First Nations protesters lead climate strikes as part of global movement

Shot dead by police

A 29-year-old Aboriginal woman was shot dead by police in Western Australia last week, prompting hundreds of people to gather outside the police station in Geraldton, demanding “Justice for Joyce.”

Joyce Clarke died in hospital last Tuesday night from a gunshot wound after police were called to a house in response to reports of a woman brandishing a knife. Among the group was Carol Roe, the grandmother of 22-year-old Aboriginal woman Ms Dhu who died in a Pilbara hospital in 2014 two days after being locked up at the local police station for unpaid fines, after police were called to a domestic violence incident.

Family spokesman Sandy Davies told media that Joyce had returned home from a mental institution a few days before she died, and the family called police for help to get her back to hospital.

“She was having difficulty at home with her family last night and her family called police to assist to get her to the hospital, and as a result of that she was shot dead by a police officer,” he said.

Full report, page 3
Community mourns, page 23

Partnership celebrates Aboriginal design, page 25
MY FAMILY
Harry Miller Junior (Port Lincoln, SA)

Football and family have been central to Harry Miller Junior and his extended clan. A large contingent of the Miller clan was at Norwood Oval for the 50th anniversary South Australian All Schools Football Grand Final match in late August.

The family was at The Parade to watch Harry’s nephew Isaiah Dudley, who produced a dominant performance, winning the Colin Steinert medal as best-on-ground when Prince Alfred College defeated Henley High School for the prestigious All-Schools knockout football crown.

At the game with Harry Junior, were his mother Karisma, grandmother Anne “Joody” Newchurch, his brothers Levi Dudley and Dale Miller, along with Uncle Phillip Dudley.

“To me, the word ‘family’ means something very specific,” family patriarch Harry Miller Junior said.

“It means to be with people who understand and accept you without condition. A family can be a small group or a large one, who all support one another. They will help you when you struggle and be there for you in trying times.

“What’s special about my family is having a great upbringing from my parents. It is about accepting each other for who they are.

“For we all have things that we like and things that we don’t and it means to always do our best to be very honest with one another in respectful, polite and kind ways. Being a part of the special family means an important connection to our Elders and culture.

“The role football has been in our lives is from both sides of my family. Being involved in strong local Aboriginal football clubs on the west coast of South Australia like the Malpe Park Football Club in Port Lincoln and Koonibba Roosters across at Ceduna is central.

“These have provided a great upbringing and huge historical understandings of family members both on and off of the field.

“It gives us a huge understanding of our people who have been successful and talented on field. They are people who have achieved with their team and be there for you in trying times. They are people who have achieved and we aspire to follow.” – Peter Argent

Kalaya Children sing at the plenary at the SNAICC National Conference in Adelaide. Full story and more pictures on pages 26-27.

Picture: SNAICC – National Voice for our Children: Andy Steven Photography


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 150 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.

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OUR CHILDREN

Nes’eya joins Lynx in WNBL

Dujuan takes fight to the UN

Thunder punted from competition

Virtual reality for mental health
Police shooting: Was lethal force necessary?

A 29-year-old Aboriginal woman was shot dead by police in Western Australia last week, prompting hundreds of people to gather outside the police station in Geraldton, demanding “Justice for Joyce”. Joyce Clarke died in hospital last Tuesday night from a gunshot wound after police were called to a house in regional WA.

WA Police Commissioner Chris Dawson said eight officers were sent to the scene.

“Some verbal communication took place between attending police and Ms Clarke before one officer fired a round from his service pistol,” Mr Dawson said. Mr Dawson said there were believed to be more than 20 witnesses to the incident.

Mr Clarke’s adoptive mother Lesley “Anne” Jones demanded to know why police shot Ms Clarke instead of using a taser or another non-lethal method to subdue her.

Ms Jones was among family members and friends who gathered to protest outside the police station against what they said was excessive force used in the situation. Ms Jones told the ABC that she felt numb but was thankful for the community’s support.

“My family feels very hurt and I am devastated because I know we are not going to get answers from the police,” she said.

“I do still feel numb but I appreciate everybody who is here from the bottom of my heart.

“It (the system) failed her, deliberately failed her … because (the officer) shot her and now I’ve got to go through all the things now to lay her to rest and that’s going to be even more devastating.”

Some of the protesters held signs that read “Black lives matter 2”, “What is a taser for?” and “Is it open season on Blackfellas?”.

Among the group was Carol Roe, the grandmother of 22-year-old Aboriginal woman Ms Dhu who died in a Pilbara hospital in 2014 two days after being locked up at the local police station for unpaid fines, after police were called to a domestic violence incident.

Family spokesman Sandy Davies told media that Joyce had returned home from a mental institution a few days before she died, and the family called police for help to get her back to hospital.

“She was having difficulty at home with her family last night and her family called police to assist to get her to the hospital, and as a result of that she was shot dead by a police officer,” he said.

National Suicide Prevention and Trauma Recovery Project coordinator Gerry Georgatos said the organisation was supporting the family.

“It’s as harrowing as it gets,” Mr Georgatos said. “The family is hurting and there’s a lot of confusion about what has occurred. There’s a sea of grief at the moment from Mullewa to Geraldton.”

Ms Clarke leaves behind a seven-year-old son, who lives with a relative.

Major Crime officers travelled to Geraldton to investigate and the Police Internal Affairs Unit will conduct a separate inquiry, which is standard protocol. The Corruption and Crime Commission and WA Coroner will also oversee the case.

Regional WA Commander Alan Morton told media that the officer involved was traumatised and had taken immediate leave.

Commander Morton offered his condolences to Ms Clarke’s family and said “one of the main areas of investigation” would centre on why a taser was not used.

“Everyone wants quick answers, but it’s just unfair for me to draw early conclusions,” he said.

Patrick Dodson, Labor Senator for Western Australia, expressed concern about the shooting and called for calm.

“I acknowledge that the police have committed to conducting a thorough inquiry into this tragic death, with oversight apparently by the Corruption and Crime Commission,” he said.

“Without wanting to prejudice that inquiry, I can only echo the question being posed by many in the community: Why was it necessary to resort to the lethal force of a firearm to resolve whatever trouble the police were confronting on Tuesday evening? I extend my deepest sympathies to the family of the dead woman.

“The Aboriginal community of Geraldton deserves a full account of what happened.”

Any inquiry, including the Coroner’s inquiry, will take a long time to report and community concerns need to be settled as soon as possible.” – with AAP

Carbon credit project brings benefits to communities and the environment

AS bushfires rage across NSW and parts of Queensland, a savannah burning carbon project has brought great social, environmental and economic development benefits to traditional owners on Cape York Peninsula.

In partnership with Aurukun rangers, managed by Aak Pual Ngamtam (APN), located in Cape York, the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation has traded 10,000 carbon credits to the National Australia Bank earning traditional owners significant revenue from the project and protecting country.

Utilising the savannah-burning carbon-farming methodology, which implements early dry season burns to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and wildfires, APN Cape York Rangers, based out of Aurukun on the western cape, were pleased with the outcome of their hard work.

APN Cape York general manager Sandy Whyte said they could use the money earned from the carbon-farming project to assist traditional owners to return to their homelands.

“Without this income, many traditional owners would be unable to be on country and pass on their knowledge to their children and grandchildren,” Sandy said.

Aboriginal Carbon Foundation general manager Rowan Foley said the project had similar broad aims as a number of other projects on the cape.

“The beautiful balance between implementing a project that has great environmental value, matched with strong economic returns for traditional owners, is a sustainable manner to build a carbon economy which addresses the disadvantage that most communities face in the region,” he said.

NAB’s head of enterprise sustainability Alison Read said, from the bank’s perspectives, there were many benefits to the project.

“Helping NAB meet our carbon-neutral commitments, it supports employment in Indigenous communities, and it benefits the environment,” she said.

“Having visited far north Queensland last year with the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation, I’ve seen the benefits of the project first hand and fully appreciate its impact.”

Carbon credit project brings benefits to communities and the environment
Virtual reality meets traditional healing in this unique approach to mental health

Aboriginal identity in her work. As an Ambassador for The Big Anxiety Festival, Evelyn hopes to bring language and poetry to the messy and at times overwhelming task of articulating the self in a world that seeks to silence the visceral realities of mental health.

The Big Anxiety Festival runs from September 28 – November 16 at UNSW Galleries, Paddington.

Uti Kulintjaku’s VR works will also be presented at venues around Sydney:

- Thursday, Oct 10 at Frida Gallery, open 12-5pm
- Friday, October 11 at the Art Gallery of NSW, as part of Art After Hours, 5.30pm.
- Art After Hours continues its program at 7.30pm with Evelyn Araeluen hosting Black Rhymes – Sydney’s leading performance event for Aboriginal writers, giving voice to Indigenous perspectives on mental health and healing. The evening will include performances of the poem of Lorna Munro, Alison Whittaker, Luke Patterson and Elizabeth Jarrett.


Djirra Chief Executive Antoinette Braybrook last week welcomed additional funding from the Victorian Government to expand its work with Aboriginal women who are at risk of imprisonment, in prison and released.

Ms Braybrook said Corrections Minister Ben Carroll’s announcement of $1.46 million in additional funding over four years would support Djirra’s culturally safe and specialist wrap-around legal and support services for Aboriginal women.

“We take today’s announcement as testament of the vital and unique work we do at Djirra to break the cycle of family violence and women’s imprisonment,” Ms Braybrook said.

“This additional funding shows a commitment and a step forward to change the story for Aboriginal women in Victoria.”

Djirra is an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation that provides culturally safe and holistic support and specialist family violence legal assistance and representation for Aboriginal women who currently experience, or have in the past lived with, family violence or have in the past experience, or have in the past lived with, family violence or have in the past lived with, family violence or have in the past lived with, family violence.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are the fastest growing prison population in the country. Eighty percent of Aboriginal women in prisons are mothers. In Victoria, Corrections data shows that the number of Indigenous women entering prison on remand increased by 155% in the five years between 2012 to 2017.

Ms Braybrook said that last week Djirra’s team visited Dame Phyllis Frost Centre to deliver their Sisters Day In workshop to 53 of the 90 Aboriginal women inside.

“These numbers, while increasing and while devastating, are still manageable. With the right intervention, we can turn this around,” she said. “Investing in Djirra’s programs and services is a step in the right direction.”

Data shows that, overwhelmingly, Aboriginal women are imprisoned for non-violent offences related to homelessness and poverty. Family violence is both a cause and consequence of the high rates of Aboriginal women in imprisonment.

“Djirra means business,” Ms Braybrook said.

“When it comes to Aboriginal women’s safety and resilience, Djirra will continue its advocacy to secure further investment into community-controlled organisations, into our solutions are invested in.”

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“When it comes to Aboriginal women’s safety and resilience, Djirra will continue its advocacy to secure further investment into community-controlled organisations, into our solutions are invested in.”

Ms Braybrook said.
MILLIONS of people worldwide joined an international strike calling for stronger climate change action last Friday. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people led many of the marches in Australia.

In Darwin, protesters pointed out that the weather bureau data showed the number of +35°C days is already increasing in the Top End and Indigenous island communities were vulnerable to rising sea levels.

The Northern Territory Central Land Council (CLC) called on climate strikers to think of remote community residents who are most at risk from the climate emergency. CLC chair Sammy Wilson said their members and workers supported the strike.

"I call on them to spare a thought for Aboriginal people out bush who may not be able to travel to the strikes but who are already suffering most during our hotter, longer and drier summers," Mr Wilson said.

"I am dreading another summer like the last one because it is especially tough on our old and sick people who live in overcrowded, poor quality houses."

With many remote communities under severe water stress, water shortages and quality topped the list of policy priorities endorsed by the CLC’s elected delegates at their most recent council meeting in August.

The delegates want to live sustainably on their country and see water rights and liveable houses as central to their future and are prepared to fight for a liveable environment. "The Government gave us the land back but not the water. Water is the new land rights," Mr Wilson said.

"Following the NT’s hottest summer on record, and the driest in almost three decades, the delegates also nominated climate change and water security as high policy priorities."

"Last summer many people were struggling to sleep. We heard about people taking turns in the coolest parts of the house." Mr Wilson said.

"Most of our people live in concrete boxes and can’t afford to run air conditioners around the clock. Many don’t have working fridges to keep food safe for eating, so they are very likely to get sick." Mr Wilson said we must listen to scientists who are predicting that the poorest people in the hottest countries will be hardest hit by climate change.

"Aboriginal people want to be part of the solution. We want to have access to clean technologies such as solar power so that our children have the chance to keep living on our traditional country." In Lismore, Wjiangbul Wyabul man Roy Gordon welcomed the strikers to Bundjalung country in language.

Bundjalung youngster and Year 6 Lismore South Public School student Scayt James Taylor, 12, said he was proud to strike from school.

"This is for the wellbeing of the whole planet," he said.

"The climate crisis is something that affects the future for all of us. It’s important that we all take a stand – not only for my generation, but for the next generation of kids also.

"We need to stand up for country, because country is getting sick. We need to stand up for nature, and our rainforests, and the animals, because they are dying."

Across the NT, thousands of school students from more than seven remote, regional and urban centres led their communities in coordinated strike action as part of global efforts to force governments to act on the climate emergency.

Strike action took place in Jabiru, Marrningrida, Yirrkala, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Allice Springs and Darwin to call for urgent action by the NT and Federal Governments to address the climate crisis, by first declaring a ‘state of emergency’ for the climate.

In Brisbane the large march was also led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, as was the action in Cairns.

More pictures and report from Hobart, pages 51-5.
Dujuan takes his fight for our ‘kids’ rights’ to the UN

12-YEAR-old Arrente/Garrwa boy Dujuan from central Australia had a simple message to Australian governments when he addressed the United Nations: Stop sending 10-year-old children to jail.

Dujuan is the star of In My Blood it Runs, the acclaimed documentary from filmmaker Maya Newell (Gayby Baby), which was screened at the United Nations in Geneva, with the support of the Australian Government and the Australian Human Rights Commission.

The film follows 10-year-old Dujuan, a child-healer, a good hunter and speaker of three languages as he is pushed out of school and facing increasing scrutiny from welfare and the police. As he travels perilously close to incarceration, his family fight to give him a strong Arrente education alongside his western education lest he becomes another statistic.

