by The Kirby Institute, a global research institute dedicated to the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases.

The machine will continue to

be useful long after COVID-19 eases, as it will be used to test for sexually transmitted diseases (STIs) such as gonorrhoea and chlamydia. Results will be known within 45 minutes.

"Our medical clinics are a safe place to be and we have all the COVID-19 safety measures in place, so don't hesitate when it comes to making an appointment," Mr McSwain said.

And MDAS is assuring its cross-border communities that service delivery continues at 'COVID-normal', despite new restrictions on movement between NSW and Victoria.

MDAS acting chief executive

Andy Charles said the organisation's service centres in Mildura, Robinvale, Swan Hill and Kerang all have both clients and staff on both sides of the Victoria-NSW border.

"Our best advice is that a blanket exemption will be put in place for NSW residents in border communities, so they can apply for and get a travel permit to move across the border for essential purposes," Mr Charles said.

"That means people can apply online for a permit to travel for school, work, or for other essential reasons. It may take some time, though, because

there will initially be a huge demand for permit applications from communities right along the river."

Mr McSwain said it was important for people who lived in NSW not to put off medical care because of concerns about the changes at the border.

"We are still here, and we are still working 'COVID-normal', which means things are a bit different to what they have been, but our services are still here and available," he said.

To make an appointment to be tested for COVID-19, contact the MDAS medical clinic on (03) 5018 4100.

Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT

Air Force wants you

Indigenous presence gives defence strength

By FLIGHT LIEUTENANT
BEL SCOTT



AIR Force Indigenous liaison officer (ILO) Flight Lieutenant Steve Warrior, from Ardrossan, is making a huge difference in his first year on the job at RAAF Base Edinburgh.

Reflecting on National Reconciliation Week, Flight Lieutenant Warrior said it was a significant time to reflect on the relationship between Indigenous and other people in this country.

"This year's theme 'In This Together' speaks truly as both the good and bad times impact us as a country, regardless of your cultural background," he said.

"An example of this is the current pandemic which has had an evidential impact on all Australians.

"Having an open-minded approach to reflect on the past mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and showing commitment and effort to build relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will make a difference in the future."

During Flight Lieutenant Warrior's 12 months in uniform he has introduced numerous initiatives and programs to further strengthen the Australian Defence Force's relationship with Indigenous communities in South Australia.

The ILOs are central to establishing and maintaining close personal rapport with Elders, leaders and members of the community.

"The biggest motivation for me to join Air Force was the opportunity to incorporate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and implement new initiatives," Flight Lieutenant Warrior said.



Flight Lieutenant Steven Warrior shows Mobil 1 Appliances Racing Team driver Chaz Mostert the Indigenous display at Defence Corner during the Superloop Adelaide 500.

"Being a local Aboriginal man in uniform empowers me to mentor our younger generation, and also enhance our presence within Defence.

"This provides our people with a unique skillset and level of resilience which is why keeping that connection to culture and country is so vital.

"It gives us a sense of belonging, pride and will ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture is a part of Air Force.

"It is known that our culture is the oldest living culture in the world, having survived severe adversity," he said.

"The ILO network is diverse and we have connected really well. We are passionate about

who we are, our cultures, and provide guidance and support to one another."

"The ILO network is diverse and we have connected really well. We are passionate about who we are, our cultures, and provide guidance and support to one another."

**Air Force Indigenous liaison officer (ILO)
Flight Lieutenant Steve Warrior**

Even during these uncertain times with COVID-19, the ILO network continues to build on engagement initiatives for 2020 and beyond.

This will include sporting and leadership programs provided to schools and Indigenous organisations, as well as

implementing an awards event to acknowledge efforts of Indigenous military members

who are excelling within their roles and units for cultural engagements.

"The inclusiveness and opportunity to represent Aboriginal people is what I enjoy most about my role," Flight Lieutenant Warrior said.

"Also having worked across most of the units at RAAF Base Edinburgh, it has really opened my eyes to the opportunities that exist in Air Force.

"I would encourage my family and friends to consider it as an employer of choice.

"As an officer, I've learnt that you have a great responsibility

to both your chain of command, your peers and your local community.

"Ideally I would like to become a P-8A Poseidon pilot, not only to benefit me and my family, but it would influence the local Indigenous kids that if they're willing to work hard they can achieve anything."

Air Force recently launched three significant policies: Defence Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-2022, Our Place, Our Skies, and Common Ground 2019-2028.

A spokesperson said that these policies demonstrate Defence's road map to contributing to Closing the Gap while enhancing capability, diversity and commitment to local Indigenous communities across Australia.



Indigenous Liaison Officer Flight Lieutenant Steven Warrior with members of local dance group Kuma Kaaru at RAAF Base Edinburgh.

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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NGUNYA JARJUM ABORIGINAL CHILD & FAMILY NETWORK



INTENSIVE FAMILY WORKER (ABORIGINAL IDENTIFIED)

Lismore Office

Ngunya Jarjum's vision is that all Aboriginal and Torres Strait children and young people are looked after in safe Aboriginal and Torres Strait families and communities and are raised strong in spirit and identity, with every opportunity for lifelong wellbeing.

The Office of the Children's Guardian has recently awarded Ngunya Jarjum five years accreditation giving great stability and further growth opportunities.

Ngunya Jarjum is currently looking to further expand our Programs team. This team is working to support families identified as at risk of children being taken away from home using a strengths-based, trauma informed practice model.

As part of the Family Preservation team and reporting to Manager Family Work, your focus will be providing support to families to achieve quality outcomes for the children living at home with their parents. The key objectives of the role include to:

- Ensure case practice is delivered to a high professional standard and in a manner that promotes the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children living with their families;
- Provide on-call support to vulnerable families, support services, children and professional Agencies working with the family
- Work closely with community networks and maintain positive interagency relationships.

You will need a Diploma Community Services or be willing to obtain this within 12 months of commencement.

If you also have:

- Aboriginality
- Experience working in a permanency support program environment or related industry and strong casework skills
- Demonstrated ability to engage & work effectively with Aboriginal people and communities.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Effective time management and personal organisational skills
- Ability to work independently, as a team member
- High level of computer literacy; sound working knowledge of Microsoft Office software
- Current NSW driver's licence (open licence only not provisional)

We would love to hear from you.

Appointment to this position will be subject to a National Criminal History Record Check and Working with Children Check clearance. Two reference checks will be required including one recent supervisor.

A generous remuneration package will be negotiated plus superannuation, leave loading and salary sacrifice.

We offer an excellent range of benefits including:

- Full non-profit status with salary sacrifice available to reduce tax and increase your take home pay
- An opportunity to really make a difference to kids and young people in our community
- A beautiful country location on the flourishing NSW North coast.

To find out more about the role please contact Michelle Rogers, Program Manager, on 0401 545 079 or Kelli Dragos from Abundance Human Resources on 0419 419 554. All applications will be received via seek online ad or email recruitment@ngunyajarjum.com.

The closing date for this role is 9am on Wednesday, 29 July 2020.

This position is identified for Aboriginal people and exemption is claimed under 14d of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.

KOKATHA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



Corporate Services Manager

Port Augusta location

Salary \$120,000+ per annum + FBT benefits + Superannuation + Vehicle

The Kokatha People are the Traditional Owners of a large section of land in the north of South Australia. This area stretches from Lake Torrens in the East to the Gawler Ranges in the West. The Kokatha Traditional Owners' Native Title area encompasses significant mineral deposits which are subject to current mining operations and future potential mining activities. The Native Title area also includes the townships of Woomera, Roxby Downs and Andamooka which are major service centres for this part of regional South Australia.

Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer, you will deliver corporate services (Finance, Human Resources, Asset Management, Records Management, Media / Public Relations, and Information Management) to enable the delivery of the corporation's executive and operational services. This is both a hands-on role for in-house services and a contract management role for out-sourced services.

Your key objectives include:

- Provide corporate management skills transfer to Kokatha staff
- Provide financial advice and reporting to the Kokatha Board and CEO
- Manage bookkeeping, basic accounting and payroll services
- Develop and document a records management system
- Manage contracts for external service provider
- On-boarding, mentoring and performance management of KAC employees
- Manage public relations and the content of the Kokatha website

You will preferably possess an Australian accounting or bookkeeping qualification and a minimum of two years' experience in financial management in a small / medium business environment.

If you also have:

- Competency in the use of the Xero or MYOB accounting software packages.
- Strong communication skills and the ability to engage with all stakeholders.
- Demonstrated ability to lead and develop a team.
- Competent user of Microsoft Office software, particularly Excel, Word and Outlook.
- Ability to hold and maintain relevant security clearances such as National Police Check
- Current valid Driver's license, minimum of Class "c" or equivalent

We would love to hear from you.

Appointment to this position will be subject to a National Criminal History Record Check. Two reference checks will be required including one recent supervisor.

We offer an excellent range of benefits including:

- Base salary of \$120,000+ plus NFP salary sacrifice benefits plus superannuation plus motor vehicle
- Non-profit status with salary sacrifice available to reduce tax and increase your take home pay
- An opportunity to really make a difference in our community

To find out more please contact John Ramsay on 0475 603 935 or john.ramsay@kokathamtbc.com.au during business hours. The position description for this role is available on the website www.kokatha.com.au

To apply please submit your resume and cover letter via seek online or at the Kokatha office at 35 Flinders Terrace, Port Augusta.

A merit selection process will be undertaken for this role in accordance with the Kokatha Recruitment & Selection Policy & Procedure.

The closing date for this role is 9am on 29 July 2020.



13 11 14

Exciting Executive leadership position in Western NSW

Based in either Dubbo, Orange or Broken Hill

Identified role

Western NSW Primary Health Network (WNSW PHN) has partnered with the AES to recruit a key member of its leadership team, the Executive Manager – Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing.

WNSW PHN is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that is strategically focused on improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Executive Manager – Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing works directly with the CEO to better connect local health services to meet local health needs. It plays an integral role in transitioning the primary health care system through the development of culturally safe models of care, ensuring access to quality health care and commissioned services.

WNSW PHN is a supportive and flexible employer with a range of attractive employee benefits. Relocation costs for the ideal candidate will be considered.

This is an Identified position. Aboriginality is a genuine occupational qualification under Section 14 of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 NSW*.

To obtain an information package on the role and for details on how to apply, please contact talent@aes.org.au.

For enquiries, please contact Loretta Roberts on 0458 017 598.

Closing date for applications is Wednesday, 29 July 2020.



phn
WESTERN NSW

An Australian Government Initiative

aes
Aboriginal Employment Strategy

Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority Board Appointments 2020

Forthcoming Vacancies on the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority Board.

The Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change is seeking Expressions of Interest for up to ten positions, including the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson to join nominees from each specified Aboriginal party to form the inaugural Board of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority. The terms of appointment for Members are to commence on 1st December 2020.

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCPA) is a new independent Statutory Authority reporting to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change. There will be a phased transition to the Authority's full scope of activities over the coming years. This full scope will encompass park management, advisory, regulatory, management and service delivery functions, scientific research, inter-jurisdiction activities, program design and implementation, coordination and delivery of major state construction projects in the Great Ocean Road region.

To be considered for these positions you will have demonstrated experience in one or a number of the following areas: public administration or governance; financial management; environmental conservation; land-use planning and landscape architecture; marine and coastal environmental science; natural resource management; cultural and heritage values management; travel, tourism, hospitality and leisure; investment facilitation; construction management; and community engagement. It is also expected that board members will have the capacity to demonstrate deep connection to and/or knowledge of the Great Ocean Road region.

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring the diversity of our Boards represents the diversity of our communities. Women, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with a disability, young people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and LGBTQI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, and intersex) people are encouraged to apply.

Applicants from Rural and Regional Victoria are also encouraged to apply.

For further information and to register your interest please refer to the Get on Board website, <https://getonboard.vic.gov.au>. If you have any questions please contact DELWP on (03) 5226 4623, using the National Relay Service 133 677 if required, or email greatoceanroad.actionplan@delwp.vic.gov.au

Expressions of Interest close midnight 2nd August 2020.



The GEO Group Australia Pty Ltd.

Aboriginal Wellbeing Officer

Do you want to make a difference for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the prison system?

Are you a proven leader who is strong on culture? Do you have strong case management and advocacy skills?

Attractive salary package of \$67,853.00 plus super!

About The GEO Group Australia

GEO Group Australia (GEO) is the country's leading provider of outsourced correctional services, operating in NSW, QLD and VIC employing over 2000 employees across operations, primary health care, industries, foods services, rehabilitation and reintegration, maintenance, human resources, contract compliance and finance and administration.

For more information about our organisation, visit our website at www.geogroup.com.au

About the Opportunity

The Aboriginal Wellbeing Officer (AWO) is responsible for the provision of services that promote health, wellbeing and 'healing' of Aboriginal prisoners, their families and the broader Aboriginal community. They will meet with all Aboriginal new receptions to Ravenhall and contribute to their induction and orientation to the Centre. The AWO also provides individual support to Aboriginal prisoners at times of crisis, provides education and support in relation to cultural heritage and identity, and will support prisoners with issues related to family reconnection and community reintegration. The AWO will work closely with Aboriginal program providers to assist with responsive program access and engagement.

Your Skills & Experience

To be successful in the role of Aboriginal Wellbeing Officer you will:

- Be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Have a demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community
- Demonstrate deep and authentic understanding of Aboriginal culture, traditions and the impact that the criminal justice system has on Aboriginal men, families and communities.
- Communicate sensitively and effectively with members of the Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

For further information about this role including the position description and how to apply, please click the Apply Now button or go to <https://ravenhall.applynow.net.au/jobs/GEO1621>

About the Benefits

Joining GEO is your chance to make a real and lasting difference in the lives of prisoners, their families and the community. Benefits of working for GEO, include but are not limited to:

- Role diversity and internal career progression opportunities
- Ongoing professional development opportunities (including further education sponsorship)
- Flexible working arrangements
- Competitive salary and rewards scheme
- Free parking
- Employee Assistance Program
- Staff gym
- Subsidised meals

Please note: This is an identified position. Being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a genuine occupational qualification as specified under section 14D of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW).

Applications close at 11 pm, Friday 31 July 2020.

For enquiries please contact Ana Cuchilla-Castillo or Nimit Pandya, HR Officers on 03 8363 2658 or 03 8363 2662.

To view this position on our website: <https://ravenhall.applynow.net.au/jobs/GEO1621>



Chief Executive Officer (Identified)

Exciting Management Role with Great Benefits!!!
(Salary up to \$80K plus Salary Sacrifice benefits).