Dujuan and filmmaker Maya Newell, his grandmother Margaret Anderson and his father met with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in advance of their review of Australia.

Dujuan also delivered a public statement to the UN Human Rights Council, calling on the Australian Government to stop locking up kids. Dujuan’s message builds on the voices of legal, health and child rights organisations calling on Australian Governments to raise the age of criminal responsibility in Australia.

Right now across Australia, children as young as 10 can be arrested by police, charged with an offence and locked away in a youth prison.

Australia has one of the lowest ages of criminal responsibility in the world. Dujuan himself was 10 when he came to the attention of police and put at risk of ending up in the notorious Don Dale youth prison.

Before his trip to Switzerland, Dujuan said he was excited. “I am a bit shy to speak to all the countries at the United Nations because adults never listen to kids — especially kids like me,” he said. “But we have important things to say. I am going to speak to the United Nations because our government is not listening. Maybe over there, they will.

Megan Mitchell, National Children’s Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission, said it was clear that education, welfare and justice systems fail many Indigenous young people in Australia.

“The film shows the reality of this for too many children,” she said.

Larrakia woman Shahleena Musk, a senior lawyer at the Human Rights Law Centre said governments across Australia are using police, courts and prisons to hurt and harm children.

“Our governments have set laws that allow 10-year-old kids to be arrested, charged and locked away,” she said. “We are proud to be supporting Dujuan to tell the UN Human Rights Council that this needs to change. Children should be in classrooms and playgrounds. They should be with their families and in their communities. They should not be forced into the quicksand of the criminal legal system.”

Rodney Dillon, Palawa Elder and Indigenous Rights Adviser at Amnesty International, said nearly 25,000 people have signed the Amnesty International petition calling on all governments to raise the age of criminal responsibility.

“Dujuan will be a strong voice at the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child,” he said.

“His story is reflective of so many young Indigenous kids who need the Government to be doing more to ensure they have the support to live happy, healthy and thriving lives.”

A coalition of First Nations educators is being supported by Children’s Ground, who is evidencing a systems approach to preventing children ending up in incarceration and welfare, by focusing on their strength of culture and quality education.

Children’s Ground is a human rights organisation led by First Nations people and bringing about change to prevent children and young people entering the criminal justice and welfare systems, or taking their own lives.

Championing identity, strength of culture, quality education and local agency, it is creating the conditions so that young people have the right to grow up enjoying both their cultural freedoms and the opportunities of a global society.

Focusing on systems change, Children’s Ground is supporting a coalition of First Nations educators to lead national reform in education.

Chairperson of Children’s Ground and film advisor William Tilmouth is an Aboriginal man who was himself incarcerated as a young man. He is determined to bring about real change.

“The trouble is, we throw all the money after the damage is done,” he said.

“There’s nothing helping to work on the prevention of what’s happening downstream.”

A statement from Dujuan was recently read in the NT Parliament by Namatjira MLA Charney Peach and Dujuan has spoken at sold out screenings of In My Blood it Runs at the Sydney Film Festival and Melbourne International Festivals.
AN Aboriginal mother who lost her daughter to domestic violence has pleaded for more to be done.

Kenrick Thomas Dodd will spend at least 18 years in prison for murdering Margaret Indich, who was bashed at a home in Perth last year. The Aboriginal man, who had a "disadvantaged and dysfunctional" life before fatally bashing his long-term partner at a Perth home, has been sentenced to life in prison with a minimum of 18 years.

Aboriginal woman Margaret Indich, 38, was found injured inside the Belmont home, has been sentenced to life in prison with a minimum of 18 years. Aboriginal woman Margaret Indich, 38, was found injured inside the Belmont home, has been sentenced to life in prison with a minimum of 18 years.

Ms Indich, who had a heart condition, had complained of being short of breath, but when paramedics were called her partner Kenrick Thomas Dodd, 42, turned his aggression towards them and said, "You are not taking my woman."

Justice McGrath noted Dodd had long been defenceless. "You inflicted a sustained and violent attack upon your partner," he said.

"But I know I've got more to write," said Kartanya, who is also an aspiring actress and passionate education worker, hopes the win will help her become recognised as a writer.

Kartanya said the poem was written with the intention of being spoken. "I want to write work I need to write," she told the Koori Mail.

"That poem was nearly everything I needed to say. I have healed so much from it. All these things came out of me, charging out of me like a stampede."

"But I knew I've got more to write," she said.

"Unlike her community, Kartanya was surprised that she won the award. While Dodd had wanted to write a letter of apology for what he had done but could not read or write.

Justice McGrath described it as "next level". However, he acknowledged Dodd had a "disadvantaged and dysfunctional childhood in which you grew up," he said.

"Your substance abuse and its role in your offending reflect socio-economic circumstances and the environment in which you grew up," he said.

Justice McGrath noted Dodd had long abused his partner of 18 years, had a significant criminal record and had spent 12 years of his adult life in prison.

He said the father of two showed a "callous disregard for Ms Indich but accepted Dodd was now remorseful."

Defence counsel John Rando said Dodd had wanted to write a letter of apology for what he had done but could not read or write.

Outside court, Ms Indich’s mother Irene said her daughter had been a fragile and "very sick little girl".

"I fought to keep her alive, to keep her close to me and then she met this man and then she was taken away," she told reporters.

But she said she was satisfied with the sentence.

"It will never bring her back. I really have a lot of mending to do now. It will take a while," she said.

"Domestic violence is a terrible thing. It's got to be stopped."

AN Aboriginal mother who lost her daughter to domestic violence has pleaded for more to be done.

The Aboriginal man, who had a "disadvantaged and dysfunctional" life before fatally bashing his long-term partner at a Perth home, has been sentenced to life in prison with a minimum of 18 years.

Aboriginal woman Margaret Indich, 38, was found injured inside the Belmont residence on January 3 last year and died in hospital from head injuries, the West Australian Supreme Court heard last Friday.

Ms Indich, who had a heart condition, had complained of being short of breath, but when paramedics were called her partner Kenrick Thomas Dodd, 42, turned his aggression towards them and said, "You are not taking my woman."

Justice McGrath noted Dodd had long been defenceless. "You inflicted a sustained and violent attack upon your partner," he said.

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"Domestic violence is a terrible thing. It's got to be stopped."
Cashless debit card ineffective

By DARREN COYNE

The Federal Government’s attempt to further expand the cashless debit card has been roundly criticised by Aboriginal organisations and opposition parties.

The Government wants to roll out the controversial income management regime across Australia, and the bill will be back before Parliament at next week’s sitting.

Aboriginal organisations in the Northern Territory have been particularly vocal, given that early versions of the card were trialled in the NT after the Intervention in 2007.

Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT chief executive John Paterson said the bill would significantly affect the controversial income management already in place.

…communities are largely unaware of the proposed changes, Parliament should refer the bill to a Senate inquiry at the very least,” Mr Paterson said.

This feels like the Howard era Intervention all over again. The last time the Government intervened, the NT card did things to us instead of with us, it failed at great cost to families and communities.

This directly opposes recent commitments by the Federal Government and COAG to work with us in partnership on Closing the Gap. Aboriginal people in the NT will be most affected by this new form of top-down control and deserve the chance to give evidence. Without due consideration this proposal takes a back seat to the Government rhetoric around Aboriginal controlled decision making.

“We urge that people not be hoodwinked, yet again by the Government in going down this punitive path, like they were a hundred years ago when the Intervention was rolled out with bi-partisan support,” said Greens spokesperson on Aboriginal Affairs Senator Rachel Siewert.

The bill covers the existing trials sites and extends them by another year. The Government is clearly trying to entrench this card by stealth and we will fight it with the community every step of the way.

“First Nations peoples are sick of being forced to adapt their way of life because of climate change. Aboriginals all across the country are facing devastating impacts like bushfires, floods, rising seas, dying coral reefs and biodiversity extinctions. Yet the Government’s response has been woeful.”

“As fellow islanders, we were embroiled by Australia’s showing at last month’s Pacific Islands Forum. Also disappointing was the Prime Minister’s decision to visit the US but skip next week’s UN climate summit.”

“The successful applicant must live in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. Preference will be given to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in NSW and the ACT. The duration of the appointment is 3 years.

About the ALS Board

The Board is made up of 12 elected Aboriginal Directors and 2 Honorary Directors. The Board is expected to meet 4-6 times per year. Meetings are usually for 1.5 days on Fridays and Saturday. Between meetings, Directors participate on various Board sub-committees.

The position of Honorary Director is voluntary; however Honorary Directors will be entitled to receive a travel allowance and meal allowance.

Mandatory criteria

1. Eligibility
   - The successful applicant must live in New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory.

2. Experience
   - People with a range of skills and experience including 1 or more of the following areas:
     - Governance
     - Legal – understanding of legal systems or legal areas
     - Communications and marketing (including fundraising)
     - Information Technology application

Desirable criteria

Preference will be given to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants, and to applicants who have prior Board experience in the Not For Profit sector.

How to apply

For all enquires regarding this position, please contact Vicki McDonald, People Employment and Workplace Manager on 02 9213 4100 or via email at vicki@alsnswact.org.au

When submitting your application, please attach your Curriculum Vitae and a two page Expression of Interest addressing the selection criteria and any other relevant experience and expertise. Applications should be addressed to: Vicki McDonald, People Employment and Workplace Manager at vicki@alsnswact.org.au

This application closes at midnight on Wednesday, 9 October 2019.
Healing can happen as medical centre’s timeline tells the story of Tasmania’s past

By JILLIAN MUNDY

A HEALTH-themed timeline of Tasmanian Aboriginal history at the medical school in Hobart was launched yesterday (Tuesday).

Rural Clinical School Aboriginal Health Careers Promotion Officer, palawa woman Rosie Smith, who headed up the project, is excited by its potential.

The trees have attracted high-profile attention for the past week since 2013, but the 12.5-kilometre section between Buangor and Ararat has been bitterly fought by Indigenous people over the generations.

The tree is a living example of a sacred birthing tree, where women delivered babies and so many ways, not only in an historical sense, but also in the present.

How barbaric is that? No wonder people were fearful of even identifying as being Aboriginal.

“People are, of course, entitled to a difference in the attitudes of health professionals trained elsewhere.

“Traditional owners have the right to determine their own political structures and representation, so to bring that into disrepute undermines the existing representative structures of traditional owner nations which have been long fought for and established over decades of struggle,” Mr Stewart said.

“The state has totally disenfranchised the community in so many ways, not only in an historical sense, but also in the present.

The scholarship provides $5000 to support an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student in an honours year in any discipline within the College of Health and Medicine. Scholarship applications close January 31, 2020.

Ms Smith said there had previously been no mention of Aboriginal people or history in the medical school.

When the current Medical Sciences Precinct was built in 2010, archaeological investigations revealed stone tools. They most likely belonged to the Wurrung clan. The tools remain buried beneath the building.

The timeline tells these stories and many more.

While first year medical students in Tasmania attend an on-campus cross-cultural awareness training block, in a more recent development, a recent State Government consultation report noted a difference in the attitudes of health professionals trained elsewhere.

There are currently six Aboriginal students at the medical school in Hobart.

The Leonie Dickson Indigenous Health Honours Scholarship was announced at the launch.

It honours the memory of proud Tasmanian Aboriginal woman Leonie Dickson.

Ms Dickson worked in Aboriginal Affairs for more than 30 years, including 10 as the Aboriginal Health Liaison Officer at the Royal Hobart Hospital, where she provided significant support to community members in hospital and assisted family members when death occurred.

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It honours the memory of proud Tasmanian Aboriginal woman Leonie Dickson.

Ms Dickson worked in Aboriginal Affairs for more than 30 years, including 10 as the Aboriginal Health Liaison Officer at the Royal Hobart Hospital, where she provided significant support to community members in hospital and assisted family members when death occurred.

The scholarship provides $5000 to support an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student in an honours year in any discipline within the College of Health and Medicine. Scholarship applications close January 31, 2020.

Rural Clinical School Aboriginal Health Careers promotion officer Rosie Smith is excited by the potential of a new health-focused Aboriginal Health timeline launched at the medical school in Hobart yesterday.

“The state has totally disenfranchised the community in so many ways, not only in an historical sense, but also in the present.

How barbaric is that? No wonder people were fearful of even identifying as being Aboriginal.

“The State Government set up Cape Barren Island, and called it Half Castle Island.

“Our men who went away to war, they didn’t get acknowledged when they came back.

“People are, of course, entitled to a difference in the attitudes of health professionals trained elsewhere.

“Traditional owners have the right to determine their own political structures and representation, so to bring that into disrepute is disrespectful.

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Rodney Carter

Owner Corporations has also urged protests to stop undermining the decision-making process.

In 2016, Eastern Maar was recognised by the State of Victoria as the appropriate traditional owner nation to enter into negotiations under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010, and retains cultural authority over the area in question.

He said to undermine the process now would be completely contrary to the principle of self-determination.

“What all of this public commentary is doing is undermining the existing representative structures of traditional owner nations which have been long fought for and established over decades of struggle,” Mr Stewart said.

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Researchers examine efficacy of healthcare delivery to mob

By NICK PATON

Mindful and respectful approaches to healthcare consultation with Aboriginal communities are often not considered by the mainstream health care system.

That’s why the University Centre for Rural Health (UCRH), based in Lismore, NSW, has been awarded $2.5 million in funding over the next five years, for a Centre for Research Excellence (CRE).

The confirmation of funding was announced recently by the Federal Government, and will be administered by the National Health and Medical Research Council. The new leading research centre will be implemented and managed by UCRH’s Rural Health and Indigenous Health and wellbeing expert, Dr Veronica Matthews, a Quandamooka woman.

The research will focus explicitly on fostering meaningful consultation with Aboriginal communities and their contact with the healthcare system.

The CRE will look at whether Aboriginal communities know how to access healthcare services appropriately or adequately.

“The research will focus heavily on cultural and social determinants of health care which are often overlooked in western medicine,” Dr Matthews said.

“It’s not just about how physically healthy you are, it’s about your mental health and wellbeing, your cultural wellbeing, and it’s your connection to country, and having access to healthy country, because these are all the things that are important for our communities.

“The funding will help us to support and implement the correct processes of collaborating and engaging with members of the community, so that we can learn properly about research priorities, and about how we can help mob develop tools and processes that deal with, and further improve, their primary health care.”

The CRE is a national collaboration of researchers from many Australian academic and research institutions, service providers, and policy makers.

UCRH CRE’s ‘Grassroots’ project manager Frances Parker, a Yaegl woman, said that getting this first stage of research with Aboriginal communities right is crucial to building trust with Aboriginal people and enhancing communities better with the health care system.

“You never want to underestimate the voice of the community, because this is mob in these communities who are on the ground, and using these services, so they’re the ones who know what’s actually working for them, and what’s not,” she said.

“We’re listening with the community, we’re not just taking the data and saying, ‘Oh how can we fix this?’ Instead we are going to integrate these communities respectfully, and listen to mob, and get their perspective of what could actually improve the health of the community, from a grassroots level.”

As the five-year research program is only in its initial stages, both Dr Matthews and Ms Parker understand that it may take time to get things right.

“We are communicating with communities and saying, ‘This is what we’ve heard, and this is what we’ve said. Did we get it right?’” Ms Parker said.

And there’s a chance that some of the information we have gathered may not have quite gotten right, and if the community says that we need to change something, then that’s ok too. We’ll do just that.”

Dr Matthews said, while their research is based in the Northern Rivers area, ultimately they hope to develop a cultural framework that can be replicated in other areas of the health sector.

Dr Veronica Matthews and Frances Parker from the University Centre for Rural Health in Lismore, NSW.

Call for applications for appointment to National Boards regulating health professions across Australia

The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme regulates more than 730,000 registered health practitioners and over 150,000 registered students across 16 health professions. It also accredits over 740 approved programs of study delivered by over 330 education providers.

Applications are also sought for the position of Chair on the following National Boards (please note that only registered practitioners from that profession are eligible to apply and must also be applying for the position of practitioner member):

- Chiropractic Board of Australia
- Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia
- Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
- Osteopathy Board of Australia
- Podiatry Board of Australia
- Psychology Board of Australia

* Practitioner members from Tasmania, Australian Capital Territory or Northern Territory are eligible for this vacancy.

Applications are also sought for the position of Chair on the following National Boards (please note that only registered practitioners from that profession are eligible to apply and must also be applying for the position of practitioner member):

- Chiropractic Board of Australia
- Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
- Osteopathy Board of Australia

The National Scheme has a commitment to increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples’ leadership and voices. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply, as are people from rural or regional areas in Australia.

Visit the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency’s Board member recruitment page to access the application form and download the information guide. More information is provided about eligibility requirements specific to these advertised vacancies, National Board member roles, and the application process.

For enquiries, please contact statutoryappointments@ahpra.gov.au

Applications close Monday 21 October 2019 5pm AEST.

All appointments are made by the Ministerial Council for up to three years, under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory.
Royal commission to hear from marginalised disabled people

NDIS providers will have to tell a royal commission about any instances of violence or abuse involving their clients.

A high-profile inquiry held its first public session in Brisbane last week. Commissioner Andrea Mason said a particular focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disabilities was warranted, describing them as a marginalised group within a marginalised group.

“They experience racism and ethnocentrism like other First Nations brothers and sisters experience,” she said. “However, they see, hear and feel a greater level of discrimination above what I and other brothers and sisters experience because they have a disability.”

Ms Mason said some Indigenous people with disabilities had framed their experiences as “a type of apartheid.” “They have experienced times of exclusion, invisibility and being at the edge of our society. “Non-Indigenous Australians with disability have described their life circumstances in similar ways,” she said. “And if their description of life feels like and behaves like a system of apartheid, then we have a point of reference from which we want to … depart.”

Large care providers are in the crosshairs of the royal commission delving into the abuse, neglect and exploitation of Australians with disabilities.

Chair Ronald Sackville QC promised to shine a spotlight on violence or abuse at the edge of our society.

And they will hear traumatic, personal accounts of abuse whenever it happened, from private households to shared homes, schools to workplaces, and prisons to hospitals.

Aboriginal prison officer vacancies

• Play a vital role in making our state a safe place, keeping officers secure and assisting in their rehabilitation
• Generous salary package and casual wage, penalty rates for weekends and overtime.
• Support provided from our dedicated Aboriginal Employment Team throughout your application.
• Become part of the department’s 200+ strong, Aboriginal staff network.

The Department of Justice and Community Safety is now recruiting new squads of full-time and casual prison officers to work in regional and metropolitan Victoria.

There are no formal qualifications required to apply to be a prison officer, and we’re interested in people from all professional backgrounds. You will undergo an extensive paid, eight-week training program prior to service, so it’s more important that you enjoy working with people and possess empathy, resilience and integrity.

As part of this training, new prison officers also undergo Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training. This intensive education day, along with ongoing guidance, provides employees with an understanding of the unique issues faced by the Victorian Aboriginal community.

To apply to become a prison officer today, go to corrections@jobs.vic.gov.au/prison-officers. There are several facilities currently recruiting and more will open soon.

Change Lives – Change Careers

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander applicants are encouraged to apply.

For further information, please contact our Aboriginal Employment Team on (03) 8684 1751 or aboriginal.employment@justice.vic.gov.au.
THE First Nations Foundation has completed its Big Super Day Out Indigenous outreach program for 2019, and reconnected more than 500 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with $9.545 million of their superannuation across the country this year.

An Indigenous-led initiative, the First Nations Foundation Big Super Day Out program kicked off in July in Darwin, Kununurra and Broome. Its second leg in August reached four remote Indigenous communities in East Arnhem Land.

Since 2014, the Big Super Day Out events have reconvened more than $24 million in super with 1636 Indigenous owners across 21 communities, in six Australian states.

First Nations Foundation chief executive Amanda Young said they were run off their feet in remote Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands as a partnership with ASIC.

“We were run off our feet at every location, even with a team of 20-30 volunteers offering an end-to-end solution across identification, locating super and helping participants with all their needs so they could walk away at the end of their appointment with everything done to start the process of returning their super to them,” she said.

“These communities are excluded from the system and although financial institutions try to engage with them through their own programs, they don’t have the currency we have: the trust of the Indigenous community and the know-how for success. It is evident that Indigenous people respond to Indigenous-led initiatives and trust our motives as we are a charity,” Ms Young said there are many untapped and valuable lessons arising from the program.

She said superannuation funds administrators can experience super from the members’ perspective, and can see first-hand the challenges for remote communities and understand how superannuation is not “super” yet. The low levels of awareness about superannuation in Indigenous communities, the amount of paperwork required, and language and identification barriers are significant.

It cannot meet the high level of demand due to lack of resources – more than 100 people in 2019 were turned away after waiting five hours for assistance, and there were numerous calls from around the country asking for the Big Super Day Out to come to them.

“There is clearly a need for this level of outreach, as evidenced by the results we are achieving,” Ms Young said. “We have a list of 16 communities who have reached out to us so come and help their communities. Unfortunately, as a small charity with only two staff, it will take us five years before we can open through our current list.

“This is a national program waiting to happen. We have developed it, validated it and now we only need the investment to create the kind of economic outcome hard-working First Nations people deserve. If we can find $1 million each time we service a community, imagine what we could do in a scaled program. Hundreds of millions of worker entitlements being reunited with their Indigenous owners is a great outcome.”

This year the roadshow was supported and attended by a range of financial organisations including AIST, AustralianSuper, Rest, Statewide Super, Sunsuper, TelstraSuper, Australian Catholic Super, Christian Super, Equipsuper, HESTA, MLC, MTAA Super, Suncrop, and WA Super.

The First Nations Foundation also brings government bodies on the road, with the Department of Human Services and the Australian Taxation Office there to help.

“With the cost of reaching the WA and NT targeted communities was high but we knew the returns would be significant for both Indigenous Australia and the superannuation sector,” Ms Young said. “The Big Super Day Out is a one-stop shop, helping First Nations people with all superannuation needs across urban, regional and remote communities, and connecting super funds and group insurers, with Indigenous members.

**BIG SUPER DAY OUT FACTS**

- Seven communities, in two states, were visited by the outreach program in 2019
- 501 people assisted in seven days
- $9.545 million super reconnected with Indigenous owners
KAMILAROI man Lance Tighe has had a burning desire to fight fire since he was a kid. And now he’s set his career alight, as a member of one of Australia’s first all-Aboriginal firefighting crew with NSW Fire and Rescue.

Growing up in Moree, Mr Tighe said that there were no Aboriginal firefighters in the area, and so, as a teenager, he put the idea of ever becoming a firefighter on the backburner. “And it wasn’t until I saw my (late) cousin become a firefighter with the Moree branch, that I thought to myself, ‘Hang on, it is possible for an Aboriginal person to become a firefighter’, and that’s when things just escalated from there,” he said.

Now stationed in Redfern, Mr Tighe is using his education and expertise in firefighting to inspire the young mob in the area, and volunteer his time to help out Elders and other members of his community.

Mr Tighe said that undertaking the Indigenous Fire and Rescue Employment Strategy (IFARES) program is how he got his foot in the door with NSW Fire and Rescue, and an excellent way to start a career in firefighting. “Because this program gets you ready and teaches you what it takes to be a firefighter,” Mr Tighe said.

“The exciting thing about the IFARES program is that you are out on country doing drills, and back at the station learning about safety and techniques. This really gets you prepared for search and rescue, and firefighting.” Mr Tighe said it was rewarding to be able to get out amongst the Redfern community as a representative of NSW Fire and Rescue, much of the time as a volunteer, to offer help where it’s needed. “A lot of the time it’s our aunties and uncles who might simply need the battery in their smoke alarm changed,” Mr Tighe said.

“Or it might be having a yarn with the brothers and sisters on the street about the importance of learning about fire safety.”

If you have always wanted to be a firefighter, Mr Tighe said the first thing you need to do is make sure you work toward your education. “For anyone else wanting a career in firefighting, we offer all types of programs and work experience to help you become trained in the field.

“This way you can come in and get your hands on the tools and have a look at the hose and get a real feel for the job”, he said.

NSW Fire and rescue are doing all they can to make sure they are a diverse organisation. “NSW Fire and rescue are really leading the way, but not only with Indigenous diversity with an all Indigenous crew, but with inclusion of women, a range of other cultures, and the LGBTQI community also.

“There really is something that ancient systems of Indigenous knowledge can bring to firefighting, and I think it would be great initiative to have an all Indigenous crew in every state.”

LANCE TIGHE (SECOND FROM LEFT) IS WITH EMERGENCY SERVICES MINISTER, DAVID ELLIOTT.
Research finds suicide crisis linked to historical trauma

By NICK PATON

KUNJA woman Dr Raelene Ward is a senior lecturer at the University of Southern Queensland and an advocate for suicide prevention. Dr Ward has spent over 10 years researching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide and prevention, and has now been awarded with a PhD.

World Suicide Prevention Day occurs around September 10 every year. Dr Ward spoke to the Koori Mail about the importance of this day, not just for Australia, but the rest of the world also.

“This is a time to come together and share ideas, globally, about what works and what doesn’t work in regard to suicide prevention,” Dr Ward said.

“Because this day really acknowledges the important work that is happening in this space, locally and internationally.”

“It’s also a day to acknowledge what we can potentially achieve when we work together, in a collaborative approach, around suicide prevention.”

Dr Ward said that in Australia, suicide among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is a massive issue that needs to be addressed urgently.

“And the issue really lies within an historical context. It comes down to the traumatic journey that members of our families and our ancestors have travelled,” she said.

A lot of Dr Ward’s research looks into the historical impacts of colonisation and the correlation to high rates of suicide among many Indigenous people in Australia.

“And we need to really look at the reasons why things have changed so drastically for our communities over such a short amount of time,” Dr Ward said.

“These are communities that were once so united and supportive of each other, and there is much research out there, and it’s not just my own, that illustrates the devastating impacts that intergenerational trauma has had on these communities.”

“My research really validates that there are intergenerational problems associated with the atrocities of historical trauma still out there in our communities today.”

Dr Ward said that equality under the law needs to be addressed.

“From the very beginning, we have never been afforded the same constitutional rights as other Australians,” she said. “Not being acknowledged appropriately in the Australian constitution has had a deficit effect on our Aboriginal nations and communities in the past, and especially now.

“When suicides are happening amongst Aboriginal people every three months, we need to address this as a crisis.”

World Suicide Prevention Day is organised by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP). With professionals and volunteers from up to 77 countries, the IASP is dedicated to preventing suicidal behaviour, alleviating its effects, and providing a forum for academics, mental health professionals, crisis workers, volunteers and suicide survivors.
Remote companion animals are in award-winning hands

ANIMAL Management in Remote and Rural Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC) has received a prestigious award for managing companion animal health in Indigenous communities.

AMRRIC chief executive Dr Brooke Rankmore accepted the Innovation in Rescue award at the Jetpets Companion Animal Rescue Awards ceremony held at the Gold Coast.

“We are a partnership organisation and we’re proud to share this recognition with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and their people, and with our other program partners,” she said. “This award is also a testament to our dedicated staff, volunteers and veterinary program partners, who travel to some of the most remote corners of Australia, working in what are sometimes very challenging conditions.”

AMRRIC, an NT-based not-for-profit organisation, won the award for their One Health program model which recognises the links between human, animal and environmental health and wellbeing. In the area of rescue and re-homing, AMRRIC works to stem the flow of unwanted animals through increased desexing.

The key elements of AMRRIC’s One Health program include:
- facilitation and access to veterinary services;
- building local knowledge and capacity in communities;
- providing strategic planning and support; and
- advocacy and promotion of community driven change.

In 2018–19, AMRRIC desexed 2840 dogs and 203 cats through its veterinary programs. School programs were delivered to 667 students, and 4259 community members were engaged in door-to-door and community event education.

AMRRIC is a key knowledge broker for local government and municipal service providers including facilitating on-ground veterinary services, enhancing programs through increased capacity and the delivery of educational programs. AMRRIC make tools that support communities and councils to monitor and evaluate animal management programs, such as the AMRRIC App and data analysis services, assisting with strategic planning and support services.

NT Shania and Russel learned about puppy care in Kintore.