Are you looking for an exciting new challenge and have a desire to work directly with community members in a rewarding and fulfilling career? The Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council (FLALC) are searching for an experienced and committed **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** who can take the organisation in a positive direction and accomplish a number of key projects that will secure the financial future of the FLALC. This role requires a person with key organisation and planning skills and an ability to multitask. You will be surrounded by a supportive and committed Board and Membership and have access to great salary benefits including salary sacrificing. The FLALC are one of the region's largest land owners and have unlimited potential in terms of economic and social development opportunities.

For information on the position and to obtain a recruitment package please contact the contact officer Vincent Hall on 0499039494 or vincenthall@outlook.com.au to obtain further information.

An applicants race is a genuine occupational qualification and Authorised by Section 14 (d) of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.

Applications marked "Confidential" and posted to:

The Contact Officer

P.O Box 384 Forster, NSW 2428

Applications close: July, 31, 2020.

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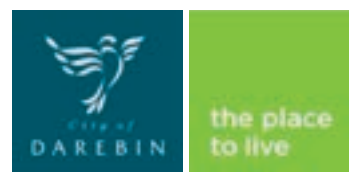
Executive Assistant

Full time (3-year contract)

An opportunity for you to take on a critical support role where your organisational skills will shine. You will be providing high level support and prioritisation of diverse administrative functions, requiring confidentiality, initiative and sound decision making to support the Executive Director.

To obtain further information about this position, please visit our careers page at <http://australiacouncil.gov.au/about/careers/>

Applications close 26 July 2020 at 11:59pm (AEST)



Associate Producer Role

Darebin Council's Festivals and Events team is recruiting an Associate Producer Role (Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Identified position).

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander applicants only
- Permanent, full time, circa \$72k + super
- Located in Preston, walking distance from Bell train station and bus stops

About the Role

Working as part of a dedicated team, and under the direction of the Senior Producer, you will use a collaborative approach across multiple functions to deliver two one-month long festivals a year, including festival and event planning, event compliance and other initiatives aligned to Council's objectives.

Detailed Position Description can be viewed on Website Darebin.vic.gov.au

Contact the hiring manager, Simon Clarke, Festival and Events Coordinator on 03 8470 8909 or Jimmy Kyle, our Aboriginal Employment and Programs Officer on 03 8470 8589 for a confidential discussion.

Applications close on Sunday, 30 July 2020 at 11.30pm.



NSW GOVERNMENT ONE CHOICE GRADUATE ENDLESS PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

Our 18-month Program is open to graduates from all disciplines. With three rotations, the Program offers work on a range of projects and dynamic experiences, tailored to your interests. There are roles available in policy, law, digital design and other work areas.

When you successfully complete the Program, you are offered ongoing (permanent) employment at Clerk Grade 3/4 (2nd year). Exceptional performers may be fast-tracked to the Clerk Grade 5/6 or 7/8 level.*

Graduates receive a competitive remuneration package of approximately \$80,275 including a salary (\$72,418), employer's contribution to superannuation and annual leave loading.

As a proud employer who values diversity, NSW Government are committed to fair, responsive and inclusive employment practices. We encourage applications from people of all backgrounds and education disciplines.

We have partnered with Aboriginal employment services provider **Yarn'n** for this campaign. Contact Liz on (02) 9319 4000 or liz@yarnn.com.au for more information and assistance.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Having completed an undergraduate or postgraduate degree in the last two years (from June 2017 onwards), or be completing your degree by December 2019.
- Being an Australian citizen, or
- A permanent resident of Australia, or
- A New Zealand citizen with a current New Zealand passport, or
- The holder of a current visa that allows you to work full-time in Australia until at least August 2021.
- Being able to commence work on 10 February 2020.

For more information visit
psc.nsw.gov.au/graduates



INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS Australian Indigenous Governance Institute

Background

The Australian Indigenous Governance Institute (AIGI) is a national centre of governance excellence, connecting Indigenous Australians to world-class governance practice, informing effective policy, providing accessible research, disseminating stories that celebrate outstanding success and solutions, and delivering professional development opportunities to meet the self-determined governance needs of Indigenous people.

Our Vision

We envision a future Australia where Indigenous nations can pursue and exercise their right to self-determination and economic development through strong self-governance. We know that practical, effective and culturally legitimate governance is the fundamental building block for delivering real change.

The key role of AIGI will be to deliver its vision by:

- Leveraging research and on-the-ground practice to develop a knowledge base that fosters, encourages and highlights effective Indigenous governance.
- Mentoring, coaching and supporting Indigenous groups, individuals and organisations over the long-term to build their governance capacity.
- Leading sector-wide collaboration and independently collaborating with networks and partners to develop practical, culturally informed governance tools and resources.
- Facilitating and implementing training and education within communities and regions.
- Leading advocacy for policy debate and change regarding Indigenous governance.

The Role

The organisation is seeking expressions of interest from experienced and qualified individuals interested in being appointed as independent directors for a period of up to three years. Our ideal candidate would have proven experience and/or tertiary qualifications in one or more of the following areas:

- Fundraising and philanthropic skills and experience
- Strategic and business planning oversight capability
- Financial Literacy
- Business Development
- Advocacy; and
- Marketing, strategic communications and media experience

For an overview of the prospectus and selection criteria, and information on how to apply, please email aigi@aigi.com.au

For more information, please visit the AIGI website at www.aigi.com.au or contact Michelle Deshong, CEO on ceo@aigi.com.au

Applications Close 5.00 pm 27th July 2020.



**Would you like to join a dynamic,
diverse and challenging legal practice?**

Central Australian Women's Legal Service provides legal services for all women in Central Australia and the Barkly region with offices in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.

At CAWLS, we are committed to providing representation and excellent outcomes for our clients through law reform, legal advice and representation, community legal education and outreach.

Our staff are motivated, dedicated and ensure we provide quality service to all clients and stakeholders.

POSITIONS VACANT

- **Financial Counsellor - Domestic & Family Violence**
- **Women's Safety & Wellbeing Court Practitioner**
- **Solicitor**

Position Descriptions for these roles can be found via the CAWLS Website:

www.cawls.org.au/employment-opportunities

For more information on any of our vacancies, please address your correspondence to the CAWLS Business Manager via recruitment@cawls.org.au



Senior Project Officer (Aboriginal Initiatives)

- Department of Education
- Temporary appointment
- Clerk Grade 9/10 up to 30 June 2021
- Identified role for Aboriginal people only
- Location: Darlinghurst

\$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 education.nsw.gov.au

About the role:

The Senior Project Officer role provides high level advice and support to the Manager, Aboriginal Initiatives and is responsible for supporting the development, implementation and evaluation of strategies and programs to improve training and employment outcomes for Aboriginal people in NSW.

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 submit an application online and attach a cover letter (max. 2 pages) and your resume (max. 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.

**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.**

Pre-screening questions:

1. Describe a situation where you had to connect and collaborate with key stakeholders to build commitment and understanding to drive results? (300 or 400 words maximum).
2. Detail an occasion where your team were tasked with a number of high priority projects with competing deadlines. How did you plan your work and manage stakeholder expectations to effectively achieve outcomes? (300 or 400 words maximum).

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*.
- 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.



Child and Family Health Nurse Ngiyang Aboriginal Pregnancy, Child and Family Health Service

Department: Central Coast Local Health District

Hours: Permanent Part-Time - 16 hours per week

Where you'll be working

With a rapidly growing population we offer a comprehensive range of services from acute care at Gosford and Wyong hospitals to sub-acute and community based services. We encourage a workforce that is innovative, eager to acquire knowledge and enhance skills and compassionate in caring for our community. As part of our team we will support you and help you develop your career with us.

We invite you to come and be a part of our community. The Central Coast is renowned for its natural beauty. From the bush to the beach there is plenty to do - swimming, surfing, diving, golf, restaurants, cafes, bush walks, sporting clubs and activities for the kids and great shopping - and all in a friendly and relaxed environment.

To hear from our team what it's like to work with us, you can read their stories on our Instagram account.<http://instagram.com/careersatcclhd>

Also please connect with us on LinkedIn to stay up to date with career opportunities.

What you'll be doing

The Child and Family Health Nurse (CFHN) working in the Building Strong Foundations program is part of a multi-disciplinary team within of the Central Coast Local Health district (CCLHD) Child and Family Health Service. The Child and Family Health Nurse works to maintain improve and promote the optimal health and wellbeing of Aboriginal children aged 0 - school entry age and their families within the Central Coast community in a primary health care model.

The Child and Family Health Nurse is a member of the multi-disciplinary Child and Family Health Service, works in a primary health care model using a holistic, strengths based approach with Aboriginal families/carers and their infants and young children.

The Child and Family Health Nurse is aware of individual and cultural values, and endeavours to empower families using the Family Partnership model of care highlighting strengths based approach to service delivery.

Nursing in the Building Strong Foundations team requires collaborative work, particularly with the Aboriginal Maternal Infant Health Service, Maternity services, Aboriginal services and also across a wide variety of health and community services, both Government and non-Government organisations.

The role utilises evidence based knowledge and skills to monitor the growth, development and health of the child (0 to 5 years of age) within the context of the family, and to provide a co-ordinated family centred approach, advice, health information, first line counselling (where appropriate) and referral to relevant support services.

You are encouraged to complete applications on a week day where Technical Support is available Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm by phoning ROB Help Desk on 1300 679 367.

Closing Date: Tuesday, 28 July 2020, 11.59pm

For role related queries or questions contact Sharnee Townsend on (02) 4394 9134 or email Sharnee.Townsend@health.nsw.gov.au

Applications must be lodged electronically.

Please go to healthnswgov.referrals.selectminds.com and search Job Reference Number REQ173260.

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

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Applications Close: 22 July 2020

If you would like to discuss this opportunity further please contact Charlene Davison on 0438 779 560.

To apply online please visit iworkfor.nsw website and refer to the following keyword: Requisition Number 00007TDY.

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FUTURE FOOTPRINTS PROGRAM ABORIGINAL EDUCATION CONSULTANT

AISWA is seeking the services of a talented individual to work with non-Government boarding schools with Aboriginal students to assist the schools in supporting these students.

Please see AISWA website for more details:

www.ais.wa.edu.au/jobs-aiswa/

SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS ALL-ROUNDERS

NATSIC the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation – Transport and Community Services wishes to engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People with experience and/or qualifications in:

- Social Media Management
- Graphic Arts
- Brochure and Promotional Designs
- Marketing Campaigns
- Website Design and Administration

These roles are designated only for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and will be based in Tweed/Gold Coast offices so candidates should reside in the Tweed/Gold Coast region.

To apply please email ron.palmer@nfpssuccess.com.au or call Ron anytime, including after hours on 0420 791 280



Finance & Administration Manager Key leadership opportunity with a well established not-for-profit!

The Cairns Community Legal Centre is a non-profit, government-funded community organisation, committed to providing free legal and social justice services to a range of disadvantaged clients.

The Centre is now seeking a Finance & Administration Manager to join their team on a full-time basis, responsible for managing the Centre's finances, assets, and information technology.

In return, you will receive an attractive salary circa \$106,500 plus super, salary sacrificing and 17.5% leave loading. Up to \$1,000 relocation assistance is also available.



To learn more or apply, go to:
applynow.net.au/jobs/124771



Diabetes Educator – Indigenous Health Worker

- Play a key role in the delivery of Diabetes Education to Indigenous communities
- Full time or Part time opportunity available (Contract until 30 June 2021 with possible extension)
- Central location, close to transport

Join our passionate NFP organisation delivering diabetes education programs to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities across all of QLD.

About the role

The purpose of the Diabetes Educator – Indigenous Health is to provide education in the prevention and management of diabetes for consumers, health professionals and the general community, specifically Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This position will also support the organisation in meeting the needs of stakeholders and assist in the delivery of programs and initiatives in line with the organisational structure and identified strategies.

Some of the other responsibilities of the role will include:

- Deliver diabetes education programs and health promotion activities (state based or local). With a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander program delivery.
- Engage with external networks, consumer and professional, to improve awareness of the NDSS and understand the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities in relation to diabetes.
- Provide information and advice, and action enquiries on diabetes and associated health matters within scope of practice, over the telephone, internet, social media, radio or at events and where possible with referral back to local diabetes services.

Diabetes QLD is an equal employment opportunity employer and encourages people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to apply.

Next steps?

If you would like further information regarding the role, please visit our website <https://www.diabetesqld.org.au/about-us/careers.aspx> or contact Roslyn Allom at careers@diabetesqld.org.au

To apply please send your resume, together with a cover letter outlining your suitability for the role to careers@diabetesqld.org.au

Aboriginal Partnerships and Water Officer



If you want to be actively involved in giving a voice to the Aboriginal community's hopes for the Murray River and its ongoing water management, we want to hear from you.

Do you want to work towards the best outcomes for our environment and our communities?

Are you a strong leader, with relationship building skills and a desire to have a lasting impact on this region?

Are you capable of developing and maintaining strong partnerships with community groups, including Traditional Owner groups, local Aboriginal groups, volunteer groups, schools and landholders?

Do you understand the value of trust, confidentiality and respectful, effective written and verbal communication?

Do you possess a sound knowledge of Natural Resource Management priorities and initiatives?

If you have said yes to these questions then we may have the opportunity you've been looking for.

If you're successful in getting this role, you will contribute to the environmental and cultural outcomes for local Aboriginal communities. You will work with Traditional Owners and community partners to develop information on local Aboriginal water values and uses of water in the Murray River environment and assist in the identification of Aboriginal water objectives.

The position is available on a fixed term of 12 months (extension subject to funding).

A position description is available from malleecma.com.au/jobs-tenders; by contacting Deanne Kontrec on (03)5051 4377; or by e-mailing vacancies@malleecma.com.au

Applicants must address the Core Capabilities contained within the Position Description.

Applications should be marked 'Confidential – Deanne Kontrec, Human Resources Officer' and submitted to the undersigned by midnight Tuesday 21 July 2020.

Deanne Kontrec
Human Resources Officer
P O Box 5017
Mildura Vic 3502

FR2191



Leader, Aboriginal Education Strategy, CEO (ETS)

- Department of Education
- Temporary full-time appointment up to 16 July 2023
- Position number and location: 223463, flexible location

Total remuneration package valued to: \$201,324 p.a. (salary \$161,669 - \$181,618 p.a. including employer's contribution to superannuation and annual leave loading).

Provide strategic leadership for Aboriginal education strategic initiatives delivery and professional learning to enhance schools and their communities to improve the educational outcomes for all Aboriginal students, whilst maintaining cultural identity.