A Tiwi Island Ranger with patients for desexing.

Happy residents at Engawala, NT’s Central Desert region.

Volunteer overseas

Come to an information session and discover how to join the Australian Volunteers Program

- 26 developing countries
- 1-24 month assignments
- Return airfares provided
- Living and accommodation allowances
- Training, support and disability access

Register for an information session
australianvolunteers.com/informationsession

Job opportunities for TAFE* graduates

Are you an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander? Have you completed a Certificate III or higher?*

Kick-start your career with the Victorian Government in 2020.

We have jobs across Victoria in areas such as Economics, Office Administration, Public Policy, Social Sciences, Urban Planning and more.

You’ll get:
- a 12-month paid job
- on-the-job training
- learning and development workshops
- industry connections
- a permanent job when you finish the program

Applications close 31 October 2019
To apply vpsc.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-careers

Contact us:
Aboriginal Employment Unit
Victorian Public Sector Commission
Email: aboriginal.employment@vpsc.vic.gov.au
Phone: (03) 7004 7121

*open to all Vocational Education and Training students completing Certificate III or higher

www.koorimail.com

THE KOORI MAIL, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 | 15
Scam targets vulnerable Aboriginal people

A HARVEY Norman worker in Alice Springs falsified information to sign up Aboriginal people to large debts, forcing its credit provider to pay back $1.5 million.

Consumer credit provider Latitude Financial says it has paid back about three-quarters of the amount.

From 2014 to 2016, customers with little stable income and limited English were given easy access to credit limits of several thousand dollars or higher, well in excess of what was needed for televisions and whitegoods costing less than $1000.

The Harvey Norman employee was sacked and Latitude agreed to fully repay all affected customers.

ASIC investigating

ASIC is still investigating whether to take more action. The Harvey Norman Legal Centre’s policy and advocacy officer Drew MacRae could not legally comment on the case, but said exploitation of vulnerable people was common in the retail industry, where interest-free and buy-now-pay-later deals are common.

“They end up pushing this finance on to unsuspecting folk, who find themselves getting into a lot of debt,” he said.

“The people benefiting are the retailers themselves because they have been able to flog these goods using what seems to be a sweet deal of good credit and they reap the benefits of those sales.

“The retailers’ salespeople involved are not vetting applications that are poor or low quality.

“We believe they have a responsibility to.”

Mr MacRae said the legal centre often saw customers that had their goods seized and were forced to pay debts back for years, which can be deducted from welfare payments, after being given credit limits for as much as $5000 despite only wanting a $500 fridge.

NSW Aboriginal Land Council Fishing Fund

The NSW Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) is seeking applications from Aboriginal peoples or entities for loans and grants from the NSWALC Fishing Fund.

What is the NSWALC Fishing Fund?

The NSWALC Fishing Fund is a partnership with the Commonwealth Governments’ National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) and aims to support the growth and development of the NSW Aboriginal fishing industry to achieve long term economic and employment opportunities.

What Funding is available?

Both loans and grants will be available to existing or start-up Aboriginal fishing businesses for aquaculture, wild harvest or charter fishing. Applicants can apply for up to $500,000.00 for individual loans or grants.

Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants must be Aboriginal or an Aboriginal entity (business). How to apply

Applications can be submitted at any time (i.e. no closing date).

Initially, Expressions of Interest (EOIs) will be sought. On review of your EOI, NSWALC may request that you submit a Formal Application. Formal Applications will be assessed by NSWALC’s independent Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Committee and approved by NSWALC. We will provide you with advice and assistance through the application process.

You can download a copy of the EOI form from the NSW Aboriginal Land Council’s website: www.alc.org.au

Further Information

For any enquiries please contact the NSW Aboriginal Land Council on ph. 9689 4501, or email: policy@alc.org.au

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR THE NSW ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL ABORIGINAL FISHING FUND

Not Just Numbers

The documentary Not Just Numbers tells the story of the women’s group and their work to make their communities safer.

Documentary gives a voice to Alice Springs town camp women

Not Just Numbers

Producer Anna Cadan from Brindle Films and director Shirleen Campbell from the Tangentyere Women’s Family Safety Group. Not Just Numbers tells the story of the women’s group and their work to make their communities safer.
Notice to group members

Stolen Wages Class Action

Hans Pearson v State of Queensland (Federal Court of Australia, Queensland Registry, QUD714 of 2016)

Mr Hans Pearson has brought a class action in the Federal Court against the State of Queensland on behalf of all Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders who weren’t paid all their wages between 1939 and 1972; and on behalf of Aboriginals who between 1945 and 1966 were required to work on a settlement or mission.

The applicant and the respondent have agreed to a settlement of the class action. The proposed settlement means that the State of Queensland will pay $190 million inclusive for compensation and legal fees. The settlement is subject to approval by the Federal Court and the court will hold a settlement approval hearing on 21 November 2019. At the hearing the applicant intends to seek the deduction of legal costs incurred in conducting the case of approximately $12.5m, and the deduction of litigation funding charges of approximately $38m to be paid to the litigation funder who took the risks of the case and paid the legal costs. If those deductions are approved by the court there will be about $139.5m remaining to compensate people covered by the class action.

This is a summary notice. There is a longer notice which is on the Stolen Wages website (see below), which you should read in full too.

You are eligible to make a claim for compensation in this case if:

The class action was brought by Hans Pearson on behalf of:

1. (A) YOU ARE AN ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER;
2. (B) YOUR PAY WAS CONTROLLED BY THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT OR THE HEAD OF THE MISSION OR RESERVE AT SOME POINT DURING THE CLAIM PERIOD;
3. OR (3) IF YOU ARE AN ABORIGINAL, BETWEEN 1945 AND 1966 YOU WERE REQUIRED TO WORK ON A SETTLEMENT OR MISSION;
4. OR (4) YOU ARE A LIVING SPOUSE OR IMMEDIATE CHILD OF A DECEASED PERSON WHO SATISFIED (1) AND (2) ABOVE OR (3) ABOVE.

All group members need to register their claims in order to receive compensation. If you are already a client of Bottoms English Lawyers and registered with them as a group member, you do not need to register again for compensation. If you have not registered as a group member, you need to register your claim to receive any compensation.

What do you need to do if you want to register your claim?

If you want to register your claim or the claim of a deceased group member, you need to fill out and send a registration form to the administrator of the settlement. A copy of the registration form can be obtained by ringing Bottoms English Lawyers on the Stolen Wages Hotline – 07 4041 1641 - or by writing to Bottoms English Lawyers or visiting them at their office at 63 Mulgrave Road, Cairns, Queensland 4870. A copy of the registration form can also be obtained from the Stolen Wages website:

www.stolenwages.com.au

The registration form must be sent to Bottoms English Lawyers by 4pm on 8 November 2019.

If you wish to opt out of the class action, you can obtain an opt out form from Bottoms English Lawyers whose contact details are given above. Opting out is only for those new group members who did not previously have the opportunity to opt out in May 2018. If you choose to opt out you will not receive any compensation under the proposed settlement.

This advertisement is made pursuant to the order of the Federal Court made on 4 September 2019.
Despite the many suicide intervention programs in our communities, Indigenous youth suicide in this country is still growing at an alarming rate. In 2017, we visited the United States of America and New Zealand where we were privileged to meet two extraordinary individuals, Dr Joseph Stone and Dr Amber Logan who have dedicated their lives to overcoming mental health issues and addictions as well as suicide prevention through culture in Indigenous communities.

It has taken some time, but we have managed to convince Dr Joe and Dr Amber to visit Australia and conduct two-day workshops in Indigenous communities to train Indigenous workers, organisations and communities in suicide prevention through culture. They will also be talking about drug and alcohol addiction with special emphasis on methamphetamine use by youth at risk.

Dr Stone and Dr Logan have conducted these workshops in Indigenous communities throughout Canada, the USA, New Zealand and Hawaii with great success. So much so that Griffith University, in collaboration with Oklahoma State University, have invited Dr. Stone & Dr Logan to conduct the same topics here. Dr Stone stated, "Indigenous communities throughout the world had been impacted in much the same way as Indigenous people across Australia through colonisation."

The dispensation of land and the blatant disrespect of First Nations cultures, beliefs, languages and disempowering of Indigenous people across Australia through colonisation.

Dr. Joseph B. Stone, PhD, is an Amskapi-pikuni ceremonialist and traditional and member of the OESKAN (Sundance), the Last Star Thunder Medicine Pipe and Beaver Lodge. Dr. Stone works at Te Taerenga a Hinetanga – a Kaupapa Maori Health Provider. Ahiria Whaum Family Services, and the Napiers Family Centre all located in Hawkes Bay, New Zealand. He has clinical experience with adult prisoners and corrections and juvenile justice in both New Zealand and USA. He is affiliated with the National Center on Trauma and Project Making Medicine – Indian Health Service Assessment and Treatment of Child Abuse at Oklahoma State University. He has presented to and served as consultant to the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs of Native Youth Suicide. Dr. Stone’s publications include articles on trauma, suicide, and other cultural and behavioural issues.

Dr. Amber R. Logan is a traditional Canadian Native Nations health psychologist and Doctoral Fellow in Public Health at Otago University. She teaches health psychology course work at the University of Auckland & Otago University and is well-known in New Zealand for her work in Methamphetamine education and community activism. Amber Logan is a consummate grant writer, health services evaluator and health services program designer. She has presented extensively in Australia, Canada, and the USA at Harvard University, University of Washington, and to the US Federal Government.

Our seminars have been developed with the whole wellness principles for cultures, families and communities in mind. If your community is interested in hosting a workshop, please contact us on:

E: adminics@iinet.net.au or T: (07) 4194 2803

To enrol or register to attend a workshop, please email your expression of interest to Aboriginal Conference Services at E: adminics@iinet.net.au or T: (07) 4194 2803

More than 100 community members attended the meetings, held in Barmah, Echuca and Shepparton, which were an opportunity for the community to contribute their ideas for the most effective and appropriate management strategies for the final plan.

Uncle Des Morgan said that, for the Yorta Yorta Traditional Owner Land Management Board, the health of country has been the absolute priority in the development of this plan. The Yorta Yorta Nation in 2014 to jointly manage the park, it comprises Yorta Yorta representatives as well as members of the broader community. Parks Victoria provides day-to-day operational management of the Barmah National Park.

The plan aims to pursue innovation and excellence, to promote and recognise the value of Yorta Yorta culture, to involve Yorta Yorta in management of the Park, and to ensure the wellbeing of country and people. It must cover the recognition, practice and utilisation of traditional Yorta Yorta knowledge, the conservation of natural and cultural values, the management of threatened species, and the attraction and management of park visitors.

The plan sets out management directions for the park for the next 10 years. The exhibition period for the Draft Joint Management Plan will remain open until October 6.
Blaq Diamond is inspiring positive change for women

By ALF WILSON

MELISA Drummond-Anderson is the owner and managing director of Blaq Diamond. No One Can Break You! Since 2017, Blaq Diamond’s workshops and events have helped many First Nations women escape from domestic violence situations and to find work that enabled them to end reliance on welfare. “We have had a good success rate and while these workshops have mainly been around here, I want to eventually take my concept to remote Indigenous communities,” Melissa said. “Women in those communities can then tailor it to suit their needs. “One of our major successes was helping a woman who had been a victim of DV for 18 years get out of it and now she has a job and supports herself and her children. Others have improved other areas of their lives since attending Blaq Diamond’s Workshops and Events.” Ms Drummond-Anderson, who has been a victim of DV herself, said Blaq Diamond had a no-tolerance policy towards any form of it. Her great-grandmother’s country is Nywaigi, which is located north of Townsville, and through her mother (Anderson) she is also linked to Girramay Country in the Cardwell area. “I’m a Gumulajaw woman from Urpi Kigu Peoyadh Ras/Mabuyug Island in the Torres Strait. I’m descendant from Warner – Chief Bari. That’s my father’s country (Drummond) and, through my Great Uthe (Grandfather), my family heritage also leads back to American Samoa. I’m the eldest daughter, and big sister to five younger brothers,” Melissa said. “For more than 20 years, I have had the opportunity of working in different government departments in four different states of Australia in various positions from administrative officer, contract management assistant, Indigenous sports officer and community development officer. “I’ve also lived overseas in Okinawa, Japan and Florida, USA. So you can say that I have a great love for travel. Travelling to different places, sightseeing and meeting different people and learning about many cultures has definitely heightened my awareness. “And through my many travels I have learnt more about myself and reaching far beyond my limitations and overcoming fears. I am a single mother to one teenage daughter.” It’s been a decade since Ms Drummond-Anderson returned to Townsville after escaping a DV situation. “We hold regular workshops with a series of one-on-one sessions which deliver health and wellbeing initiatives ranging from personal development, mentoring, healthy mind, healthy body, exercise and self care,” she said. “Next year, Blaq Diamond is planning to hold an on-country cultural camp for First Nations women, which will be a weekend retreat of healing and revitalisation. “We invite other Indigenous female small business owners/ entrepreneurs to present – this is to represent, inspire and inform other women about the many opportunities that are available to them. “As well as showcasing their products and business, it is also about sharing their journey about how they made it from nothing to go on to achieve success, and how other women can improve their own lives for the better.”

NOTICE FOR THE YAMATJI NATION SOUTHERN REGIONAL AGREEMENT IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Who is involved?
The Agreement is between the State of Western Australia and Yamatji People who are:

b) of the family of descendants referred to in (a) above; AND

Who is involved?
The Agreement is between the State of Western Australia and Yamatji People who are:

a) Descendants of ancestors listed below:

- Ap-barra (Upbarra) and Dharriinga
- Annie Tira
- Briddie (mother of Fred Carnamah)
- Billy and Judy Thompson
- Brindy
- Classie Broad
- Galena
- Jane Hunt
- Jhija (Rosie Jones)
- Lizzie Flynn
- Mary Gingina
- Nellie
- Rosie (mother of Walter Vingan)
- Rosie Coleman
- Sarah Broad
- Sarah Jane Campbell
- Sarah Mabel Bell
- Sarah Faast
- (Jooldarnoo)
- Shiling
- Timothy Benjamin
- Uanda
- Wyoo and Mynadja

The term “descendants” includes Aboriginal persons who have been adopted as children or raised (grown up) as part of the family of descendants referred to in (a) above; AND

b) Identify as Yamatji People who are connected under the traditional Yamatji laws and customs with the land and waters in the Separate Proceeding Area (SPA) (see map) and be accepted as such by other Yamatji People connected under the traditional Yamatji laws and customs with the land and waters in the SPA.