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.

Please Note: Permanent officers temporarily appointed to Chief Education Officer positions will maintain Right of Return for a period not exceeding twelve months as described in Chief Education Officers - Department of Education) Salaries and Conditions Award 2017.

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: 29 July 2020

If you would like to discuss this opportunity further please contact Lisa Muir on (02) 4357 5300.

To apply online please visit iworkfor.nsw website and refer to the following keyword: 223463

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POSITIONS VACANT

Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC, located in Heywood manages the interests and obligations of Gunditjmara people in relation to native title, cultural heritage, their land holdings, developments and aspirations.

Due to expansion, the corporation currently has a number of career opportunities in the following roles:

- ❖ **Traineeship - Business Administration - Full-time 12 Month Contract**
- ❖ **Traineeship - Land and Conservation - Full-time 12 Month Contract**
- ❖ **Accounting Clerk - Part-time 12 Month Contract**
- ❖ **Media and Communications Officer - Full-time 12 Month Contract**
- ❖ **Budj Bim Visitor Ranger - Full-time 12 Month Contract**
- ❖ **Policy and Research Officer - Full-time 12 Month Contract**
- ❖ **Budj Bim World Heritage Executive Officer - Contract till 30 June 2022**

What We Offer

A flexible, diverse and inclusive community-based professional workplace with exciting and fulfilling work on Gunditjmara country.

The UNESCO World Heritage Listing of the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape in July 2019 has consolidated some new work opportunities at GMTOAC. Alongside GMTOAC's successful and innovative programs and projects, the Budj Bim World Heritage listing elevates an already unique work experience on Gunditjmara country to global recognition and responsibilities.

Gunditjmara, and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Peoples are actively encouraged to apply.

For more information and a position description, contact Trudy Thorp on Mb: 0417 623 546 or trudy@gunditjmarring.com
Applications close Midnight Sunday 2nd August 2020.

CONTINUING CONNECTION TO COUNTRY



Technology Manager

Full Time
Based in Sydney
Closing Date: 24 July 2020

About Gadigal Information Service (GIS)

Gadigal Information Service is an Aboriginal community owned & controlled arts/ media organisation based in Redfern NSW. GIS is known for the operation of community radio station Koori Radio and hosting arts & culture events such as Klub Koori and Yabun Festival.

About the Role

The Technology Manager is a key part of the GIS Leadership team and is responsible for managing and overseeing the day-to-day Technology needs of the organisation required for:

- Production and Broadcasting of content for Koori Radio on FM and digital platforms,
- Operating a music recording studio and media training facility, and
- Hosting GIS events.

Experience in broadcast/media and working with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities is expected.

Training may be available as needed.

This is an identified role in accordance with S14 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW). Applicants must be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.

Enquiries: Tim Leha, ceo@gadigal.org.au



IPA Diversity has been appointed as the Indigenous Australian recruitment partner for a major national manufacturer of industrial and safety products.

With a HUGE range of opportunities all over Australia (regional and Metro) IPA can support you in your next opportunity.

- Logistics & Ops
- Warehousing
- Customer Care
- Management
- Marketing

If you are currently seeking alternative employment and want to hear how IPA can support you find your next position Call Lindsay Thomas 0477 039 788 / Millie Rathnayake 0477 010 881 or email diversty@ipa.com.au

For more information see our ad on the Koori Mail website under JOBS & GENERAL WEB ADS.



Exciting Receptionist opportunity at Tranby (Glebe, Sydney)

Tranby National Indigenous Adult Education and Training is a not for profit, Indigenous organisation committed to advancing educational opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people nationwide.

Your new role (Receptionist, full-time)

You will be the first point of contact for all students and staff at our campus in Glebe, Sydney. You will be giving a great first impression, be enthusiastic and have a "can do" attitude. Your duties will include answering the phones, coordinating venue hire bookings, opening and locking up the campus, general administration duties, meeting and greeting all students and visitors and providing secondary support to our online students.

What you will need to succeed

- Experience in a similar role
- Highly organised
- Positive attitude
- The ability to prioritise and work to strict deadlines
- Outstanding customer service skills
- Digital competence, with reasonable understanding of Microsoft Office programs (e.g. Outlook, Word, Excel, etc.)
- Understand and have previous experience working with Indigenous people and/or communities

How to apply

If you feel that you possess the skills, experience and personal attributes to be successful in this role, please email an up to date resume and detailed cover letter to tranbyrecruitment@gmail.com.

In your covering letter please address the following two (2) questions:

- 1 How would you relate to our Indigenous students?
- 2 What experience have you had working with Indigenous people and/or communities?

Applications for this opportunity close **5pm Friday 24 July 2020**.

Tranby prioritises the employment of suitable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander candidates

For more information on this opportunity, please contact our office on (02) 9660 3444.



Community Engagement Officer (Aboriginal Identified)

Location: Parramatta, NSW

Great opportunity to join a diverse and inclusive workplace as a member of the Community Engagement team to help embed cultural knowledge and places on Country to our workplace.

This role needs you to be a great collaborator who can work with internal and external stakeholders to achieve greater environmental and community benefits across Greater Sydney.

Ideally you will have excellent stakeholder management skills and a track record of designing and delivering multi stakeholder and community engagement program outcomes.

The Planning, Industry and Environment Cluster is strongly committed to embedding Aboriginal knowledge and Culture through, growing and developing a talented and versatile Aboriginal workforce. We value Aboriginal people's wealth of life experience, culture, knowledge and skills.

Applications close:
11.59pm Sunday 2 August 2020

To apply online please visit iworkfor.nsw and search for job reference number 00007R80.

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Aboriginal Peer Worker Suicide Prevention Outreach Team

Hunter Valley Mental Health Service - Maitland

Enquiries: Bron Rose on 0428 425 324 or Elizabeth Newton on (02) 4033 5113
Reference Number: REQ171833

Closing Date: 20 July 2020

Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Outreach Team Professional - Clinical

Hunter Valley Mental Health Service - Maitland

Enquiries: Elizabeth Newton on (02) 4033 5113
Reference Number: REQ171819

Closing Date: 20 July 2020

These are identified Aboriginal Positions. Applicants must be of Aboriginal descent. Exemption is claimed under Section 14d of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977*.

Administration Assistant Gastroenterology

Location: John Hunter Hospital

Enquiries: Nicole Pettiford on Nicole.Pettiford@health.nsw.gov.au

Reference Number: REQ172653

Closing Date: 22 July 2020

Administration Assistant Sexual Health Unit

Location: Tamworth Community Health Service

Enquiries: Nicole Pettiford on Nicole.Pettiford@health.nsw.gov.au

Reference Number: REQ173013

Closing Date: 22 July 2020

Clinical Support Administrator

Location: John Hunter Children's Hospital

Enquiries: Clarissa Robertson on Clarissa.McIlwain@health.nsw.gov.au

Reference Number: REQ173836

Closing Date: 26 July 2020

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.

Department: Hunter New England Local Health District

Closing Date: see above

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_LPI651

BLZ_KH0331



Careers with Queensland Health

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advanced Health Worker

Rural Mental Health Team, Wide Bay Mental Health and Specialised Services, Gayndah Health Service.

Remuneration package up to \$86,383 p.a., comprising salary between \$68,683 p.a. - \$75,711 p.a., employer contribution to superannuation (up to 12.75%) and annual leave loading (17.5%) (005) (Temporary full time, 76 hours p.f., up to 12th June 2022.). JAR: H2007WB347509

Duties/Abilities: Provide culturally sensitive social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing support within a primary health care framework to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and families with a mental illness across all clinical components with multi-disciplinary teams of the Wide Bay Mental Health and Specialised Services.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health is viewed as a broad concept. It includes the social, emotional, cultural, physical and mental wellbeing of the individual and the whole community and is based on current, historical and spiritual values.

Enquiries: Laura Fay on 0419 789 023

Application Kit: www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au
or Recruitment-Wide-Bay@health.qld.gov.au
Closing Date: Wednesday, 29th July 2020

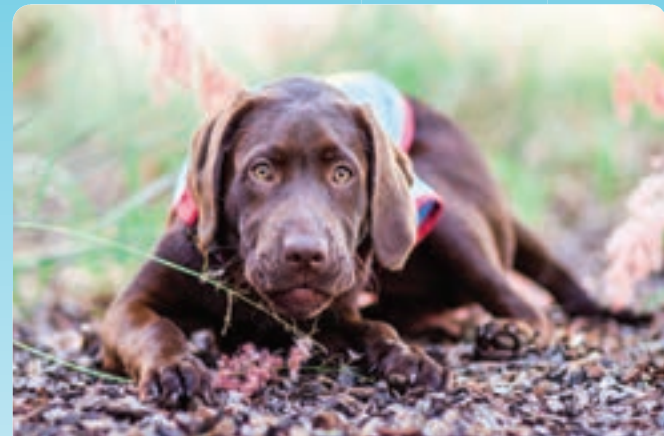
You can apply online at www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au

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.



REQ005006

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.

Free Call 1800 688 364

Or simply post the attached form
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

☐ Payment by credit card:
Monthly amount \$..... (min \$20)

Card type ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Amex

Exp /

Credit card number:

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Cardholder's Name:.....

Card holder's Signature:.....

Title:.....First Name(s):.....

Surname:.....

Address:.....

Suburb:.....

Town/city:.....

Postcode:.....

Phone:.....

Email:.....

Thank you!

An application for a WATER SUPPLY WORK APPROVAL has been received from **S & S PANAZZOLO** for an earthen 656ML turkey nest dam (water storage) on Lot 81 DP 46268 (Cooper/Gibbs), for irrigation 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@waterNSW.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. (A024120)

Any queries please call 1300 662 077 or email the above.

Paul Morsanuto Water Regulation Officer, South.

An application for a NEW WATER SUPPLY WORK APPROVAL has been received from **PETER CHARLES MUELLER** for one 3 litres per second groundwater bore to be located on Lot 110 DP 869254, Parish of Bathurst, County of Bathurst. (Ref: A022704).

An application for a new WATER SUPPLY WORK AND USE APPROVAL has been received from **SAM ALEXANDER MITCHELL** for a 100mm submersible pump (capacity 20 litres/sec) on Lot 24 DP755206, Parish Auburn, County Northumberland for irrigation on Lot 7 & 24 DP755206 (A024164)

An application for a new WATER SUPPLY WORK AND USE APPROVAL has been received from **CATM RURAL PROPERTIES PTY LTD** for an existing bywash dam (capacity 4.7 megalitres) and 100mm centrifugal pump (capacity 20 litres/sec) on Lot 4 DP214182, Parish Currency, County Cook for irrigation on Lot 4 DP214182 (A024141)

WATERNSW MOREE WATER SOURCE

An application for an AMENDED WATER SUPPLY WORK APPROVAL has been received from **RICHARD LUCAS ESTENS & MARGARET LEE ESTENS** for one (1) x 900mm Diversion Pipe on Marshall Ponds Creek, located on Lot 16 DP751751 County of Courallie, Parish of Bogree, for irrigation purposes. Application number A24133.

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to WaterNSW PO Box 1251 Tamworth NSW 2340 or by email to customer.helpdesk@waterNSW.com.au within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address and specify the grounds of objection. 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.

Ben Hanks, Senior Water Regulation Officer North.

KH0319

WATERNSW LACHLAN FOLD BELT MDB GROUNDWATER SOURCE

An application for a new WATER SUPPLY WORK APPROVAL has been received from **HOLCIM (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD** to convert basic rights bore approval 40WA418094 to industrial purposes (diameter 220mm, capacity 12L/s) on Lot 4 DP 583957, Parish Currandooly, County Murray.

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to WaterNSW, PO Box 10, WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650 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. (A024076). Objection forms can be found on the WaterNSW website at www.waterNSW.com.au/customer-service/water-licensing/objections.

Any queries please call 0429 848 782 or email the above.

David Stephens, Water Regulation Officer South.

KH0320

WATERNSW NEW ENGLAND FOLD BELT MDB GROUNDWATER SOURCE

An application for a NEW WATER SUPPLY WORK & USE APPROVAL has been received from **SHANE DAVID ADAMS AND LUCIA LANIFEL ADAMS** for two (2) bores, located on Lot 84 DP754842 County of Murchinson, Parish of Hall, for irrigation of 48.6ha of pomegranates. (Application number A23976).

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to WaterNSW PO Box 1251 Tamworth NSW 2340 or by email to customer.helpdesk@waterNSW.com.au

within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address and specify the grounds of objection. 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.

Ben Hanks, Senior Water Regulation Officer North.

KH0318



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety**

Proposal To Grant Petroleum Exploration Permit

SECTION 29 NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (COMMONWEALTH)

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum C/- Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following Petroleum Exploration Permit application/s applied for under the section 31 of the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967*.

NUMBER	APPLICANT	AREA	SHIRE
STP-EPA-0163	GOSHAWK ENERGY (CANNING BASIN) PTY LTD SQUADRON ENERGY PTY LTD	6000.8 km ²	Derby-West Kimberley, Halls Creek

LOCALITY

The application is located in the Canning Basin, just south of the Fitzroy River and at approximately 285 kilometres east of Broome.

The application covers a total of 74 5' x 5' graticular blocks, 68 of them within the one million map sheet SE51 (Broome) and the remaining 6 blocks within the one million map sheet SE52 (Halls Creek) for a total area of 6000.8 km².

The north-west corner (124°50'4.53"E ; 18°34'54.97"S) of the application is situated approximately 9 kilometres directly south of the Yungngora Aboriginal community and the Noonkanbah homestead.

The south-east corner (126°10'4.53"E ; 19°14'54.95"S) of the application is located on the border between WA and NT and is approximately 16 kilometres north-west of the Ngarantjadu Aboriginal community.

A technical description of the boundaries of the proposed permit area can be provided on request.

Nature Of The Act: Grant of petroleum exploration permit/s, which authorises the applicant to explore for petroleum, and to carry on such operations and execute such works as are necessary for that purpose in the permit area for a term of 6 years from the date the grant becomes effective and may be renewed for a further two 5 year terms.

Notification Day 15 July 2020

Native Title Parties: Under Section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, persons and those who are a body corporate have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to any of the land and/or waters that will be affected by the act. The 3 month period closes on **15 October 2020** Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act 1993*. Enquires in relation to filing an application for either native title determination or prescribed body corporate to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100. The exploration permit may be granted if, by the end of the period of 4 months after the notification day (i.e. **15 November 2020**), there is no native title party under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* in relation to the area of the exploration permit.

For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the application), contact the Petroleum Division, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or free call 1800 628 767 (ask for extension 23518).

DMIRS_519_1097

Notice of an application for determination of native title in the state of Western Australia Notification day: 29 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 28 October 2020**. After **28 October 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: June Harrington-Smith & Ors and State of Western Australia (Darlot)

Federal Court File No: WAD142/2018

Date filed: 10 April 2018

Registration test status: The Native Title Registrar has ***not accepted*** this application for registration. Although this application has not been registered, the Federal Court may still refer the application for mediation and/or make a determination in relation to it

Description: The application area covers approx. 39,563 sq km and is located in the vicinity of Leonora, approx. 123 km north of Kalgoorlie-Boulder

Relevant LGAs: Shires of Laverton, Leonora, Menzies, Mount Magnet and Sandstone

For assistance and further information about this application, call Claire Smith on 08 9425 1104 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.



National
Native Title
Tribunal

Notice of an application to register an area agreement on the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements Notification day: 22 July 2020



QI2020/007 Gurambilbarra Wulgurukaba People and J & MM Lowth Pty Ltd ILUA
State of Queensland

Description of the agreement area:

The agreement area covers approx. 66 sq m, over Lot 28 on WG293 located in Toomulla

Relevant LGA: Townsville City Council

The agreement contains the following statements:

[Explanatory notes in brackets inserted by the National Native Title Tribunal]

8.1 The Parties consent to: (a) the Surrender; and (b) the Grant.

8.2 The Parties agree that the Surrender is intended to extinguish any Native Title in relation to the ILUA Area at the time of the Surrender.

8.6 For the purposes of section 24EB(1)(c) of the NTA *[Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)]* and regulation 7(5)(b) of the Regulations, Subdivision P of Division 3 of Part 2 of the NTA is not intended to apply to the Surrender or the Grant.

Grant means the grant of an estate in fee simple by the State over the ILUA Area by the issue of a deed of grant to J & MM Lowth.

Surrender means the intended extinguishment of Native Title over the ILUA Area.

Parties to the agreement and their contact addresses:

J & MM Lowth Pty Ltd c/- Michael Owens Lawyer and Consultant PO Box 1989 Aitkenvale QLD 4814	State of Queensland acting through the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy c/- Crown Law GPO Box 5221 Brisbane QLD 4001	Virginia Wyles, Christine George, Brenton Creed, Florence Watson, Lynette Forbes-Beitsch, Pam Petrina Hegarty, Gail Ambrym, Esalyn Ambrym on their own behalf and on behalf of the Gurambilbarra Wulgurukaba People c/- North Queensland Land Council Level 1, 19 Stanley Street Townsville QLD 4810
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Responses to an application to register an ILUA—where the application has not been certified:

Any person claiming to hold native title in relation to land or waters in the area covered by the agreement may wish, in response to this notice, to make a native title determination application or equivalent application under a law of a state or territory in respect of any part of the area. **The application must be made by 22 October 2020**. If that application is registered on the Register of Native Title Claims, the registered native title claimants must be a party to this agreement before it can be registered.

Details of the terms of the agreement are not available from the National Native Title Tribunal.

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

WATERNSW

LACHLAN FOLD BELT GROUNDWATER SOURCE

An application for a NEW WATER SUPPLY WORK APPROVAL has been received from **DEVRO PTY. LIMITED** for three 6 litres per second groundwater bores to be located on Lot 35 DP 1195121, Parish of Kelso, County of Roxburgh. (Ref: A024102). Objections to the granting of the above approval must be forwarded to WaterNSW, PO Box 1018, DUBBO NSW 2830 or by email to customer.helpdesk@waterNSW.com.au within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address and specify the grounds of objection. Objection forms can be downloaded at

<https://www.waterNSW.com.au/customer-service/water-licensing/objections>

Any queries please call 1300 662 077. Rob Kardell, Water Regulation Officer North.

KH0325

WATERNSW

MID ORARA RIVER WATER SOURCE

An application for a WATER SUPPLY WORK AND USE APPROVAL has been received from **GURMUKH SIDHU** for three (3) pumps (2 x 75mm 13L/S & 1 x 50mm 7 L/S) and three (3) existing bywash dams (4.3 ML, 4.3 ML, 2.7 ML) on unnamed watercourses, and irrigation on Lot 45 DP751368 County of Clarence, Parish of Dundoo (Application number A24085).

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to WaterNSW PO Box 1018, Dubbo NSW 2830 or by email to customer.helpdesk@waterNSW.com.au within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address and specify the grounds of objection. 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 North.

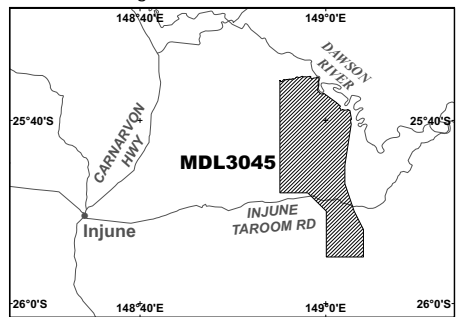
KH0326

NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF MINERAL DEVELOPMENT LICENCE AND GRANT OF EXPLORATION PERMITS FOR MINERALS

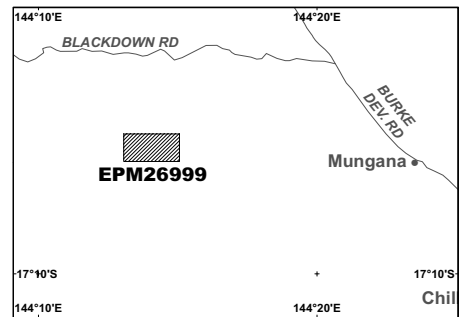
NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Queensland Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) of the proposed grant of Mineral Development Licence (MDL) 3045 and grant of Exploration Permits for Minerals (EPM) 26999, EPM27001, EPM27509, EPM27511, EPM27513, EPM27514, EPM27521, EPM27523, EPM27526, EPM27527, EPM27528, EPM27529, EPM27530, EPM27533, EPM27534, EPM27535, EPM27543 and EPM27544 as shown below under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld).

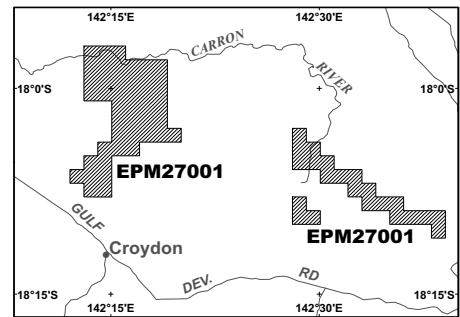
Mineral Development Licence 3045 sought by Tilox Resources Pty Ltd (33.34%), ACN 122 837 503, Hutton Coal No1 Pty Ltd (33.33%), ACN 640 646 626 and PSOA Resources Pty Ltd (33.33%), ACN 166 957 240, over an area of 33,900.0 ha, centred approximately 42 km North East of Injune, in the localities of Banana Shire Council and Maranoa Regional Council.



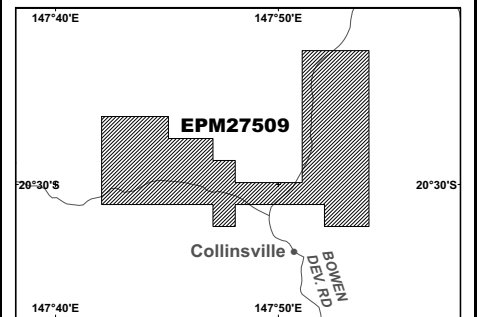
Exploration Permit for Minerals 26999 sought by Wandoo Tenements Pty Ltd, ACN 603 839 809, over an area of 2 sub-blocks (7 km²), centred approximately 17 km West of Mungana, in the locality of the Mareeba Shire Council.



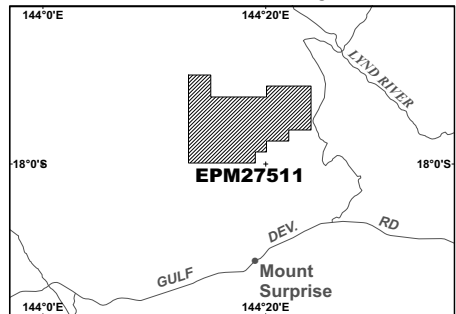
Exploration Permit for Minerals 27001 sought by Prophet Resources Pty Ltd, ACN 615 031 359, over an area of 66 sub-blocks (215 km²), centred approximately 18 km North and 32 km East North East of Croydon, in the localities of the Croydon Shire Council and the Etheridge Shire Council.



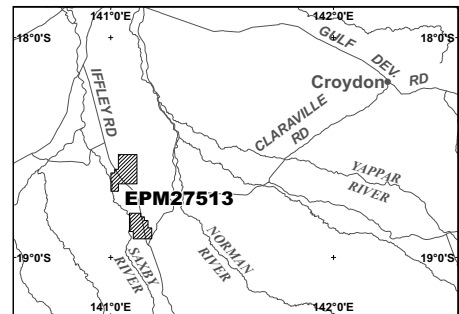
Exploration Permit for Minerals 27509 sought by Conquest Mining Pty Limited, ACN 009 232 277, over an area of 47 sub-blocks (151 km²), centred approximately 5 km North of Collinsville, in the locality of the Whitsunday Regional Council.



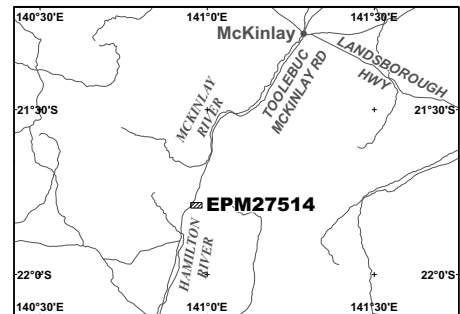
Exploration Permit for Minerals 27511 sought by Australian Asiatic Gems Pty Ltd (50%), ACN 067 386 323 and Nedex Pty Ltd (50%), ACN 064 889 827, over an area of 63 sub-blocks (205 km²), centred approximately 22 km North of Mount Surprise, in the localities of the Mareeba Shire Council and the Etheridge Shire Council.



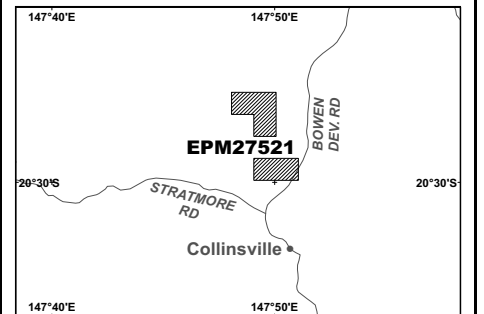
Exploration Permit for Minerals 27513 sought by Taragon Valley Pty Limited, ACN 623 574 603, over an area of 84 sub-blocks (272 km²), centred approximately 135 km South West of Croydon, in the locality of the Carpentaria Shire Council.



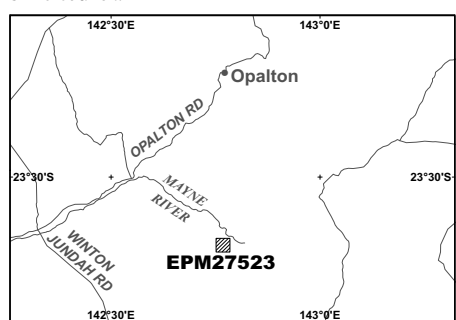
Exploration Permit for Minerals 27514 sought by South32 Cannington Proprietary Limited, ACN 125 530 967, over an area of 2 sub-blocks (6 km²), centred approximately 66 km South West of McKinlay, in the locality of the McKinlay Shire Council.



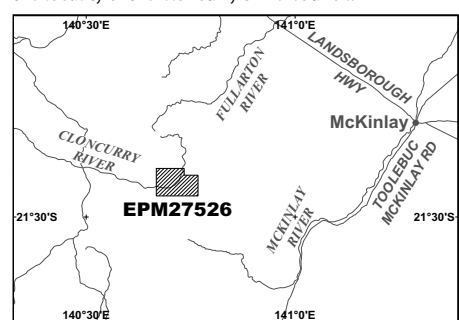
Exploration Permit for Minerals 27521 sought by Conquest Mining Pty Limited, ACN 009 232 277, over an area of 5 sub-blocks (16 km²), centred approximately 9 km North of Collinsville, in the locality of the Whitsunday Regional Council.



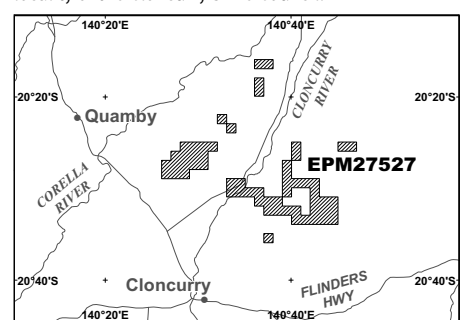
Exploration Permit for Minerals 27523 sought by Kerry John Ashley Jackson, over an area of 4 sub-blocks (13 km²), centred approximately 143 km South South West of Winton, in the locality of the Winton Shire Council.



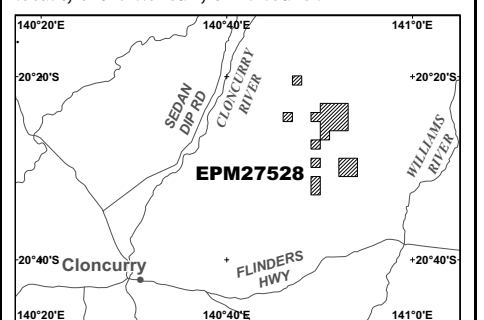
Exploration Permit for Minerals 27526 sought by Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Limited, ACN 000 057 125, over an area of 22 sub-blocks (70 km²), centred approximately 62 km West South West of McKinlay, in the locality of the Cloncurry Shire Council.



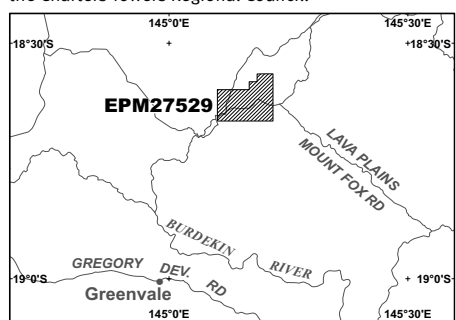
Exploration Permit for Minerals 27527 sought by Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Limited, ACN 000 057 125, over an area of 59 sub-blocks (189 km²), centred approximately 30 km North East of Cloncurry, in the locality of the Cloncurry Shire Council.