Are you a Yamatji person with traditional connections to Western Australia’s Mid West region around Geraldton?

You should be a part of the discussions and decision making for the YNSRA. We urge you to be involved.

What is the YNSRA?

In 2017, the Southern Yamatji, Hutt River, Mullewa Wadjari and Widi Mob claim groups entered into negotiations with the State of Western Australia (WA) for an agreement to settle native title claims in the region.

The aim is to achieve an agreement that reflects the aspirations and needs of the Traditional Owner community as a whole.

A 12 person team of Traditional Owners are authorised to represent claimants in the negotiations for an alternative native title settlement with the State of Western Australia.

Their vision for the Agreement is:

“A progressive and equitable agreement that recognises us and our Country, supports our growth and provides us with control of our destiny.”

Unsure if you fit the description?
If you consider you have a traditional connection to this area please contact our anthropologists at Yamatji Marra Aboriginal Corporation’s (YMAC) Perth Office on (08) 9268 7000.

How do you get involved from now until November 2019?

- Host a family meeting
- Attend events or join an information session
- Request information from YMAC
- Read more online about YNSRA
The shooting by police of a Yamatji woman in Geraldton, Western Australia, is tragic. Joyce Clarke needed help, not violence. Having only recently been released from custody she needed assistance for mental health issues. But, because of a lack of appropriate services, police were first on the scene. And her community has now lost another life far too soon. A son has lost his mother. It’s beyond sad. The Geraldton – and wider – Aboriginal community is understandably upset and angry. How many lives have to be lost before people get the help they need? How many children have to weep for their mothers before there’s proper and lasting action to help Aboriginal women when they’re released from prison? Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are vastly overrepresented in the prison system, due to the ongoing effects of intergenerational trauma and colonisation. And the numbers in Western Australia are particularly bad. Disadvantage and poverty are the two biggest factors that affect whether you’re likely to come into contact with the criminal justice system. And, until we see lasting change, it’s people like Joyce, her family and her community who pay the price. And it’s far too high.

The price is too high for our mob

“Our traditional way of life is facing an existential threat because of climate change ... We’re urging the PM to visit our islands, meet our communities.”

Kabay Tamu, a Warraber man from the Kulkalgal nation

See page 8

Unquote

Nikki Randriamahefa
Doctor palawa Hobart

Favourite bush Tucker? Walaby and white currents.
Favourite other food? Tha.
Favourite drink? Coffee.
Favourite music? At the moment, Jack Johnson.
Favourite sport? I like playing netball.
What are you reading? I just finished The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion. It was really funny.
Favourite holiday destination? Sloop Lagoon on Tasmania’s East Coast. We had the best summer holidays there.
What do you like on TV? Crime Investigation.
What do you like in life? The variety of possibilities.
What don’t you like in life? Being so time poor.
Which black or Indigenous person would you most like to meet? Chelsea Bond.
Which people would you invite for a night around the campfire? Jillian Mundy, Nala Mansell – she’s fun – and Tanganutura. Would be amazing to sit around the campfire with the last tribal member of my family – whom Jillian, Nala and myself are all directly descended from.
What would you do to better the situation for Aboriginal people? Self determination – the first step in improving the situation is being heard.

A YARN WITH...
Elder ‘JT’ has a healthy approach to leadership

By NICK PATON

FOR thousands of years, Elders have taken on the major leadership roles within community, but earning this status doesn’t just happen overnight. Just ask respected Mackay Elder Jeff ‘JT’ Timor, who has been proudly supporting and working with his community, and the greater region, for well over 50 years. He’s a singer, community radio host, family man, activist, and also credits himself as being “the only member of his family who can’t play the guitar properly.”

JT was born in Townsville and grew up at Bakers Creek as part of a large family. It wasn’t long before JT could see just how much work was needed to address some of the sociological issues he had witnessed in his community, especially in relation to health. As a result, JT has spent 18 years making regular visits to the brothers and sisters in various correctional facilities in Rockhampton and Townsville, as a way of showing mob they are not alone, and that they too, can use music as a way to heal pain and trauma.

“JT does anything to help these men and women who are caught up in the justice system,” he said.

“The good thing is, I can see that the men and women are excited to have me there. I’ve been visiting these people for years now, and they still enjoy having me rock up and perform for them.”

JT recognises the critical role Elders play in our lives, and lists why he has built up meaningful connections with local Elders from a range of aged-care facilities in and around his community in Mackay.

In 1988, JT first held discussions with a handful of the Aboriginal medical services that were operating in Queensland at the time, with the aim of forming a peak body, which would serve the interests of Aboriginal people within the health sector at both state and national levels.

JT said it wasn’t easy bringing together such a large number of organisations from all over Queensland.

“Although, it was in that year that we really made progress, and we could see that this was something worth pursuing,” JT said.

“JT’s involvement, dedication and commitment to the Community Controlled Health Sector.

This year, marks 30 years of JT’s involvement, dedication and commitment to the Community Controlled Health Sector.

In 2009, JT’s achievements were recognised when he was inducted into the QAIHC Hall of Fame. Today, QAIHC continues to honour its commitment to improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health both locally and nationally, through its close affiliation and board membership with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).

As an accolade to the many years of his involvement with the wider community, Uncle Jeff Timor was named the NAIDOC Elder of the Year in Mackay in 2011.

JT said he was honoured to receive such a prestigious award, and admits he has always been a political-minded type of person.

“My inspirations for my work with the community have come from reading what’s affecting mob through various media avenues like reading the newspaper, watching the news, and listening to the radio,” he said.

“But most importantly, I think that we need to acknowledge that it was our Aboriginal trailblazers of the 1960s and 1970s that did the hard work in establishing the Aboriginal legal, health and housing sector up here in Queensland.”

You can catch JT on my105fm, Mackay’s Indigenous Radio Station, where he comments on current affairs and community issues.
NYAMBA Buru Yawuru, whose traditional lands cover 5300 square kilometres of subtropical coastal and inland savannah country around Broome in Western Australia, are exploring opportunities to develop a predator-free wildlife sanctuary on their country.

If a fenced feral-predator-free wildlife haven was established on Yawuru country it would be the first in northern Australia and the first to be led and managed by an Indigenous organisation.

Yawuru environmental services manager Julie Melbourne said that fenced conservation areas are an important tool for preserving and restoring Australia’s threatened animals, many of which cannot persist under the constant onslaught of predation by feral predators such as feral cats, foxes, and wild dogs.

Last week a delegation of Yawuru traditional owners and cultural leaders travelled over 4000km to learn about the fenced Mulligan’s Flat Woodland Sanctuary in Canberra.

“We are very interested to learn from the experiences of Mulligan’s Flat Woodland Sanctuary in establishing and running a fenced wildlife sanctuary,” Ms Melbourne said.

“A feral predator-free wildlife haven on Yawuru country would allow us to undertake a range of threatened species reintroduction and conservation projects, research and education.

“As a tourism venture it would also provide economic opportunities and allow us to share the culture, wildlife and pristine environment of Yawuru country with locals, visitors and schools.”

Mulligan’s Flat Woodland Sanctuary, part of the Canberra Nature Park, contains 485 hectares of box-gum grassy woodlands surrounded by a 11.5km cat, fox and rabbit-proof fence.

In the last seven years seven different species, which had been lost from the Canberra region, have been reintroduced to the sanctuary, including eastern quolls, New Holland mouse and Rosenburg’s monitor.

Yawuru environmental managers and cultural leaders were welcomed to Canberra and Mulligan’s flat by Ngunnawal local custodians before touring the sanctuary.

A highlight of the trip was an evening spotlighting tour to view threatened native animals, such as the eastern bettong which are thriving inside the sanctuary in the absence of invasive predators.

“Talking with the team at Mulligans Flat and Ngunnawal traditional owners to see how they went about establishing their conservation programs has been very valuable,” Ms Melbourne said.

“We have also met with scientists from the Australian Government’s National Environmental Science Program who are undertaking research on wildlife havens and animal reintroductions.”

“For us, it’s a learning journey so that we can understand how a similar project might work best in Yawuru Country.”

Nyamba Buru Yawuru have been supported by funding from the Western Australian Government’s State NRM Program and the Threatened Species Recovery Hub of the Australian Government’s National Environmental Science Program to undertake this trip to explore wildlife sanctuary options for their country.
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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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. Articles by community members will be considered. Please send interiors, 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

Community mourns after senseless act

By Yamatji writer Deborah Green

A small, though passionate, group of Yamatji First Nation members gathered in front of the Geraldton Police Station last week, venting their outrage and grief over a 29-year-old sister who was shot and killed by a police officer on the outskirts of Geraldton.

Among the gathered were Elders of the community, close friends and family of the deceased young woman, angry with grief, wanting to know what is going to be done about the murder of a young woman who was known to her community as a happy-go-lucky sister, not even able to hurt a fly. I, myself, attended the snap action that was organised by local Yamatji woman, artist and academic, Charmaine Green, hoping to get across to the town that the Western Australian Police Force are not our friends, they don’t have our best interests at heart and the sooner this situation goes away the better for them. Like so many other incidents between the police and the First Nations community where death has resulted, they will be investigated and found to have done nothing wrong because the police force investigate their own. History has shown that the police will kill us and move on.

Yamatji writer Deborah Green is a Yamatji woman Joyce Clarke will come out in the favour of the Yamatji person is akin to killing an animal. She came to the memorial with the police will kill us and move on with their lives as if the death of a Yamatji person is akin to killing an animal.

As we all know that could have been completely different. The police had to have systems in place to investigate the death and make sure that they are not biased or have something to gain from the outcome. When is this going to start happening?

There are so many throughout Australia, with understanding within every community, and yet still so many cannot face the truth, regarding our Aboriginality our true identity.

We all know that could have been completely different. The police had to have systems in place to investigate the death and make sure that they are not biased or have something to gain from the outcome. When is this going to start happening?

There are so many throughout Australia, with understanding within every community, and yet still so many cannot face the truth, regarding our Aboriginality our true identity.

We are and we’ll always be active, throughout any sacred stand, because no matter what this country Australia, is our belonging our sacred land.

We can voice the truth and the treaty, from hereafter this date and day, but is not forgiven truly because, government’s constitution still stands in the way.

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W e are sovereign peoples living under the oppressive system of governance of an illegitimate governmental rule brought to us by the colonial greed of the Crown. Our unceded sovereignty remains a topic conscientiously ignored by the Australian Government, but undoubtedly one of the reasons that there is a vehement maintenance of the propaganda campaign to vitiate our people and communities. While we, as a people, have always known this invasion is wrong and although it sought to destroy and eradicate us, it was in the 1980s that the notion of exercising our sovereignty became a material agenda item for the black rights political movement. In a speech during a show of protest against celebrations of ‘Australia Day’ on January 26, 1988, Gary Foley said that the powerful collectivising of Aboriginal people was an expression of our ongoing sovereignty and that “we’ve never relinquished our sovereignty of this country”. While we were, we are and will remain the sovereign peoples of this land. We know that we are sovereign, we also know that, as we continue to strengthen our collective political, cultural and legal mechanisms of how to exercise this sovereignty and collectivise in the ways to do this, this is not only how we can hold governmental organisations which will react, I suspect, in two ways. There will be an initial ramping up of the propagated campaign against our people and communities, and until what we witnessed in the lead up to the Northern Territory Intervention and, separately, we will see shady attempts to ‘unite’ or ‘unify’ what we are seeing by the Labor Government in Victoria who are presenting their ‘progressive’ ideals by seeking treaty with a small number of representatives while destroying sacred Djiru Wurrung birthing trees. The Government’s policy is that we are all Australians and, as such, we are subject to the current structural framework that makes up our laws and governance as a country. This is what is referred to as state sovereignty – the power to govern a territory by a power structure. This view, of course, is silent on the fact that we were here prior to British occupation and are distinctly separate to the Government’s definition of ‘Australian’ and that we have a separate claim for sovereignty distinct from the state sovereignty already claimed.

Sovereignty and the assertion of sovereignty is a critical item of our activism in Australia – the only Commonwealth country without a compact between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

The definition of sovereignty is where problems arise, or more specifically, the white privilege in imposing Western legal definitions of sovereignty. At law, sovereignty refers to power and authority to govern and make laws, but there are contexts in which it arises (internal and external sovereignty) and at law, the internationally accepted definition of the cession of sovereignty is that it occurs when a treaty or other similar compact is agreed between the parties making way for one sovereign rule or a co-existence of sovereignty. This is the very reason that there needs to be a careful examination of the position of communities collectively agreeing to the terms – this is not the process of an individual representative of some clans but there needs to be all clans included in this framework. First Nations sovereignty has not been a matter with the desire to rule or govern a country, especially not in the capitalist sense. Our Sovereignty is about our engagement of role as custodians of this land since time immemorial for the benefit of our land and communities.

The High Court of Australia will have to consider the concept of sovereignty, specifically whether the acceptance of sovereignty by Britain over Australia with ‘white settlement in 1788’ could be considered as an act in flagrant disregard. The High Court in the 1992 Mabo case refused to examine this point and determined that it is non-justiciable or “not within the competence of the Court or its jurisdiction”. Of course the very authority of the High Court depends on the validity of this Western legal definition of state sovereignty. Accordingly, the High Court is not well placed to judge the issue of sovereignty because, as itself a creation of the federation of Australia, is not an impartial party and it was correct to refuse on the basis of its own conflict. That said, the Mabo decision created the disjunction in our legal system between the internal and external notion of sovereignty. While Mabo recognised the continuing control and rights to land of Indigenous people, it went so far as to reject terra nullius and to assert the illegitimacy of the assertion of sovereignty by the British Crown in 1784 and, separately, we will see shady determinations being made about the issue of Indigenous sovereignty and stating that it was non-justicable, and therefore an uncertainty at the core of our society.