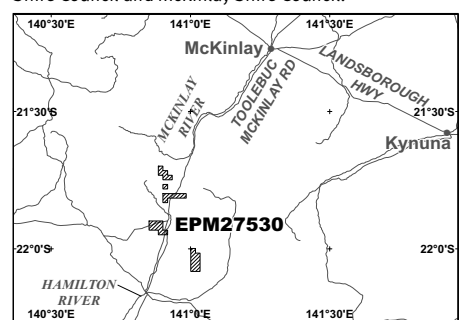
Exploration Permit for Minerals 27528 sought by Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Limited, ACN 000 057 125, over an area of 21 sub-blocks (67 km²), centred approximately 42 km North East of Cloncurry, in the locality of the Cloncurry Shire Council.



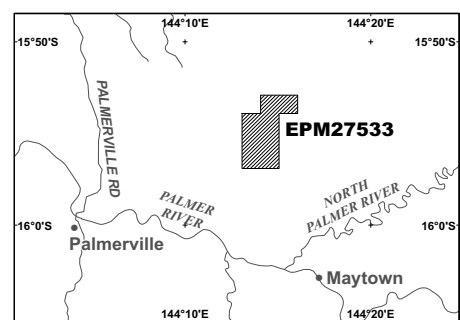
Exploration Permit for Minerals 27529 sought by Sconi Mining Operations Pty Ltd, ACN 614 910 191, over an area of 33 sub-blocks (107 km²), centred approximately 45 km North North East of Greenvale, in the locality of the Charters Towers Regional Council.



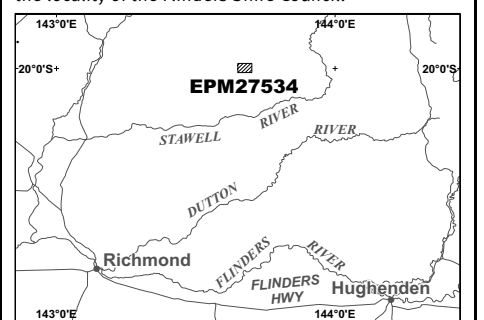
Exploration Permit for Minerals 27530 sought by Caesar Resources Pty Ltd, ACN 640 486 540, over an area of 29 sub-blocks (92 km²), centred approximately 77 km South West of McKinlay, in the localities of the Cloncurry Shire Council and McKinlay Shire Council.



Exploration Permit for Minerals 27533 sought by Dominic Zopponi, over an area of 8 sub-blocks (26 km²), centred approximately 20 km North East of Palmerville, in the locality of the Cook Shire Council.



Exploration Permit for Minerals 27534 sought by Philip Kent Newcombe (50%) and Troy Jon Newcombe (50%), over an area of 6 sub-blocks (19 km²), centred approximately 109 km North West of Hughenden, in the locality of the Flinders Shire Council.



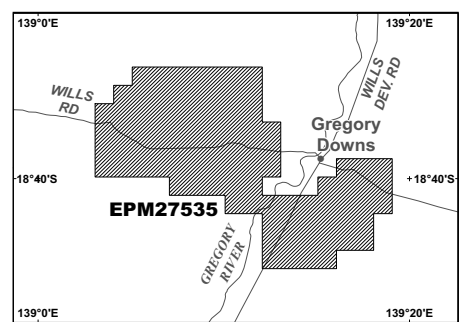
Nature of Act(s): The grant of the Exploration Permits under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld), authorises the holder to explore for minerals and the grant of the Mineral Development Licence authorises the holder to do all things that are authorised under the Mineral Development Licence over the area of the application and carry out exploration activities leading to the evaluation and economic development of the ore body subject to the Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld) for a term not exceeding five (5) years with the possibility of renewal for a term not exceeding five (5) years. It is proposed to grant the Exploration Permits and Mineral Development Licence subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) and the Native Title Protection Conditions.

Name and Address of Person doing Act(s): It is proposed that the Exploration Permits for Minerals and Mineral Development Licence be granted subject to the provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) by the Queensland Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002.

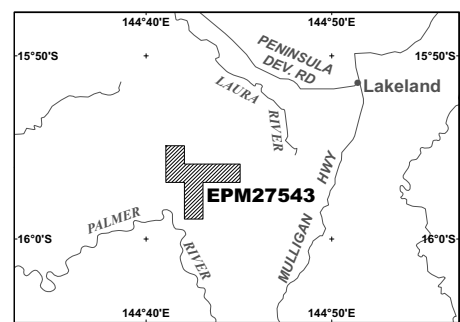
Native Title Parties: Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) any person who is a "native title party" is entitled to certain rights in relation to the proposed Future Acts. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), persons have until three (3) months after Notification Day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application may be directed to the Federal Court, Brisbane Registry, Level 6, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3248 1100 or Email: qldreg@fedcourt.gov.au. Enquiries in relation to the registration of a native title determination application may be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Brisbane Registry, Level 5, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3307 5000 or 1800 640 501.

Further Information: Further Information about the proposed grant of the Exploration Permit for Minerals including extract of plans showing boundaries of the Exploration Permit Application may be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Mining Registrar, Mineral Assessment Hub, Level 9, Verde Tower, 445 Flinders Street, Townsville, Queensland, 4810. Telephone: (07) 4447 9230 or Email: MineralHub@dnrme.qld.gov.au. Further information about the proposed grant of the Mineral Development Licence Application may be obtained from the

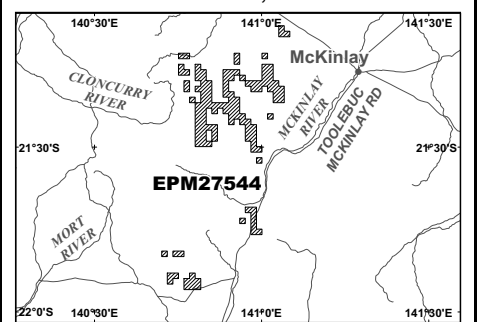
Exploration Permit for Minerals 27535 sought by Aeon Walford Exploration Pty Ltd, ACN 634 353 610, over an area of 91 sub-blocks (295 km²), centred approximately 5 km West of Gregory, in the locality of the Burke Shire Council.



Exploration Permit for Minerals 27543 sought by Kevin Alfred De Roma, over an area of 7 sub-blocks (7 km²), centred approximately 18 km South West of Lakeland, in the locality of the Cook Shire Council.



Exploration Permit for Minerals 27544 sought by Exco Resources Pty Limited, ACN 080 339 671, over an area of 130 sub-blocks (415 km²), centred approximately 50 km South of McKinlay, in the localities of the Cloncurry Shire Council and the McKinlay Shire Council.



Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Principal Mining Registrar, Coal Assessment Hub, Corner of Bruce Highway and Yeppoon Road, Parkhurst, Queensland, 4701. Telephone: (07) 4936 0169 or Email: CoalHub@dnrme.qld.gov.au

Expedited Procedure: The State of Queensland considers the grant of the Exploration Permits and Mineral Development Licence to which this notice applies is an act attracting the Expedited Procedure. Each individual Exploration Permit and Mineral Development Licence may be granted unless, within a period of four (4) months after the Notification Day a native title party lodges an objection in respect of the individual Exploration Permit for Minerals or Mineral Development Licence with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of that Exploration Permit for Minerals or Mineral Development Licence is a future act attracting the Expedited Procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, Harry Gibbs Commonwealth Law Courts Building, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3307 5000 or 1800 640 501.

Notification Day: 05 August 2020.



North Adelaide's Dom Barry (left) closes in on Glenelg's Marlon Motlop in the opening round of the 2020 SANFL Premiership season at Adelaide Oval. Pictures: Peter Argent



Sturt's Byron Sumner.



West Adelaide's Ken Karpany (left) and Mitchell Taylor.

Our southern stars kick off with a bang

By PETER ARGENT



NT THUNDER premiership player Dom Barry welcomed the return of football with his milestone 50th match in round 1 of the new-look 2020 SANFL

season.

The former Melbourne and Port Adelaide AFL midfielder, Barry ran out for Norwood in the Redlegs' match against Marlon Motlop's Glenelg as the SANFL got underway at Adelaide Oval in the final weekend of June.

The SANFL is the first state league football competition to return following the lockdown of all sport in Australia due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The SANFL will play a 14-round season and finals.

Barry has now played league football at three different clubs in the SANFL, Glenelg, Port Adelaide's Magpies and now at The Parade with Norwood.

He said he was always keen to get back onto the field and play in 2020.

"A premiership is a driving force for our group at Norwood," Barry said.

"I played in a NEAFL championship with the NT Thunder, which was special, and for the guys here (at Norwood) who played in the 2018 grand final there is plenty of motivation."

Barry is one of several Aboriginal players across the SANFL in the reduced eight-team league. (Port Adelaide and Adelaide were dropped due to their AFL clubs' health restrictions.)

At Sturt, Ash Johnson exploded onto the scene in the season opener (see page 51), while Byron Sumner and Abe Davis added strength and maturity.



North Adelaide trio Kym Lebois (left), Frank Szekely and Robbie Young.

Malcolm Karpany, in his second season at South Adelaide, was injured early in round 1, but his teammate, young gun Hayden Sampson, impressed for the Panthers in rounds 1 and 2.

Teenager Lachlan Jones and Tasmanian recruit Rhyann Mansell were productive in Woodville-West Torrens' round 2 win over Sturt. Also at the Eagles, Connor McLeod, son of dual Norm Smith medallist and AFL great, Andrew, is pushing his claims for a league debut while in reserves.

Former St Kilda midfielder Robbie Young returns to North Adelaide and is at the Roosters with Frankie Szekely and former Carlton rookie Kym LeBois.

Mitchell Taylor, recruited from the NTFL, displayed plenty of promise in his opening couple of games for West Adelaide while Ken Karpany continues to add flair and X factor for the Wolves.

Glenelg 2019 premiership player



Sturt's Abe Davis.

Marlon Motlop continues in his key role as midfield lynchpin for the Tigers and his match-up with milestone man Barry in round 1 was full of intrigue.



South Adelaide's Hayden Sampson.



Woodville-West Torrens' pair Lachlan Jones (left) and Rhyann Mansell.

A Firebird's journey

THE one thing Beryl Friday would have loved to have seen in her formative years at the Queensland Firebirds was for an Aboriginal person at the organisation to help steer her through a difficult phase of her blossoming netball career.



Darren Moncrieff

In her three years around the club, there was no-one she could confide in or who understood completely the cultural issues that many Aboriginal people face in professional sport. And that, compounded by injury following poor advice, led to an early exit from the team she loved.

Friday realised a childhood dream when she joined the Firebirds in 2015. The team was at the top of its game and would win back-to-back Trans-Tasman Netball League championships in 2015 and 2016. Until 2017, when Sunshine Coast joined the new national Super Netball competition, the Firebirds were Queensland's flagship team. Every little girl in Queensland who donned a bib and pivoted with the ball dreamt of playing for the Firebirds, which is where wide-eyed Friday landed as a 20-year-old fresh from dominating at the nationals.

Friday, 26, is a Nyungkul woman of the Kuku Yalanji Nation from the area that is now known as northern Queensland and is a descendant of the Olkola, Birri Gubba and Kamilaroi nations. She is super proud of her ancestry of some of the great traditional nations of this land.

She has opened up about her time in netball in the hope that her experience is never repeated and that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls can be confident that the environment they are entering will be safe for them.

Friday made a name for herself in junior netball as a competitive goal-attack and goal-shooter. Rising through the pathways saw her represent Queensland at the nationals in under-17s, under-19s and as captain of the under-21 and captain of the Australian under-21 team. The Firebirds came calling around 2014 and Friday would settle in Brisbane to realise a long-held dream of playing for the team she grew up idolising. But she quickly found that cultural sensitivities had no place in professional netball. She was propelled into the figurative furnace and juggled university studies, a part-time job to support herself and a training regime that would exact a terrible physical toll in a team environment that had no idea of the Aboriginal experience.

Her sense of loss in what she missed in netball is apparent.

"There were some really good times like the time I got to pilot a City Cat ferry on the Brisbane River as part of the Firebirds' promotion and flying in a helicopter to launch our first away strip, and playing in stadiums where Beyoncé once performed, so it had its little perks," Friday said.

"But, I would just have loved to have an

Aboriginal woman as a mentor, as an 'Auntie' figure, at the Firebirds; just to be there, for the team to sit down with them, with me, my family, and not just be like, 'OK, let's go!' and get thrown into the deep end.

"I couldn't afford to live off my salary so I took on this part-time job, then I had uni and training and playing. I was a rookie who was broke and living in a big city where I had no relations around."

Perhaps the low point came when Friday sustained an injury as part of an extra training program. Worryingly for someone so young, it still flares up without warning, which it did when she spoke. She believes it can be traced directly back to a lack of cultural knowledge and understanding. Friday is tall, like most netballers, and slim. She stands at 184cm (around 6ft). In conversations about her role within the squad, she was told she would need to bulk up in her legs if she were to get far. This would require a radical change in her diet with a higher focus on protein coupled with an intense weights program. She had misgivings about the diet, which was not part of her or her people's traditional foods, but she had no-one to explain this to. Friday was pumping big weights for little gain. At home while picking up her phone she felt sharp pain in her lower back that resulted in a six-hour stint in a nearby ER. This happened twice. Doctors would later find she suffered from disc protrusion. An epidural was prescribed to relieve the pain. A while later, a doctor took a closer look and to her alarm his suggestion was for disc fusion surgery which has no guarantee of a full 100 per cent return to normality, let alone for a return to elite sport. Friday was just 21. She point blank refused. She manages the ongoing issues with her back as best she can.

"I understand that as athletes you have to have that base level of fitness and good core strength," Friday said, "but I never understood that lifting a certain amount of weights would make me a better netballer. There's no research that backs any of that up either."

"All body types in netball can be good goal-shooters or goal-attacks, from lean and slim to stocky, you can see that in Super Netball now."

Again, Friday had no-one at the club to talk to about this.

"It was almost like, 'You should be grateful that you're here'," she said.

"(The back pain) is still an ongoing issue."

"Sometimes, I can go months (without it being an issue) but then it is (an issue) for the next few weeks. Five years ago a physio told me I would have to manage this for the rest of my life. The cost of physio treatment, painkillers, and pilates, I will have to pay for forever, and the painkillers don't help that much."

"It flared up again this week, actually."

Netball has high participation rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females. It ranks below only basketball in this key demographic.

● Continued next page



Beryl Friday worked her way up to Super Netball as a blossoming goal-attack, goal-shooter from Queensland. Here, she is in action for Territory Storm in an Australian Netball League match. Pictures: Getty Images



Marcia Ella-Duncan OAM was our first Black Diamond when she represented Australia in netball in 1986.

'We must learn from the past' – statement from Netball Australia



NETBALL should be a sport enjoyed by all, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation or religion and it is always disappointing when in the eyes of any of our netball family, we don't live up to this promise. There is no place for racism in our sport, and we apologise for and

acknowledge the hurt these experiences have caused.

Netball Australia has acknowledged that the strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation rates and talent within our grassroots and state competitions is not translating strongly into our elite pathway.

The last Aboriginal woman to be part of an Australian Diamonds team was

Sharon Finnan-White OAM almost 20 years ago and we understand the next generation can't be what they can't see.

Netball Australia is committed to working with its Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group, staff and stakeholders to explore, better understand and address the issues within our netball pathway to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander peoples are better supported and encouraged to pursue their careers to the highest level, on and off the court.

We must learn from the past. We won't always be perfect, but we must always strive shape a better tomorrow.

Marne Fechner
CEO, Netball Australia

— a cautionary tale



Beryl Friday's stint at West Coast Fever in Super Netball may have been short but it was the happiest she had been at the top level of the sport. Pictures: Getty Images

● From previous page

Sport Australia's annual AusPlay Survey (2019) ranked netball 13th overall out of 385 types of sport and activities with 901,903 registered participants.

Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females, netball's percentage of participation compared to the overall population is at 4.3% compared to 2.8%.

Yet in Super Netball, among the more than 100 players across its eight teams only Jemma Mi Mi carries the Aboriginal flag.

And in the time since Marcia Ella-Duncan first represented Australia with the Diamonds in 1986, and Sharon Finnan-White's decade-long career that culminated in the 1999 Netball World Cup triumph with the Diamonds, only a handful of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have followed in their footsteps at the elite level in this country, while none have at the Diamonds.

It's a failing Netball Australia is scrambling to address. The organisation has at least acknowledged those failings (see statement opposite). In recent years, NA has followed in the footsteps of the NRL and AFL with league-wide Indigenous rounds. But unlike the NRL and AFL, Netball Australia's power is somewhat diluted as a federated body with competing interests by its member states and territories. With an ongoing lack of

representation comes a lack of cultural understanding, which ultimately undid Friday.

Disillusioned somewhat, Friday left the Firebirds and linked up with Territory Storm (2017) and the Canberra Giants (2018) in the Australian Netball League before heading to England to play for Team Bath in the United Kingdom's Netball Superleague for a season.

In 2019, she joined Super Netball's West Coast Fever in Perth as an injury-replacement player, the team where Bianca Franklin and Josie Janz-Dawson once played. Her experience at the Fever was poles apart from what she endured at the Firebirds.

"If there ever was a team that 'got it', it was the Fever," Friday said.

"Even though I was only there as an injury-replacement player, the whole time there I felt respected.

"They took the time to learn about me and my culture. They were the first team to ask me who my mob is and my Aboriginal name and language.

"Ultimately, I just wish there were more Black people around in netball in general. It still has a way to go."

The mid-20s are the prime years in sport. The time for Beryl Friday in professional netball has seemingly passed her by. She doesn't have that 'body of work' in the game to simply pick up where she left off. She has lost ground to the twin

towers of injury and disillusionment.

Right now, Friday is counting down to the Sapphire Series, which replaces the Queensland State Netball League, and will wear the GA bib for Brisbane South Wildcats.

She is currently studying her Bachelors of Education and wants to do her Masters around Indigenous education and to eventually work to make the school curriculum more culturally inclusive for our people.

Friday's time in netball best describes the challenge facing netball in Australia. In full flight, it truly is a dynamic sport. It is literally surrounded by a vast reservoir of talent that is playing the game in huge numbers at the grassroots, but that historically has faced inexcusable exclusion and impassivity bordering on apathy.

To truly gain credibility among Indigenous Australia, NA and its federated bodies must navigate this space with a willingness to be open to change if it really wants to match its words with deeds. Just as important, it must make netball a safe space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young women who choose it above all others.

**Darren Moncrieff is a Wadjjarri-Thakarri man from Carnarvon in Western Australia who started with Yamaji News in 1997 and freelanced in WA's Kimberley region and in the Northern Territory. He is sports editor at Koori Mail*



West Coast Fever rolled out the red carpet for Friday.



Sharon Finnan-White OAM won a World Cup with the Diamonds in 1999 and played for a decade at the elite level.



Netball Australia and its federated states and territories have made an attempt at greater inclusion toward Indigenous Australia

The scent of blood is strong at Lang Park

AFTER seeing how visibly upset Brisbane players were this past week I want to focus on what the Broncos are going through in what I believe is one of the most tumultuous periods of this club's existence.



Dean Widders

The Broncos community has always expected success and their players traditionally have always had the best of everything; confidence is something they have never lacked. But losing streaks, coach uncertainty and an extended hangover from the 2015 grand final loss to the Cowboys seemingly has the club at its most vulnerable that I and many others have ever seen.

Brisbane have lost a lot of experienced players over the years and there is a definite change in the way their team shapes up on the field. Experienced players like Darius Boyd and Alex Glenn are two of the most professional players out there, but the responsibility of leading a talented generation of young upcoming stars has taken a toll on their own performance, which leaves even their places in the team under question.

Anthony Milford and Brodie Croft are two players clearly not enjoying their football. The pressure of being the two playmakers at a club where past greats Darren Lockyer, Alan Langer and Wally Lewis dominated looks to be proving too much to overcome no matter how much talent they have. I miss the Milford who was free-flowing and carefree, but as a player in control of a team around the park but which is still losing, and badly, the first place people are going to look to for answers is to him, and this has diminished his effectiveness.

What I believe is killing the Broncos is the weight of expectations and the effect that that is having on key players and overall performance of coaches and players. Their players and coaches look unhappy and are low on confidence and self-belief. They fall back into bad habits very quickly in a game which tells me that players either don't understand the directions from the coaching staff or they disagree with it. It is an awful feeling to have when there is so much of the season left, but feels like it is over already. As a player, I've been there before and it is very tough.

The one advantage the Broncos did have was the atmosphere they could generate at Lang Park, but first with no crowds and now just small crowds due to coronavirus fears, they don't have this. Teams feared going there but now they don't. The scent of Bronco blood at Lang Park is strong now.

The answers are not easy, but for starters they need to simplify their gameplan. Anthony Siebold is a very knowledgeable rugby league coach but right now his team looks confused in key moments so I think he needs to strip back to a more simple plan to get his team playing a more coordinated and in-sync style of game.

Their defence needs improving the most. They defend as individuals when under pressure which tells me the players aren't comfortable with the team set-up or just do not trust their teammates to make key decisions. The coach needs to work out which one it is and make those changes.

The Brisbane Broncos are a proud club, but its current team needs to make changes. No longer will the next superstar just walk through the front door. For the first time in a long time the Broncos have to start from scratch.

**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.*



The entire South Coast Black Cockatoos team and management which won the NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival in 2019. Picture: SCBC

2021 KO could be best ever – Waters

By **DARREN MONCRIEFF**



AN ABORIGINAL career rugby league coach believes the extended break from football could have long-term benefits for players and that the Koori Knockout in 2021 could be the best yet.

Dallas Waters, 43, is a premiership-winning coach in first-grade country rugby league in NSW.

A Yaegl man from sleepy town Maclean in northern NSW, Waters was earlier this year appointed senior coach of Northern United, which was founded by the Bundjalung community about 11 years ago and plays in the Northern Rivers Regional Rugby League (NRRRL) competition.

Organisers of the 2020 NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival postponed this year's event because of logistics and timing due to the COVID-19 pandemic that's thrown the world into a spin. The tournament will return for its 50th milestone in October 2021 at Nowra on the South Coast and will be hosted by 2019 winners South Coast Black Cockatoos.

"I think that if there is to be any advantage with the (2020) Knockout being postponed is that it gives players across the state a chance to rest and really heal



Dallas Waters

their bodies and freshen up and so by the time it rolls around next year, the Knockout could be better than ever," Waters said.

"Given that the Knockout is at a really good standard nowadays, and I'm sure players would continue to make those healthy life choices and be ready for the start of the 2021 football season and, all things going well, they will get that momentum up and going for the Knockout.

"It will also be a great reunion, a reconnecting with mob and community and culture. It's who we are and the Knockout is a great platform for us to come together through football."

As a player, Waters had moderate team success at the Knockout.

"I'm originally from Maclean and we once made it to the Sunday and were one game away from the semis," he said.

"We had teams called Clarence Valley Warriors, Maclean United and Yamboora Roos, where it all started for our Yaegl country. Everyone looks forward to it; you get that burst of pride in representing your mob and community."

In his decade-long stint with the clipboard on the sidelines, Waters has won titles in semi-professional leagues in northern NSW, first at Lower Clarence as player-coach and later at South Grafton. He took Mullumbimby from cellar-dwellers one year to semi-finalists the next. His MO is to build teams and create a winning culture.

"As coach, I want to build environments that both the players and the community can be a part of," he said.

"If you can also build respect within a club, then that can breed success."

The NRRRL shut down in March due to the coronavirus lockdown, but will restart as a 10-round competition this month with a three-week finals series.

Medical room growing as season rolls on



ADAM Elliott's apparent early end to the season with a dislocated shoulder adds to growing concerns that the injury toll in the NRL is higher than usual due to the unique nature of 2020.

The 2018 Indigenous All-Star and tenacious Bulldog Elliott made big contact with South Sydney forward Tom Burgess in a match two weeks ago and was later taken from the field.

The Canterbury star went for scans the next day and the club has since confirmed a surgical repair may be needed, bringing an early end to his season.

It is a terrible blow for the Bulldogs and Elliott, who has been among their best players in a four year.

Elliott's demise adds to the long line at the casualty ward among NRL players. Added to that list this year are several big-name Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander players.

Notwithstanding convoluted contract



South Sydney's Braidon Burns is tended to by teammates after sustaining a serious injury in round 8 of the 2020 NRL season. Picture: Getty Images

talks, Brisbane playmaker David Fifita may not be seen on the field until 2021 due to a knee complaint. Teammate Jack Bird is recovering from ACL surgery.

South Sydney's Braidon Burns recently suffered a season-ending knee injury.

Newcastle's Edrick Lee was putting together consistent performances until a

wrist injury put him on the sidelines, while his cousin at Melbourne Storm, Brenko Lee, recently tore a hamstring that's put him out indefinitely.

Gold Coast club captain Ryan James is making steady progress from pre-season knee surgery while Titans teammate Brian Kelly's quad complaint is listed as indefinite. – with AAP

McGuire to lead Swans as skipper

By CHRIS PIKE



FRESH from her first season in the AFLW for West Coast, Emily McGuire has been named as one of three co-captains for WAFLW club Swan Districts and she couldn't be more excited.

"I never thought that I would be captain of Swan Districts," she said.

"I love this club and I really am looking forward to the journey. I can't wait to see what this season holds."

McGuire's Swans were grand finalists in 2019 and have been one of the leading clubs in the west.

Women's football in Western Australia returns to the field this weekend with the 2020 WAFLW season getting underway in what will be a seven-week season and

a three-week finals series with the grand final scheduled for Saturday, September 20.

The WAFLW will welcome South Fremantle as the newest club in the fledgling league and the Bulldogs will be joining Claremont, East Fremantle, Peel Thunder, Subiaco and Swan Districts.

The team that runs out to represent South Fremantle in its first WAFLW game is expected to feature several Aboriginal players including exciting, talented pair, sisters Shakeeda and Shakira Pickett.

Round 1 of the WAFLW will be a baptism of fire for the fresh-faced Bulldogs team – a Fremantle derby, pitting them against last year's premiers East Fremantle at Fremantle Oval.

The other games are Subiaco versus Claremont and Peel Thunder versus Swan Districts.



Emily McGuire, co-captain at Swan Districts in the WAFLW



It's July and this place is empty. Supplied

Big shift from footy's centre

VICTORIA can no longer claim to be the heartland of Australian Football, or more accurately, the 'heart' of AFL football. The 10 Victorian AFLM* clubs have left the Garden State and 'hubbed' out in various locations interstate, joining the other eight clubs in NSW and Queensland.



Shelley Ware

Victoria is currently in the middle of its second lockdown due to a second wave of COVID-19 so AFL House, located in Melbourne, moved quickly to salvage the 2020 season which meant a mad scramble to Tullamarine and mass bookings via Trivago. Footy lives on!

Apparently, we will see an ever-changing fixture and teams backing up in crammed 'blocks' of games before relocating to more hubs, possibly in South Australia and Western Australia.

Last round was the first in the modern era where there were no home teams, just games at 'neutral' venues which, selfishly, just does not help with the footy tipping competition I'm currently losing badly in.

The AFL is looking to play a compressed fixture, by round 12, which would come at the end of a 32-day hub period for the Victorian teams.

What we are seeing, too, is plenty of debutants which wouldn't happen in a regular season, at this rate anyway. This is mostly due to the 'older' players being rested and could become more commonplace given the short turnaround time the AFL will have in place soon. Even though the shorter quarters (at 16 minutes each) are helping with overall recovery, it is still a big ask for the older players.

You can't help but think that with the young guns coming in full of excitement and the desire to impress that that must play on the minds of the older, experienced players. Once you are out of the team, you are fighting for your spot, your very place within the side.

Credit here where it is due – AFL chief executive Gill McLaughlin and his team have done a brilliant job and they have worked quickly to save the 2020 season from cancellation.

So what is this like in Melbourne right now? As a transplanted Victorian, in football terms, it is a bit lonely to be honest. Football here is like the 'heartbeat' of this state, this city. It is almost everywhere you look. There is a certain 'feeling' in the air when footy is about. Thankfully it still lives on, just elsewhere now.

There has been understandable sadness from some players at leaving their families and partners behind which has got the 'keyboard crew' all worked up saying 'this is their job; they are lucky to be there; they should be grateful'. We have asked a lot of these players to play this game and salvage this season. Football is not just a game, it is part of our identity.

*AFL Men's competition

*Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide. She appears on AFL.com.au's Colour Of Your Jumper.

Brothers join unique club in league debuts

By PETER ARGENT



ASH Johnson made an immediate impact in his first league game in the SANFL and it replicated that of his older brother two years earlier, while at the same club.

Johnson joins that exclusive club of kicking a goal with his first kick when round 1 of the SANFL finally got underway two weeks ago (Saturday, June 28).