It follows that if courts were asked to adjudicate First Nations sovereignty, which is consistently defined by a more advanced understanding of sovereignty as being in conflict with state sovereignty, courts would predictably state that recognition of our sovereignty would threaten the orderly structure of our legal system and therefore cannot be done. The legally acknowledged ‘illegitimate state sovereignty’ continues to impose laws upon all subject populations without state sovereignty of the Indigenous subjects) and this illegitimate sovereign prevents any attempts made by First Nations people to assert sovereignty by controlling the definition of sovereignty and the institutions that would adjudicate the question of sovereignty.

So the obvious option at legal exercise of sovereignty would be to seek out international legal assessment of sovereignty, but this too presents problems given that international debate on self-determination shows increasing credibility and legitimacy of a state’s foundations given to states that are able to demonstrate inclusivity in the way it treats Indigenous peoples.

The Government would be hard pressed to legitimise any claims of democratic inclusion when First Nations sovereignty is being continually ignored and the laws are being imposed arbitrarily and targeting Indigenous people unfairly and the power structure is disproportionately target and punish First Nations people.

Ultimately this is a struggle for control of sovereignty through the international legal and governmental structures with no essential to ensure that we are in the driver seat of any reform in this country. It will ensure that we are given freedom to self determine, to obtain rights to our lands, and within our cultural spheres, on a whim for mining and other destructive practices, where reparations and compensation already granted has been distributed elsewhere, is not dependent on international laws applied to us without our express prior and informed consent.

Natalie Cromb is a writer and activist.

YAMMA ngnda Gamilaraay Gamilaraay language! I made me think of my own creative spirit and how I would love to shine, blessed with God-given talents in expressing my pride in being Kamilaroi and more unfortunately for my cousin-sista in there), Woolombi Waters is a good cricketer, just not quite good enough in our history, in rising above with so much love and pride in our on the highest level of footy, but just not quite good enough. He is in language, while remaining very aware of what we witnessed in the lead up to the World Series Championship, which I cannot sing like our young Mitchell and our footy players in that not only are they representing the mob, they represent our dreams and our successes. That being said, as much as we all want to be Cathy Freeman or Johnathan Thurston, we can’t, but also we cannot even begin to imagine the sacrifices they have made, or the hours and long hours of training and discipline and ritual they have committed to their creative practice to become the shining stars and the heroes they have become. I will always remember Cathy Freeman after winning the Olympic Gold medal in Sydney collapsing to the ground with relief, having achieved a lifetime dream and made a success of all those hours spent in training and running with sacrifices made when no one was watching. I remember a quote from Mohammad Ali, who said “no one ever watched him in his time in Moree he was not a world champion, he was a champion hard work being ignored, laws are being disproportionately target and punish First Nations people. And in prioritising our healing as Aboriginal above all else we re-establish our connection to the land and everlastingly timeless of our Burring-g三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层三层 layers.
Cape York art makes a showing on the runway

A SPECTACULAR couture collection designed by Queensland University of Technology (QUT) fashion students, with textiles created by artists from the Cape York community of Hopevale, was launched last week for the first time outside of Far North Queensland.

Wubuul Buii (meaning ‘together’) is an exhibition showcasing stunning, one-of-a-kind garments made from unique bush-dye silk and linen printed with original work by 13 Hopevale artists, ranging in age from their late twenties to mid-eighties.

The collection debuted on the runway at the 2019 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair and will be exhibited at Artisan in Brisbane’s Bowen Hills until November 9.

Manager of the Hopevale Arts & Culture Centre, Melanie Gibson, said the local artists requested that their designs be treated as art on the runway, and the QUT students honoured their wishes with respect and beauty.

“The oldest continuous living culture breathes its songlines through new world fabrics combined with timeless skills in this collaboration,” Ms Gibson said.

“The stories that are told on these textiles are tens of thousands of years old and to see them constructed into beautiful fashion pieces is an opportunity that’s humbled us all.

“This collaboration has now offered us the chance to not just share those stories with our own Aboriginal community, but a wider audience. To have these pieces exhibited in the state’s capital, and to have the opportunity to sell our fabrics and other merchandise to a city audience while the exhibition is running, is truly wonderful.

“We’re so proud to see how these textiles have been given an amplified platform by these talented students – the stories of our elderly artists will now live on forever.”

QUT Creative Industries Lecturer and awarded Brisbane designer Lydia Pearson mentored the third- and fourth-year design students completing the Wubuul Buii project.

“This collaboration is about so much more than just fashion and design,” she said.

“While there are pieces in this collection worthy of any runway, the real richness comes from the opportunity for city students to connect with elderly artists living in a location many would never have been aware of if not for this project.

“It was so fulfilling to see the relationships form and for the designers to really commit to understanding the stories behind the textiles they were working with.

“There is no ego in any of the artwork; it is all so joyful and honest and full of delight that it offered the students an instant connection to the fabric.

“The garments are all exaggerated and elaborate, and many were designed using full pieces of fabric with zero waste technique. We really wanted to honour the art by keeping the print as intact as possible.”

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Yellaka performs at the opening

Former SNAICC chairperson Uncle Brian Butler.

United Nations special rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous peoples Victoria Tauli-Corpuz speaks at the opening.

Young people as policy shapers session with Ashum Owen, Shanamae Davies, Arrin Hazelbane, Casey Colin-Kenney and Commissioner April Lawrie.

Commissioner Phillip Brooks speaks at the conference welcome drinks.

Tal Kin Jeri Dance Group at the closing plenary.

SNAICC director Geraldine Atkinson welcomes guests.

Tal Kin Jeri Dance Group at the closing plenary.

Tal Kin Jeri Dance Group at the closing plenary.

Tal Kin Jeri Dance Group at the closing plenary.

Kalaya Children sing at the plenary.
MORE than 1200 delegates met on the land of the Kaurna people in Adelaide this month for the SNAICC – National Voice for Our Children national conference.

SNAICC is the peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and the conference called for urgent action to be taken to ensure that Indigenous children have every opportunity to grow up safe and cared for in their family, community and culture, and on country.

A conference communique outlined four key calls for action:

- to establish a national Indigenous children’s commissioner;
- to develop a comprehensive national Indigenous children’s strategy that includes generational targets to eliminate the overrepresentation of First Nations children in out-of-home care;
- a dedicated funding program for integrated First Nations early years services, and an exemption to the child care ‘Activity Test’ for Indigenous families; and
- an end to legal orders for permanent care and adoption for Indigenous children, replaced by a focus on supporting the permanence of their identity in connection with their kin and culture.

Speaking at the conference Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner June Oscar said the focus needed to switch from child protection services to supporting effective early intervention programs for First Nations families.

“Just 17% of funding for child protection went to child and family support and prevention services while 83% has been invested in child protection services,” she said. “This needs to change.”

The conference heard from numerous children’s experts including Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, who called on all Australian governments to respect the human rights of First Nations people.

The conference communique said Indigenous organisations were leading positive change for children.

“We have been able to share our knowledge and experiences in raising happy, healthy and confident children in our cultures and communities,” it said.

“The disparities in funding between states, territories and the Commonwealth, and varying levels of commitment.

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Family support is key to health of our kids

Kaurna Welcome to Country with Mickey Kumpati Marrutya O’Brien.

Dusty Feet Mob

Pictures: SNAICC – National Voice for our Children, Andy Steven Photography

Family Matters campaign plenary with Commissioner June Oscar, Family Matters co-chairs Natalie Lewis and Richard Weston and founder of ID.Know Yourself Isaiah Dawe.

Maori woman Dr Moana Eruera, one of the keynote presenters.

Maori woman Dr Moana Eruera, one of the keynote presenters.
Carnival honours
A STRONG tradition of rugby league and softball has been revisited and revived in the Cape York/Gulf of Carpentaria community of Kowanyama to celebrate one of their oldest Elders May Smiler, who recently passed at the age of 105-years-old.

The May Smiler Memorial Oval was officially opened with a nine-team strong action-packed carnival, which saw sons and daughters walking in their parents’ and grandparents’ footsteps.

Mayor Michael Yam said it had been a great weekend.

“The new field is a great memorial to our oldest Elder,” he said. “It’s been a long time coming to have football and softball back in community as a carnival and, you know, just bringing back the spirit of these sports. It’s been a reminder to us about our younger days when we were running around.

“It’s been good to see those younger ones running around, and especially our sons, following in the footsteps of their fathers.”

He said Player of the Carnival, Tyson Smiler, played for the winning Kowanyama Warriors side who wore his father Damien Smiler’s name and image on their jerseys.

“He’s done his father proud, young Tyson,” Cr Yam said.

“Overall it’s been a great weekend and we’d like to thank all our sponsors and all of those who travelled to support us.”

By CHRISTINE HOWES

Kowanyama Mayor Michael Yam and Lockhart River Mayor Wayne Butcher.

Corroboree

Aunty May Smiler

Kowanyama dancers.
MORE than 1000 people enjoyed what has been described as the most successful Palm Island Spring Fair yet, at Fred Clay Memorial Park on September 6.

The fair featured craft and food stalls and entertainment. Guests were welcomed to country by traditional owner Allan Palm Island, then Archie Frasier conducted a smoking ceremony.

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Mayor Alf Lacey officially opened the event, which was blessed by Ron Geia Jnr. The entertainment included performances by the Bwgcolman Traditional Dance Group, live bands with Noel and Jenny Cannon, and Walter Foster and the Boys, singers Clarissa Wales, Milton Thaiday and youngster Kalani Geia, Komet Torres Strait Dance Group, Descendants of Torres Strait Dance Group, Yindinji Traditional Dance Group, Tiare Tipani Cook Island Dancers, Great Northern Dancers, Pacific Flowers, MOB Crew, comedian Randy Rock, Waangi Dancers and Pacific Pearls.

The event went into the night with headline acts by DJ Noiz, Kennyon Brown & Donnell Lewis, and Normey Boy and Black Image Band from Hopevale. To close the event a fireworks display at 7.30pm proved a spectacular finale.
PATHWAYS TO STUDY – WESTERN SYDNEY

Western Sydney University is committed to providing higher education pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PATHWAY PROGRAM

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pathway Program is a Western Sydney University initiative aimed at increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in undergraduate courses across all areas of study excluding Doctor of Medicine. Whether you are currently working, unemployed, studying at TAFE or coming straight from high school, as a prospective student you are not required to have completed the HSC or any other qualifications to apply to study at the University via the program. The program duration is two days and includes assessment workshops in literacy and numeracy, an interview to discuss your course of interest. Revision workshops for numeracy are also available.

WHEN IS THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PATHWAY PROGRAM?
The two-day assessment workshops and interviews occur twice a year in June and November.

HOW CAN I APPLY FOR THE PROGRAM?
You can apply by completing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pathway Program Application via the Western Portal.

To apply visit westernsydney.uac.edu.au/ws

PATHWAYS TO STUDY – THE COLLEGE

The College provides a range of pathway options and support services to help you on your journey to university.

Through its comprehensive range of Integrated Diploma/Bachelor courses, Extended Diplomas and University Foundation Studies featuring small class sizes and individual attention from academic staff, The College provides a well-supported environment for you to succeed in your tertiary studies.

INTEGRATED DIPLOMA/BACHELOR PROGRAM

This 12-month program allows students to study supportive environment with smaller class sizes and greater one-on-one time with teachers. On successful completion of the program, students automatically transition into the second year of the corresponding Bachelor degree at Western Sydney University.

EXTENDED DIPLOMA PROGRAM

This 16-month program allows students to which will help in developing the content knowledge and skills needed to succeed in university. After successful completion, students articulate into the second year of their chosen degree at Western Sydney University.

UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION STUDIES PROGRAM

This program is designed to introduce you to the knowledge and skills needed for the first year of your Bachelor degree at Western Sydney University. The program provides pathways into a College Diploma program, or for student who obtain satisfactory results, guaranteed direct entry into the first year of the corresponding degree at Western Sydney University.

Students have the opportunity to choose from one of two specialisations of study: Arts (for those wanting to study Arts, Humanities, Social Science, Psychology or Education) or Health Science/Nursing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit: westernsydney.edu.au/thecollege
Call: 1300 445 059
Email: pathwaystouni@westernsydney.edu.au

FUTURE STUDENTS

Western Sydney University currently has over 600 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, and is located in the midst of the largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in Australia.

This unique placement has ensured that the University strives to offer a range of education programs and services to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, in both accessing education via various opportunities and pathways, and supporting them through their studies.
Scholarship scheme enables Ethan to focus on his studies

ETHAN Savage is on a cultural learning curve as one of more than 400 Indigenous students at the University of Melbourne. “Students come from such diverse backgrounds. Even Indigenous people who are from Melbourne, they come in and they learn so much more about all the different cultures that are all around Australia,” Ethan says. Ethan’s Aboriginal descent is Kaantju and Gimalay and his Torres Strait Islander descent is from the peoples of Badu Island. He is a mentor for the Murrup Barak Indigenous Institute on the university’s Parkville campus, the hub for Indigenous students. “At Murrup Barak we have our common space. You have your non-Indigenous friends, but it’s great to have that space where you can connect with Indigenous friends,” Ethan says. “They provide a good way for us to stay connected with culture and create a family that’s not necessarily blood, but more connected through the university. That’s definitely helped me cope with the whole moving-away-from-family aspect of things.” Ethan, who was born in Cairns and grew up in Canberra, followed a popular path to Australia’s top-ranked university in 2017 by applying under the university’s special entry and equity program, Access Melbourne, which has a category for Indigenous applicants. The program enabled Ethan to enter the Bachelor of Arts with a yearly scholarship of $5000. He is pursuing a double major in Politics and International Studies, and Anthropology. The scheme also offers guaranteed entry to degrees in Biomedicine, Commerce, Design, and Science. Entry to courses including targeted mentoring for Indigenous students – the Bachelor of Arts (Extended) and Bachelor of Science (Extended) – is guaranteed for ATARs of 50.00 and 55.00 respectively, together with a college place for the first year. Applicants may be admitted to other courses with reduced ATARs, but places will not be guaranteed. All Indigenous students starting at the University of Melbourne in the first semester of 2020 will be eligible for the Access Melbourne Scholarship, with possibility of further support through college bursaries and university or government scholarships. “I have received scholarships both from the university and the college that I live at and it’s been incredibly helpful. Without it, I wouldn’t have been able to stay here,” says Ethan, a resident at Queen’s College. To apply for Access Melbourne, students must lodge a Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) application in addition to their course application via the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) website by 5pm on October 11. VTAC course applications close on September 30. More details about Access Melbourne are available at access.unimelb.edu.au

Come as you are, leave as you want to be.