Johnson, 22, laced up for Sturt for the first time at senior level in the match against Central District at Adelaide Oval. His goal came soon after the start of play, and a second not long after that with his second kick. He finished the game with three goals in the win over the Bulldogs.

In 2018, Johnson's brother Shane McAdam kicked a goal with his first kick, also for Sturt and also in round 1 (this was against Norwood). A day after his younger brother's heroics, McAdam made his AFL debut for Adelaide in Brisbane.

The brothers are from Halls Creek in the East Kimberley region of WA, a small town of just over 1500 people but which has produced several Aboriginal current AFL, AFLW and state league footballers.

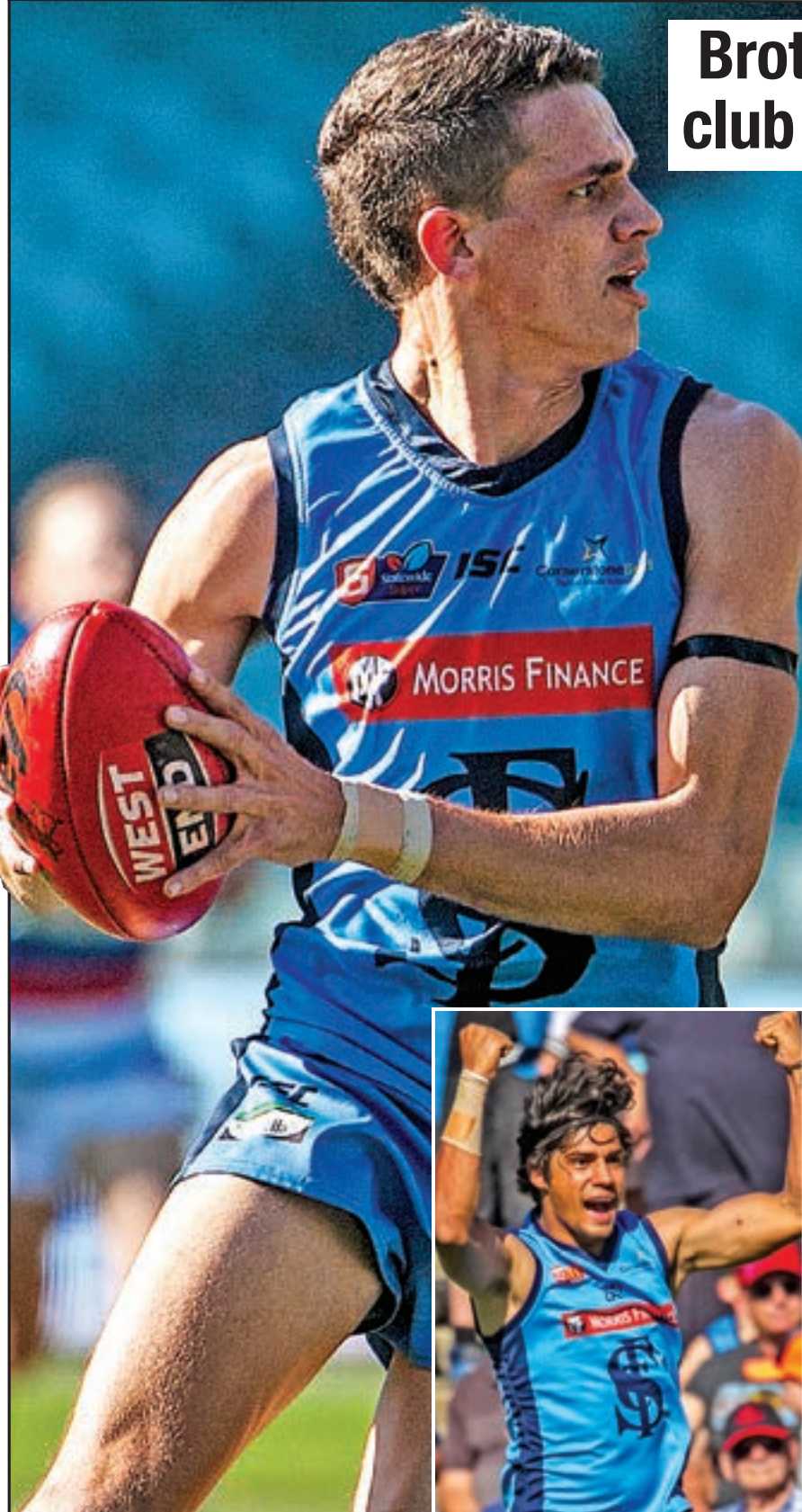
"Playing my first game was an exciting day for myself and my family," Johnson said, "but it is fair to say that Shane took over the family fame on Sunday making his AFL debut."

"Along with Shane, Jy Farrar (Gold Coast) who got drafted last year, and Sam Petrevski-Seton (Carlton), we all grew up together and we're all from Halls Creek and the local football club, the Halls Creek Hawks – that is where all the magic started. Back home, it was always pretty competitive and instinctive football that came naturally to the group.

"There's only about 1600 people in Halls Creek and you can walk from one side to the other of the town in about 15 minutes."

Krystel Petrevski, also from Halls Creek, was chosen in the 2019 AFLW draft by Melbourne and she made the move south ahead of the 2020 season.

● Ash Johnson was on fire for Sturt in round 1 of the 2020 SANFL season in June. Inset: Shane McAdam celebrates for Sturt in 2018. Pictures: Peter Argent





The late Alex Morgan with the Bill Coolburra Shield after Palm Island defeated Australian Army at Townsville Stadium in 2017. Picture: Alf Wilson
*The family has granted permission for use of name and photos of the late Alex Morgan.

Friends want to make his last wish a reality

By ALF WILSON



ONE of Alex Morgan's final wishes will be granted when the Palm Island Skipjacks play Cherbourg later this year.

Alex was 55 when he passed away on Friday, July 3, and his funeral will be held at Cherbourg on Friday, July 24.

During his final weeks, long-time friend Fred Bulsey spent a lot of time with him and among other things talk would turn to football.

Alex asked his good mate if this game could be played either at Palm Island or Cherbourg at some point this year. Plans are underway for that to happen.

"He had been in the middle of organising a game between the Skipjacks and Cherbourg and expressed a wish to me that it would go ahead.

"It was Alex's dream that the game between the two communities will be played and we won't let him down. I will be talking to Cherbourg officials about it."

Alex arrived on Palm Island in the early 1980s and played for local club Mount Bentley as captain-coach during which time the Raiders won an A-grade premiership.

He joined the Skipjacks in the late 80s both as a player and coach and the historical club, which is more than 80 years old, also won a premiership.

Alex was a coach of Palm Island Hornets and rep side Barracudas when they played in the Foley Shield competition.

A quietly spoken man, Alex coached the Palm Island representative side against Australian Army sides for the Bill Coolburra Shield since 2008. Some of those games were at Townsville Stadium, the former home ground of NRL club North Queensland Cowboys.

"He was heavily involved in coaching and developing juniors and coached the Skipjacks at Allblacks carnivals in Mareeba, at Yarrabah and Townsville," Bulsey said.

"He also coached the Palm Island women's team.

"Alex did so much for rugby league and was loved by many. He will be



Josie's tough first lesson as new coach

By CHRIS PIKE



JOSIE Janz-Dawson spent seven hours analysing video of a netball game in which the team she had just coached suffered a big defeat. The 32-year-old former

West Coast Fever goal-defence is senior coach at Southside Demons Netball Club.

Her baptism of fire in the hot seat was her team's 70-41 loss to Western Roar in round 1 of the 2020 Western Australian Netball League season. Janz-Dawson quickly got to work to find out where it all went wrong for her young side.

"It wasn't just the fact that it was a loss, but it was a big loss," she said.

"As coach, you have to make sure you address what went wrong. With that big of a goal difference, there were errors we made across the whole court.

"There was no one person to blame and it just spirals because you are defending the whole game without ever catching your breath. I spent seven hours pausing and analysing (the video). I looked at all the errors from the first and second quarter, so as a team we spent some time going through that and moved on in fixing it."

Her dedication paid dividends. In round 2, the Demons were up by a point against Peel with three minutes to go only for the Lightning to put on seven points to win 50-44.

Janz-Dawson was born on Thursday Island and grew up in Derby, in the Kimberley region of WA. She is one of the very few Indigenous women to play in Super Netball. She spent eight years at the Fever and had a brief stint in the UK Netball Superleague.

● Josie Janz-Dawson, former Super Netball goal-defence at West Coast Fever, is senior coach at Southside Demons in the WANL. Picture: Getty Images

Adams working hard to find Devils a game

By ALF WILSON



KARL Adams has been working hard behind the scenes in the hope that his football club will see some action on the park this year.

Adams, from Weipa in far north Queensland cape country, is coaching director at Norths Devils RLFC in Townsville.

Norths play in the Townsville & Districts Rugby League (TDRL) competition, which last week decided against running a 2020 season, due to concerns surrounding COVID-19, much to Adams' and the club's disappointment.

Adams was tasked with finding an alternative and the club is looking at options both north and south of Townsville. Some clubs from the TDRL are doing exactly the same.

"Since the TDRL made their decision, we are trying to find an alternative competition to play in, either in the Cairns & Districts Rugby League (CDRL) or the Mackay & Districts Rugby League (MDRL) competition," Adams said.

"We started back at training and from there we will gauge interest in a decision

moving forward. We are doing all we can to provide some football for players in 2020, but it also just depends on what player interest there is for that, considering the circumstances."

Mackay is 390km south of Townsville and Cairns is 350km north.

A shortened MDRL competition will kick off on August 1 and will be an eight-week season with a two-week finals series.

TDRL clubs Brothers, Carltons, Magpies and Wests will be joining the 2020 MDRL competition while fellow clubs Souths, Sarina, Moranbah and Whitsunday have pulled out of the season.

While the CDRL decided in June to cancel its 2020 season, the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions in Queensland has opened the door for that decision to be reversed. CDRL operations manager Pat Bailey told media it was not too late for a shortened season to proceed.

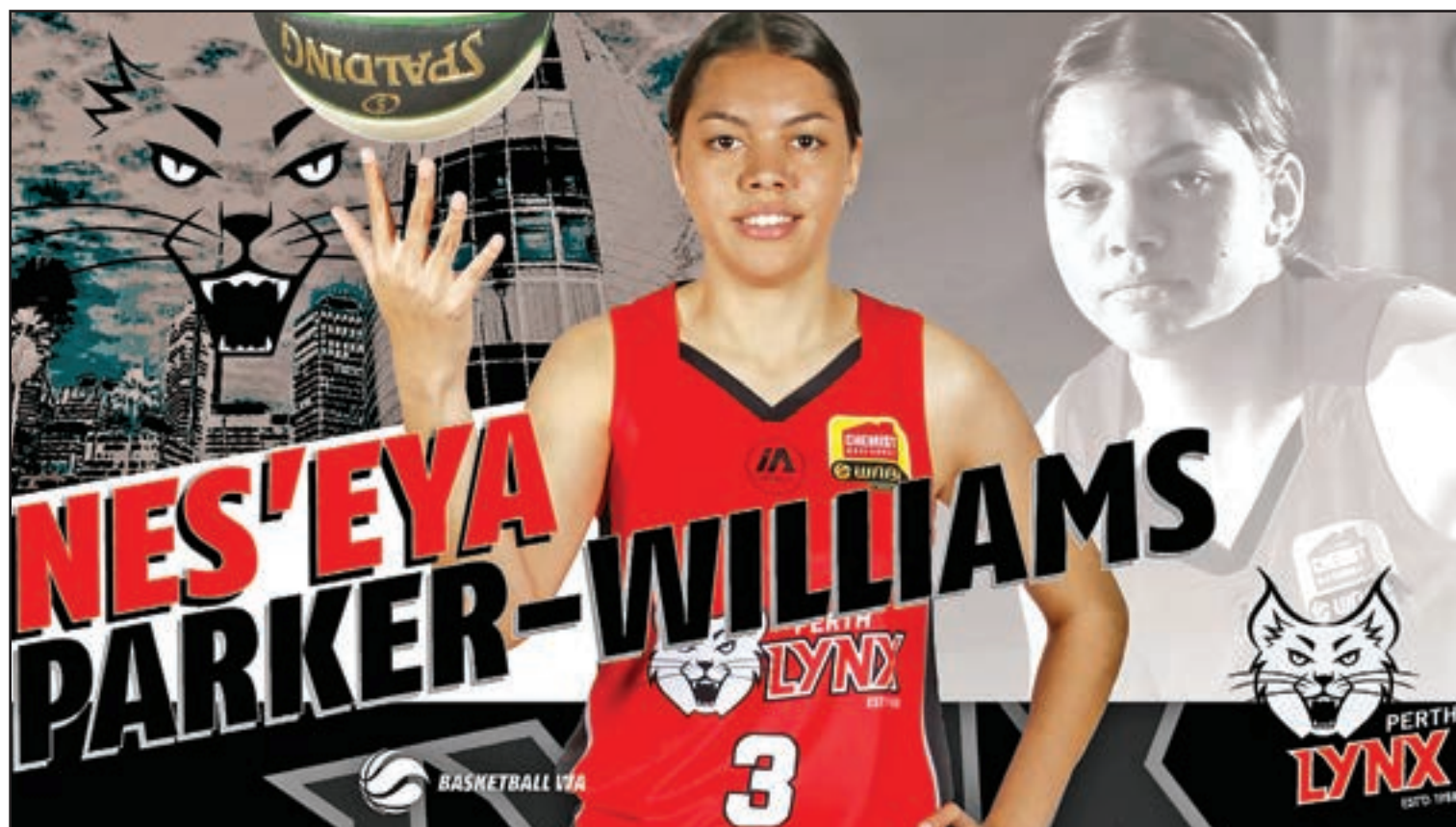
Earlier this year, Adams developed a working relationship with the Palm Island community that would provide an opportunity for players to join the Devils.

"Although these plans were cut short due to the pandemic, we would still like to continue to develop the relationship with Palm Island if possible," Adams said.



Karl Adams is working hard to find a competition for his club the Norths Devils RLFC.

Deadly duo re-signs at Lynx



Left: How the Perth Lynx announced the signing of teenager Nes'eya Parker-Williams last week.
Above: Maddie Allen
Pictures: Perth Lynx

Perth club compiling playing roster ahead of new season



EXCITING Western Australian prospect Nes'eya Parker-Williams has committed to the Perth Lynx for the 2020/21 WNBL season, joining teammate Maddie Allen on the WA side's roster.

After making her WNBL debut for the Lynx at just 17, and suffering from a lack of opportunity at times last season, both the Lynx and Parker-Williams believe this could be the season she makes her mark on the WNBL.

Parker-Williams joins Allen as recent key signings for the Lynx as the club finalises its roster for the new season ahead which also has an abundance of Opals experience.

Parker-Williams made the most of her opportunities when she took to the court in 2019.

She starred for the Australian Indigenous Basketball All Stars women's team at the 2019 International Indigenous & Cultural Basketball Tournament while impressing Lynx fans with her smooth shooting and ability to secure a rebound.

"It's been great to be able to play with Katie (Ebbery), to be able to keep doing that and also add Darcee (Garbin) and Sami (Whitcomb) to the team is really exciting," Parker-Williams said.

Perth's 2019/20 defensive player of the year Allen will be a key part of Lynx's new head coach Ryan Petrik's first roster.

After moving to Perth in 2018 to link up with Petrik at the Rockingham Flames in the WSBL, Allen's dominant form made it impossible for the Lynx to overlook her and she has been an integral part of Lynx rosters

ever since. Coming off a 2019 WSBL grand final MVP performance, Allen was elated to hear that Petrik would be taking the reins as the Lynx head coach for the upcoming season.

It made her decision to stay an easy one.

"Ryan was the first coach to really understand my game, so to be able to have that understanding at WNBL level is something I'm really looking forward to," she said.

Petrik was effusive in his praise of both Allen and Parker-Williams.

"Maddie isn't just a great defender, she's an elite defender. She's excellent as both an on-ball defender and as a help defender, plus she can switch onto smalls in pick and rolls," he said.

"Defensively, she's the complete package.

"Nes'eya is a really nice size (where) she can play multiple positions and can really shoot the basketball.

"Everything about her game fits in with what we want to do. We think she's ready to make a leap this year." — *Contributed: Perth Lynx; Basketball WA*

Garbutt launch Magpies ahead of new season



At the jumper presentation for the Garbutt Magpies AFC 2020 season launch were (from left) players Lenka Lennard and Suzanne Sheahan, club president Nicole Ross, Elder Alec Illin, club secretary Leah Wacando and former player Francis Tapim. Picture: Alf Wilson

By ALF WILSON



IT was an emotional start when Garbutt Magpies AFC players were presented with their jumpers in preparation for their entry into the Townsville AFL Senior Women's competition.

The side will make its debut this weekend when they play University at Riverway Stadium in the six-team competition.

The club's parent organisation Garbutt Magpies Sporting and Cultural Association was formed in 1955 to cater for the many Torres Strait and Aboriginal families living in the Garbutt suburb in Townsville.

Last week's jumper presentation was held at the club's home ground, Harold Phillips Oval, at the Castle Hill PCYC complex.

The youngest among the new team is 16-year-old Taynarnie Jeffress, who is a fourth-generation descendant of two of the early club officials, Anastasia Maria Ross and her husband Manny Ross.

Elders, former players, relatives and officials heard club officials speak about Garbutt's contribution to sport locally.

Guests were welcomed to country by Elder Alec Illin, a smoking ceremony was conducted by Alfred Smallwood, a blessing by Brad Henaway and the club song was performed by Francis Tapim, a former player of the men's team in years gone by.

Several of the new Garbutt Magpies players are rugby league players, but whose local sports competitions were shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic and which had already abandoned plans for 2020.



Keanu Pinder-Smith dunks for the Arizona Wildcats the college game against Stanford Cardinal in Tucson, Arizona, in 2018.
Picture: Getty Images

Pinder-Smith set to join Adelaide 36ers



TOP talent Keanu Pinder-Smith is reportedly on the verge of signing with Adelaide in the NBL in what would be a welcome boost to the 36ers' playing stocks.

There is early talk that the 34-year-old has agreed to a one-year deal with Adelaide.

Pinder-Smith, originally from Derby in Western Australia, has plied his trade in Poland with Legia Warszawa for the past two years.

Previous to that, he played for two years at Arizona Wildcats, the intercollegiate men's basketball program that represents the University of Arizona in the Pac-12 Conference of NCAA Division I.

At the Wildcats, Pinder-Smith was known for his strong defence and rebound game.

A 'surreal' moment when Gunners called



LYDIA Williams joins the Aussie infiltration into European football after signing with English club powerhouse Arsenal in the FA Women's Super League last week.

The Matildas' goalkeeper is one of Australian football's most experienced campaigners with lengthy stints in the United States' National Women's Soccer League, in Australia in the W-League and as 'keeper for the Australian national women's team.

She said she is up for the challenge that English football presents.

"It is pretty surreal," Williams told Arsenal.com.

"To be given an opportunity to come over and play with some of the best players in the world is really exciting. I was cracking at the chance to come over.

"I remember watching Arsenal as a young kid. It was like the only football to watch back in Australia, so it's amazing to be a part of the team. I can't wait to meet all of my new teammates.

"To be honest, I'm a little bit nervous for my first training session, but it's another new challenge and I'm really excited, so hopefully everyone doesn't find me too crazy or anything like that – I know goalkeepers seem to be labelled as that."

Arsenal head coach Joe Montemurro was excited with Williams' recruitment.

"This is another really important signing for us," he said.

"With the wealth of experience that Lydia brings, she can help the younger players that we've got, but more importantly she's a big-game player that will be solid and really contribute to the group."

Williams' arrival at Arsenal is also a reunion with Montemurro. The former Socceroo was team manager at Melbourne City when Williams first arrived there on loan in 2017.

"I know that when I played under him at Melbourne City it was a lot of fun, so as soon as that opportunity came up in a different club, that was really exciting for me and I was ready for it," she said.

Williams has 88 international caps for Australia as goalkeeper.



Lydia Williams is a Gunner now after signing on to play for Arsenal in the FA Women's Soccer League in England. Picture: Rachel Bach/By The White Line

Simon takes up contract with PSV Eindhoven



VETERAN Matildas forward and Aboriginal woman Kyah Simon has joined Dutch club PSV Eindhoven. The 29-year-old is the latest Australian to move to Europe and will join international teammate Amy Harrison at Eindhoven.

"I was looking for a new challenge for a while now," said Simon, who has 92 caps for Australia.

"Europe, and the Netherlands particularly, breathes football.

"PSV is a club with an illustrious history and is making big steps (within) women's football.

"This feels like the challenge I was looking for."

Simon most recently played for Melbourne City in the W-League where she won the 2019-20 premiership-championship double.

It is the experienced forward's first European stint, having previously plied her trade in the United States' NWSL.

Simon's signing comes in the wake of another Aboriginal woman joining a European club when Matildas goalkeeper Lydia Williams joined Arsenal last week.

Their signing means that most of the current Matildas squad have now joined several clubs across Europe. –AAP

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United in the fight against racism saw a cross-section of sports stars join the 'We Got You' campaign. Picture: Supplied

Sporting allies join fight against racism



NBA superstar Patty Mills is at the forefront of a campaign to eliminate racism in sport and he has inspired his sporting peers to join in the fight.

The 'We Got You' alliance was formed after the Black Lives Matter movement brought a global focus on racial injustice, with star athletes and coaches acknowledging they needed to do more.

Mills, Torres Strait Islander, Aboriginal and Maori man who plays for San Antonio in the NBA, chaired an online panel of athletes via Zoom that included the Matildas' goalkeeper Lydia Williams, Mills' Australian Boomers teammate Joe Ingles, the AFL's Patrick Dangerfield, NRL pair Daly Cherry-Evans and Jordan Kahu, WNBA/AFLW star Erin Phillips, Test cricketer Peter Siddle, Super Netball's Romelda Aiken, Wallabies prop Scott Sio and AFL club Melbourne's coach Simon Goodwin.

They hope that by using their profiles, more people will be encouraged to take a stand against racism in sport and society.

Williams spoke of racism in the world game and said a first, simple step was for stadium management to ban racist fans.

As Matildas goalkeeper she has played all over the world, and domestically for

clubs in the United States' NWSL and Australian W-League.

"Obviously in football you see it on the news. Each week it's a different country," she said.

"Thankfully in the women's game it's not as much. As Peter (Siddle) was just saying a lot of this is fan-based; fans who don't know the players personally and are just quick to judge.

"A lot of stadiums are now banning people (for this) so it is a first step.

"I'm not sure what their respective countries are doing to end racism but this is a first step."

Phillips, whose brother-in-law is AFL great and Indigenous games record-holder Shaun Burgoyne, said

"I never felt I knew what the right thing to say was," she said.

"Being a white woman, would my opinion, my thoughts and words, carry any weight by those affected by racism and injustice?

"So for so long my support was from the background but being silent is being complicit and for the platform that we have we need to have these discussions.

"My brother-in-law is a proud Indigenous man and it is not just my responsibility as a family member but as a human to call it out, to use my platform so that sport can be a

safe space to play in to be supported.

"I'll never be able to fully figure out and understand racism and if I can amplify the voices against it then I will. I am passionate about this."

Jamaican Aiken has played for the Queensland Firebirds since 2008 and says she still gets racially abused, being told while playing in Adelaide to "go back to where you come from. This sport isn't for you."

The 31-year-old said she reached out to her Super Netball teammates around the time of the BLM protests.

"I told them that I'm hurting ... they are my brothers and sisters and they are hurting," she said.

"Who is going to take the first step to start the conversation?

"And I think the problem is they didn't know how, so I'm excited to have this platform to use each other to help each other."

Demons coach Goodwin said Neville Jetta, one of a number of Aboriginal players at the club, had helped him to realise it was his responsibility to speak out.

"He's taught me that it's not the people who are vilified who need to fight this fight, it's people who aren't – they can have a strong voice and they can make a difference," he said. – with AAP

Postponement was the right decision

WHEN I spoke to Ben Wellington, the captain of the South Coast Black Cockatoos this week, he said if they held the Koori Knockout this year, on the literal 50th anniversary of the carnival's inception, it wouldn't have been the biggest or the best.

In theory, the Black Cockatoos could have gone ahead with a scaled-back version of the tournament at Nowra. But that meant the event would just be the players, officials and most likely NITV as broadcaster, and no crowds. Without the crowds, I would say the 2020 Knockout would have been the smallest, and the worst.

Ask any of the previous Knockout winners what it's like to plan and pull off a successful tournament. It is immense. But the dilemma that faced the current champions was something else. The South Coast region was ravaged by bushfires in December, hit by serious flooding in February and then came the COVID-19 pandemic. They haven't had a chance to get back on their feet.

It would have been a nightmare for the Knockout committee to lock anything in. Coronavirus advice from the State Government is fluid and will continue to be that way over the next few months, especially with the real threat of a second wave and the outbreak in neighbouring Victoria. We can't put our Elders and children at any level of risk, considering how terrific our communities have been in keeping the virus at bay.

There is also the fact that many grassroots competitions in NSW are only returning to play this month, and many have been cancelled altogether. With less than three months lead-in time, players would be massively underdone. We can see the effect of the altered NRL season with so many players suffering injuries. It would likely have been similar at Nowra considering the furious pace and passion of Knockout footy. We want our professional players, who we are all so proud of, to be at the KO, as do they. But with the 2020 NRL season going right through until the end of October, and the strict lockdowns in place for its athletes, that would have been near impossible if the KO went ahead. We want our young ones to be able to meet, interact with and be inspired by the likes of Cody Walker, Latrell Mitchell and the 'Fox' – to watch them play for their people.

It would also have been a tough ask for our remote teams to secure funding and then travel for the tournament, as much as it means to them. My family team, the Karuah Mission Roos, could only enter teams in 2013 and 2014 when the event was held at Raymond Terrace, a 20-minute drive from the community. As soon as it was taken further, we had to pull out.

While we all need a lift after what has been a challenging year, the Black Cockatoos have made the only decision – the right one. The team delegates that attended the meeting in Nowra two weeks ago were all on the same page.

In October 2021 we will descend upon the Bomaderry Sports Complex in the tens of thousands, to connect with family and old friends, to make new friends and to witness how amazing our men, women and children are at this great game. The fire within the players will be burning more intensely by then and the level of competition will be spectacular. We can wait. It will be worth it.

**Our guest columnist Jodan Perry is a Worimi-Wiradjuri man from Newcastle, NSW. He is senior producer, news and current affairs at NITV and presenter at Over the Black Dot.*



Jodan Perry

Got something to say?
Then say it! Drop us a line:
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1.5 million more reasons to love Patty Mills



PATTY Mills will donate "every cent" of the almost \$1.5 million he will make playing for the San Antonio Spurs in the upcoming NBA restart to social justice

causes in Australia.

The NBA is set to resume on July 31 at Orlando, Florida

Mills said the \$1.458 million he is due to earn will be donated to Black Lives Matter Australia, Black Deaths in Custody and The We Got You campaign.

"I'm playing in Orlando because I don't

want to leave any money on the table that could be going directly to Black communities," Mills told reporters.

The veteran Australian point guard said he had been encouraged by the public response to the Black Lives Matter movement since the police-arrest death of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May.

"For the first time in my career, I have white people – teammates, old teammates, old coaches – telling me they never knew the level of racism that exists in sport, especially in Australia," he said.

"They haven't felt comfortable asking

me, as a Black Australian, about racism before, which speaks to the impact and value of the Black Lives Matter movement and the millions who have participated in protests around the world."

Mills has played for the San Antonio Spurs since 2012.

The Spurs sit in 12th spot in the Western Conference and will likely need to win all eight of their games in Orlando for a chance to make the playoffs. –AAP

● **Allies in sport join fight against racism, page 55**



Patty Mills Picture: Getty Images

Roadblock to 2020



Coronavirus, logistics force KO postponement



ABORIGINAL rugby league's worst fears were realised recently when organisers made the difficult decision to postpone its flagship event.

At a delegates meeting via Zoom last week, key stakeholders of the NSW

Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival agreed to postpone the 2020 tournament due to unworkable logistics caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and fears of a second wave of the virus that's hit nearby Victoria and parts of NSW.

The 50th anniversary milestone event will now be held in October 2021 at

Nowra, on the NSW South Coast, with last year's winners South Coast Black Cockatoos as hosts.

● **Organisers have made the right decision – Jodan Perry, page 55**

● **The 2021 KO could well be its best yet – Dallas Waters, page 50**

● **South Coast Black Cockatoos' Paul Roberts (centre) looks for a way past Griffith Three Ways United's Jesse Thompson (No 20) as Toby Keys (left), Regan Carr and Ryan James (right) anticipate his next move in the 2019 Koori Knockout final at Tuggerah on the NSW Central Coast. Picture: Darren Moncrieff**

Janz-Dawson takes charge as Demons coach, page 52