Find a future you thought was out of reach with Access Melbourne.

If you haven’t achieved your best possible ATAR, Access Melbourne is the chance you’ve been searching for. Applications close 5pm on 11 October.

Find out more
access.unimelb.edu.au
A $15,000 scholarship is just the start you need

The Peter Gordon Jurd Memorial Scholarship was created to support an Indigenous student in their journey towards a full bachelor degree at Southern Cross University. The scholarship honours Pete’s memory, but it also encourages Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students who might be disadvantaged because of a learning disability to complete their studies.

It is one of a dozen Southern Cross University scholarships specially designed to support Indigenous students. These range from a few hundred dollars to assist the transition to university to thousands of dollars a year to support your education across the life of your degree. The scholarships aim to relieve financial pressure and encourage more people into higher education. On top of that, Southern Cross University has other merit-based scholarships available open to academically high performing students, including the Vice Chancellor’s Scholarship worth $32,000. Applications for 2020 study are now open. To find the scholarship opportunity that suits you best go to:

.scu.edu.au/memorial-scholarship    1800 626 481
Studying to make change

WHEN Neane Carter and Allira Potter look to life after university they see the same thing – they see themselves making change. In fact, that’s exactly why they are studying.

Neane, a Jaara woman of the Dja Dja Wurrung Clan, is in her fourth year of a double degree in Law and Arts, majoring in Politics and International Relations, at Swinburne University of Technology.

When she started, Neane wasn’t sure Law was going to be for her: “I took consolation in the fact that changing degrees is normal at Swinburne.”

But, she stuck to it and with support from the Moondani Toombadool Centre at Swinburne, she was able to find an internship where she explored the work and intellectual property rights of Indigenous artists.

When she graduates, Neane is hoping to use her knowledge to drive law and policy changes for her community and country.

“There is not one other area that has affected Indigenous people more; it not only altered our past, but it entirely defines our future.” Neane has shown that she is more than just talk. In 2013, she was involved in the negotiations for a ‘Recognition and Settlement Agreement’ for four native title claims made by her Dja Dja Wurrang mob. She says getting the Victorian Government to recognise the mob as traditional owners of the land was “incredibly empowering for the Elders and young ones”.

Proud Yorta Yorta woman, Allira Potter has struck a different path to Neane – winding her way to a career in social media. Allira is a photographer, a good one. She owns a photography business doing social media content for brands and individuals. She also models and manages an Instagram account with 11,000 followers.

On top of all that, she’s in her second year of a Bachelor of Media and Communication, with a major in Public Relations, at Swinburne Online.

“The balance is challenging I must say, but that and the fact she lives in Geelong, is why she chose to study online. She says her course changed her mind about what she wanted to do.”

“I had this dream of working for the AFL in the Indigenous sector... I wanted to work closely with players, dealing with player management, doing comms and social media work for them.”

“Since then, I have been given so many opportunities when it comes to writing and working within the community.”

She says what she’s learning in the course is challenging her to really work out what she wants to do. But it’s clear she’s studying with something in mind. “I have made a mark for myself in Geelong as one of the young Indigenous leaders in the community, so it only makes sense that I do end up working in the field of Indigenous relations, because I want to make change.”

The Moondani Toombadool Centre is your home away from home at Swinburne. Whether you’re studying online or on campus we’re your dedicated team supporting your journey. To know more, contact us on (03) 9214 8481 or indigenousstudents@swin.edu.au

Get paid while you study your Master of Teaching (secondary)

Introducing the Nexus Program: A revolutionary path in secondary teaching in regional, rural and urban low socio-economic schools in Victoria. As a Nexus student, you’ll be supported by the Federal Government’s High Achieving Teachers Program. This means you’ll receive a salary while studying a Master of Teaching (secondary) as well as access to mentoring and professional development.

To find out more and apply go to: latrobe.edu.au/school-education/nexus-program

Study teaching and help others learn

Do you want to make a positive difference in young people’s lives? Teaching is an exciting and challenging career.

As a teacher, you will encourage and support students to achieve their potential through all stages of education. A teaching degree from La Trobe University will give you hand-on, practical experience in your chosen industry. You can connect with school networks and get professional on-the-job training.

There are many different teaching degree options at La Trobe, including Early Childhood Education, Educational Studies, Primary and Secondary Education, Outdoor and Environmental Education and Technology Education.

As a teacher, you could work in many different environments such as preschools, kindergartens, primary or secondary schools, hospital prison education centres or special education schools, vocational, youth and long-distance education centres or migrant and community education.

At La Trobe University, we teach, learn and lead in ways that celebrate difference. We embrace different cultures, viewpoints and pathways in our approach to learning and teaching. We have diverse staff and campus locations throughout Victoria to support the mode of study that suits you best. You can complete a teacher education course at our Albury-Wodonga, Bendigo, Melbourne, Mildura or Shepparton campuses.

As just one example of a mode of study, our new community-engaged Nexus Masters of Teaching (Secondary) is now seeking applications. If you already have an undergraduate degree in an area other than teaching and are thinking of studying to become a Secondary teacher, Nexus may be the program for you. Nexus is designed to prepare social-justice minded teachers for low SES regional, rural and urban schools in Victoria – and you’ll be paid at teacher aide rates as you study.

You can apply here: https://www.latrobe.edu.au/school-education/nexus-program or email j.lampert@latrobe.edu.au for more information.

In addition to Nexus, La Trobe has a number of initiatives underway to support you while you complete your teaching degree. Due to high demand for quality early career professionals, La Trobe has partnered with Future Tracks to provide students with strong academic performance, motivation and leadership opportunities while they complete a Bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education. After your first year of teaching in a La Trobe school, you may earn a good income while working in an early learning centre.

If you are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, we encourage you to apply for entry to any of our education courses. Applicants will be considered on an individual basis. You may need to provide some written information and attenda panel interview with one of our Aboriginal Liaison Officers. For assistance with your application, see our Indigenous Education website, https://www.latrobe.edu.au/indigenous

Kathryn Cof/i, La Trobe University’s Indigenous practitioner-in-residence
STUDY YOUR WAY

The Moondani Toombadool Centre is your link to community and country at Swinburne University of Technology. Whether you choose to study on-campus or online, we’re your dedicated resource centre for your study journey.

Learn more at swinburne.edu.au/indigenous or talk to us on 03 9214 8481.

JOEY HENG, WHADJUK NOONGAR MAN
Swinburne Diploma of Leadership and Management/Diploma of Sports Development
North Melbourne VFL Club
Get the UNE experience

THE Oorala Aboriginal Centre, UNE, integrates student support through a range of individualised systems by utilising a dedicated student support team, streamlining scholarship services and a targeted tutorial program for online and on campus students.

Student success

The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students studying and graduating at UNE continues to increase.

One such graduate Noni Hawkins says, “I wanted to live away from home, leave the nest. I wanted the whole thing.” Once enrolled at UNE, Noni relocated from her hometown and applied for an accommodation scholarship. “I would probably still be completing my degree if not for the scholarship. It took the pressure off and helped me to be more independent.”

Noni began her university journey as part of the TRACKS tertiary preparation program. She fondly remembers the pre-orientation day which involved lots of walking, talking and meeting her new peers. Through TRACKS she learnt how to complete assignments, use the online learning system and to stay on top of her study load. During this time, Noni lived at a UNE residential apartment with friends and became a ‘resident fellow’, a senior student who offers pastoral care to other students. Noni says, “It was really easy being an on-campus in college student. There were a lot of opportunities available to on-campus students like sport, mentorship, events and eventually got a job at UNE.”

Supported by the Oorala Centre programs and staff, Noni recently graduated with a Bachelor of Criminology, yet she is back at UNE studying a Bachelor of Law and leaning towards a career in legal aid.

For now her compassionate nature is used to help students at UNE, where she works full-time at UNE Student Support. At the Oorala Aboriginal Centre we put their communities first with qualified and caring staff. To learn more about the Oorala Aboriginal Centre, you can call 1800 622 384 (toll-free).

Are you ready for the next step?

Oorala has two Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander university entry pathways that have been specially designed to build your skills and confidence to succeed at university.

Direct Entry to UNE

Internal Selection Program (ISP)

The Oorala ISP is a one day assessment program designed for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders with professional work or community experience and any formal qualifications. Participants will be offered a place in an undergraduate degree or the TRACKS pathway program.

Assessment: every February, June and October

Locations: Oorala Aboriginal Centre, UNE, Armidale or UNE, Sydney

TRACKS Tertiary Preparation Program

TRACKS is designed to prepare you for admission to a Bachelor (undergraduate) degree program at UNE. The team at Oorala will work beside you throughout the course to help develop your confidence and academic skills. You will also have an opportunity to study an undergraduate unit in your area of interest that may help fast track your degree. TRACKS is available to study online and best of all, it is free.

Apply now!

For more information visit une.edu.au/orala/courses
Contact Oorala on 1800 622 384
Oorala Aboriginal Centre

The Honourable Ken Wyatt AM.
Western Sydney University’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pathway Program provides an alternative pathway into Western’s undergraduate degree programs.

Whether you’re working, unemployed, studying at TAFE or coming straight from high school, this program is a pathway into Western which does not require an ATAR.

CURRENT ASSESSMENT DATES
Penrith campus
November 2019
Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 November

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY, PLEASE VISIT
westernsydney.edu.au/pathwayprogram
1300 897 669 or
study@westernsydney.edu.au
Wiradjuri language graduates set to lead their communities

The Graduate Certificate in Wiradjuri Language, Culture and Heritage, from Charles Sturt University was designed to introduce students to the Wiradjuri language and to develop students’ capacity to make a positive contribution working in and supporting Indigenous communities.

Professor Sue Green (Course Director) states that many of the students report that the course has changed their lives in positive ways.

Students are saying that they have been able to connect or reconnect with their identity as Wiradjuri people, with many coming back to live on country, and for some this is the first time they have lived on country after their families were removed a generation or two ago.

Others say that what they have learned in the course has strengthened them personally and allowed for physical, mental and spiritual healing. To be able to speak one’s language not only heals the individual, but also heals community and country.

The work of Wiradjuri Elders, people and allies. The work of Uncle Stan Grant Srn, restoring Wiradjuri language, laid the foundations for what we have today. Coupled with the work of his sister Aunty Flo Grant, and many supporters, a partnership formed with Charles Sturt University to offer the course.

The numbers of applications to the course continue to grow with graduates’ partners, parents, children, grandchildren applying and gaining entry to study.

The backgrounds of students vary greatly, from those with limited or no schooling to those who hold university degrees; from high school leavers to Elders. Even the children of students will attend with their parents. No one is excluded.

Through supporting each other, the students learn the true meaning of being Wiradjuri. While the focus of the course is learning Wiradjuri language, it is not just about language. Wiradjuri language is more than learning words, it is about being Wiradjuri and taking your place and playing your role within the great Wiradjuri nation.

The current course director, Professor Sue Green, is herself a graduate of the Graduate Certificate of Wiradjuri Language, Culture and Heritage. Sue is also proud Wiradjuri Elder Uncle Stan Grant Snr, Professor Sue Green and Lloyd Dolan. Heritage, came about through the work of Wiradjuri Elders, people and allies. The work of Uncle Stan Grant Snr, restoring Wiradjuri language, laid the foundations for what we have today.

Sue has returned to Wiradjuri community along with her children and grandchildren, who are all learning their language and culture and finding their own roles and place within the Wiradjuri nation.

Students and graduates of the Graduate Certificate of Wiradjuri Language, Culture and Heritage, are teaching their own: families, schools and community groups.

Students and graduates of the course are able to stand proud as Wiradjuri people and take on their roles within the Wiradjuri nation: a proud people and nation who are standing strong and teaching our ways again.
Business leadership program provides pathways to the top

Building on the success of the Melbourne Business School’s MURRA Indigenous Business Masterclass Program, the University of Melbourne has launched a Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Business Leadership, the first of its kind in Australia, available to emerging and practising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business leaders seeking to advance their leadership skills and business practices.

The six-month, full-time, four-subject Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Business Leadership has been designed specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business owners, entrepreneurs, professionals and managers who have established their career as practitioners in their respective fields.

Michelle Evans, Associate Professor of Leadership at the University of Melbourne and director of the Business School’s MURRA Indigenous Business Masterclass Program, says the certificate will address a significant gap in management education in Australia.

“Our Indigenous business sector is growing in leaps and bounds and is now demanding specialised business educational pathways in order to access masters-level postgraduate education. The Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Business Leadership provides Indigenous business leaders an opportunity to work together to apply leadership theories and thinking to the challenges and hurdles faced in the Indigenous business, corporate and community sectors. "The opportunity to think and learn alongside a national cohort of Indigenous business leaders provides an unparalleled experience for Indigenous professionals. The Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Leadership is a national convening for Indigenous sector professionals to build their personal expertise and networks in order to work even more impactfully," says Associate Professor Evans of the core subject.

The remaining three subjects can be made up of online subjects from a diverse range including focused studies in marketing, economics and finance.

The MURRA Program now has 159 graduates working in Australia and internationally. Professor Paul Kofman, Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics, explains one of the aims of the Certificate was to build further on the professional development of Indigenous business owners and managers: “We want to ensure leaders have the opportunity to build their expertise, grow their networks and create lasting impact both in their communities and on the world stage. This certificate and the pathways it creates will help elevate Indigenous business leaders to their proper place in the Australian economy.”

The Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Business Leadership will commence in February 2020 with applications closing on November 30, 2019.

Business leadership program provides pathways to the top

A new approach to Indigenous Business Leadership.

Join a growing national network of business owners and professionals in our new Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Business Leadership.

mbs.unimelb.edu.au/gcibl
Get a deadly real world degree at QUT

QUT’s Oodgeroo Unit has so much on offer for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. We have a direct entry program, study rooms, computer labs, tutoring, scholarships, internships and more. Best of all we provide a unique and meaningful experience to engage you and empower you to make choices about your future.

Our Centralised Assessment and Selection Program (CASP) provides a pathway to gain entry into university. List QUT in your top three QTAC preferences and you’ll be invited to enter through CASP.

Our Keystones of Success Program provides additional tutorial assistance from qualified and experienced tutors, plus workshops and academic learning programs to give you the skills and confidence to get through university.

Connect with us today at QUT’s Oodgeroo Unit and get a deadly real world degree!

For more information phone toll free 1800 645 513, email us on information.oodgeroo@qut.edu.au or visit qut.edu.au/about/Oodgeroo
QUT Researcher on path to success

Published author and editor Melanie Saward is a highly active and involved postgraduate student in QUT’s Indigenous Research & Engagement Unit (IREU) as she forge ahead in her chosen career of creative writing.

A descendant of the Wakka Wakka and Bigambul peoples, Miss Saward balances completing a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing with her role as convenor of the National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network, while working as a sessional academic at both QUT and University of Queensland.

QUT IREU offers a culturally supportive environment including research seminars and critical reading groups, student support services, study areas, scholarships, and financial support to nurture students and early career researchers.

Miss Saward says involvement with IREU has had a profound effect on her studies and writing. She presented her research at the IREU seminar in March on identity formation in religious cult fiction.

“Opportunities such as giving the IREU seminar gave me the confidence to submit the abstract to the Australasian Association of Writing Programs conference,” said Miss Saward, who is the holder of the 2019 QUT Oodgeroo Noonuccal Postgraduate Scholarship.

“Taking part in capacity-building activities such as the critical reading groups has helped me take a different approach to my research and added a new richness.

“Also there’s a lot to be said about being part of a community of higher degree by research students, which can be a pretty lonely road, especially when you are the only Indigenous HDR student in your research discipline.”

Miss Saward takes every opportunity to showcase her writing: she is a 2019 featured Indigenous author at Djed Press, a fiction reader for Overland and has published stories in Kill Your Darlings, Overland, Vertly La and ScumMag.

She will present her research at the Australasian Association of Writing Programs conference in November and is set to be a speaker at TEDxQUT later this year.

Miss Saward had a manuscript shortlisted for the 2019 HarperCollins First Nations Fellowship and received a highly commended award in the 2019 Calibre Essay Prize.

Her manuscript Why Worry Now was shortlisted in 2018 for both the Unpublished Indigenous Writers – David Unaipon Award and Varuna’s Copyright Agency First Nations Fellowship.

The support you need for your research degree

The Indigenous Research and Engagement Unit (IREU) is committed to fostering an environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to share research and knowledge.

The IREU offers Indigenous Higher Degree by Research students at QUT, a culturally supportive environment that includes access to student support services, study areas, scholarships, financial support, research seminars and critical reading groups.

Find out more

Contact
e: ireu@qut.edu.au
p: 07 3138 8611
QUT, B Block, Room 309, Kelvin Grove Campus
You can make a difference

KNOCKING down barriers to breast screening for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders could be just the beginning for budding researcher Ashleigh Bolt.

The Australian Catholic University Master of Public Health student has embarked on a research project with the potential to positively impact women’s health in remote communities.

“We know there’s low participation rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women accessing breast screening services, so we’re looking into what barriers may be experienced by these women,” she said.

Ashleigh’s appetite for knowledge and desire to make a real and lasting difference in community health drove her to pursue postgraduate study within ACU’s School of Behavioural and Health Sciences in Melbourne.

With an undergraduate degree in nursing behind her, a stint working at Katherine District Hospital in the Northern Territory opened her mind as to what else she could do to improve and advance public health and wellbeing.

Successfully applying for an Indigenous Student Success Program (ISSP) Scholarship provided her with the support to devote all her energy to the course and its research component.

Ashleigh is guided by research supervisors Dr Doseena Fergie and Dr Alison Hughes while still having the capacity to work twice a week within the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine, teaching the Indigenous Health and Culture Unit to health science students.

“I had the drive to do this, so, one way or another, I would have found a way to complete the course,” she said. “However, being given this scholarship allows me to do the masters and research full-time, which is a great opportunity.”

Ashleigh is a Bundjalung woman from Ballina on the north coast of New South Wales. For her, education and mentoring are vital, and she is mindful of the opportunities she has grabbed that would have been a dream for ancestors.

She is the first member of her family to complete secondary school and attend university.

“That’s why alternative entry to university is so important. I’d love to see others given the same opportunities as I have,” she said.

Peer and mentor support are the key to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders feeling safe and respected in higher education.

“Having the opportunity to be an Aboriginal woman and an academic working within the university allows me to share some perspective for my people and have a voice within this space.”

“Historically, universities haven’t provided the safest environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Mentoring and equity pathways are integral for promoting cultural safety and increasing opportunities.”

Ashleigh is toying with the idea of extending her learning pathway towards a PhD, but is itching to return to work in remote communities.

Bundjalung woman and nursing graduate Ashleigh Bolt is undertaking postgraduate research in Public Health at the Australian Catholic University.
Community health is Courtney’s concern

“My goal in whatever I end up doing is to support my community and increase the health and wellbeing of our people.”

Courtney Hammond is an Eastern Arrernte and Tanganekald woman, with ties to country in the lower south-east of South Australia and central Australia.

She is also the granddaughter of Ruby Hammond, Indigenous rights campaigner and the first Aboriginal South Australian woman to seek election to federal Parliament.

Currently, Courtney is in her second year of a Bachelor of Health and Medical Sciences at the University of Adelaide.

Drawn to the science of the human body, Courtney is hoping to use her university education to give back to her community and improve health outcomes, “It’s incredible to think how strong our bodies are and how much is happening behind the scenes.

“My goal in whatever I end up doing is to support my community and increase the health and wellbeing of our people.”

Following in the footsteps of her activist grandmother and the other Aboriginal mentors who have guided her, Courtney is a member of the Gladys Elphick Committee which works to promote and acknowledge the contemporary achievements of Aboriginal women who work tirelessly to advance the status of their community in South Australia. In recognition of this, alongside her academic achievements, Courtney was named the Young Person of the Year in the 2019 NAIDOC SA Awards.

Courtney has been able to balance her studies, community work and personal life thanks in part to the support she receives from Wirltu Yarlu Aboriginal Education and its cadetship program.

Courtney has been working within the Life Course and Intergenerational Health team as a research assistant, actively contributing towards the Aboriginal Gender Study, a collaborative study between Adelaide University, Aboriginal Health Council of SA and the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute.

In June, Courtney and her colleagues presented the findings of their study at the Lowitja Institute International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference in Darwin.

“This cadetship has not only provided me with countless new skills and knowledges around research, but also given me an incredible support team, who are also supporting my studies and assisting me at every opportunity.”

COURTNEY Hammond is studying towards a Bachelor of Health and Medical Sciences at the University of Adelaide.
Proud Kuku Yalanji woman pursues her passion for Human Rights Law in Sydney

Mia Walsh’s mother and grandmother devoted their lives to improving the early childhood education of Indigenous kids, and now she hopes to use her degree to follow in their footsteps. “In the same way they chose a path to help others, I aspire to do the same,” she says.

Mia is a first-year student at the University of Sydney, studying towards a joint arts and law degree. She hopes to use her degrees to pursue human rights law and close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. “I have seen the violations of human rights within my Indigenous communities involving socio-economic disadvantages, incarceration, land entitlements and education,” she says.

Mia is a proud Kuku Yalanji woman who came to Sydney from far north Queensland after participating in the University’s Wingara Mura Bunga Barrabugu (WMBB) program. She initially attended the WMBB summer program, which gives high school students an introductory week on campus. The program allows them to immerse themselves in university life, talk to current students and explore the different areas of study on offer. In Year 12, she participated in the Bunga Barrabugu Winter Program, an intensive workshop which prepares Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students for their end-of-school exams.

Mia found the WMBB program, provided at no cost to participants, life changing. “They allowed me to experience university life, explore my study field of law and make life-long friends,” she says.

The workshops also gave her the confidence to apply to the university under its Gadigal program, an admissions pathway and support program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. This year the Gadigal program has introduced an early conditional offer scheme. Successful applicants to the first round of the scheme have already received an early offer of enrolment from the university, conditional on their final HSC (or equivalent) results.

The early offer scheme is one of a range of scholarships and financial assistance programs offered to Indigenous students by the university. Another, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Entry Scholarship, gives first-year students with an ATAR of 85 or more (or equivalent) benefits to the value of $10,000.

Mia says the ongoing support for Indigenous students is the best thing about coming to the University. The Mana Yura Centre for Indigenous students and the MOBS program which connects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students have enabled her to make new friends. “University life has given me so many opportunities to make friends whilst being surrounded by the beautiful large campus.” The University’s Deputy Vice Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy and Services) Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver says the services and support offered by the university are designed to steer strong, proud Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people towards university study.

“We have a range of initiatives to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who dream of studying here,” she says. “We are here to support you in this stage of what should become lifelong learning.”

“We are very proud of Mia and all her peers, and are looking forward to meeting all of our students starting in 2020.” For more information on the university’s Wingara Mura Bunga Barrabugu summer and winter programs, alternative pathways to study at the university, and scholarships and support, please visit: www.sydney.edu.au/indigenous
FOR most university students, getting to campus involves the tap of an opal card and a short bus trip, but for Yanetta Nadredre, the trip is a 2800km journey. Yanetta is studying the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) at the University of Technology Sydney, and hopes to use her new knowledge to help young people in her community build work and enterprise skills. She travels from the coastal mining town of Weipa on Cape York Peninsula six times a year for the BBA program, which is taught in intensive one-week blocks so students can continue to work while they study.

Yanetta doesn’t do the trip alone. Her two brothers, Rodney Kiwat and Lyell Reuben, her cousin Jasmine Bond and her uncle David Abednego are also enrolled in the program, which is designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander professionals, and covers a range of business skills.

“It is wonderful that we can study as a family group and support each other, share ideas and provide motivation. It is the first time for some of us to come to university, so understanding what is required and how to set things out is a challenge,” says Yanetta.

Rodney and Jasmine travel from Bamaga, at the tip of Cape York; David travels from Thursday Island; and Lyell from Cairns. The lengthy trip, which includes an overnight stay in Cairns, provides an opportunity to come together, compare notes and discuss course material.

“Luckily, David and Rodney have been to university before, so they can explain what we have to do. Coming down one by one, I couldn’t see us tackling this through to the end, but as a group it is much easier,” she says.

Yanetta has five children aged between 9 and 21, which she says makes finding study time a challenge. Her husband and two oldest children work for the local mining company, where she also worked for two years as an Indigenous support officer and mentor. Part of her inspiration to study comes from her mother, who attended UTS’ Jumbunna Institute 15 years ago to study education. Her mother currently lives on Thursday Island, and set up the first women’s shelter there to assist those affected by domestic violence.

Yanetta and her brothers come from a family of nine, with many nieces and nephews, so they hope to also inspire the next generation through their studies.

Weipa is currently facing an Indigenous youth suicide crisis, and Yanetta says she is keen to develop programs to help young people in her community build resilience and develop a vision for the future.

“I want to create a framework for change, and implement effective training programs to empower our youth and families,” she says.

Yanetta and Jasmine were granted the Schiff family scholarship, providing $60,000 over three years to cover travel and study costs.

“The BBA program is an amazing opportunity, and anyone considering the course should take the opportunity and run with it – and take the tools they learn back to their community and implement them,” Yanetta says.

“The support is there. You have a tutor right from the start, so, if you have the desire to succeed, it is very difficult to fail,” she says.
Study film, TV and radio

The Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) is a national leader in education and training with a long history of supporting Indigenous storytellers. The school provides deep learning in film literacy and the broadcast industries, enabling our storytellers to be authorities of their craft and empowering them to confidently enter the workforce.

Studying at AFTRS will give you further skills, access to industry networks and provide opportunities to meet leading mentors to support your career development.

AFTRS Indigenous
AFTRS Indigenous supports and identifies pathways for talented Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices to study a range of disciplines in film, television and radio at all levels across the school. The Indigenous team also provides professional development opportunities for mid-level Indigenous screen and broadcast practitioners.

Undergraduate, postgraduate and short course study
AFTRS offers a range of study from Bachelor and Masters programs to short courses.

Bachelor of Arts Screen: Production
AFTRS Bachelor of Arts Screen: Production is designed for people with a passion for storytelling and a commitment to a career in the screen industries. You will graduate from this course a multi-skilled content creator who is comfortable in all of the key creative roles and able to produce content across platforms.

Head of AFTRS Indigenous Kyas Sherriff with students Skye Leon and Bronte Nener.

Graduate Diploma in Radio
A hands-on, highly practical course for tomorrow’s on-air and behind-the-scenes broadcasters (one year, full-time or two years, part-time). Realise your potential to create and deliver compelling, innovative content for radio and digital platforms and emerge with highly sought after, advanced broadcasting skills and a network of industry contacts.

Masters programs
Become a creative screen industry leader. AFTRS offers a masters program in a range of disciplines including Business & Leadership, Screenwriting, Producing, Cinematography, Directing, Documentary, Editing, Music, Production Design, Sound and Animation.

Industry certificates and short courses
If you’re just starting out, AFTRS short-course division has introductory filmmaking, TV, radio and digital short courses for adults throughout the year. There are also advanced short courses for industry practitioners who want to up-skill.

Indigenous Scholarships
AFTRS Indigenous Scholarships are available once you are accepted into one of the following AFTRS courses: Bachelor of Arts Screen, Graduate Diploma in Radio and Master of Arts Screen.

Storytelling Scholarships
The purpose of this scholarship is to support the telling of Australian stories by providing a scholarship for a commencing student in 2020 in the Master of Arts Screen or Bachelor of Arts Screen: Production. The application will be selected on the basis of merit.

Equity Scholarships
The scholarships are intended to support people from low socio-economic backgrounds or who are otherwise under-represented in higher education to study at AFTRS. Applications for the 2020 Equity Scholarships are available for the BA Screen: Production and the MA Screen.

Virgin Australia Scholarship
The Virgin Australia Scholarship will be awarded to support and develop the career of the recipient living outside of NSW, providing them with a $20,000 scholarship as well as one return flight from Sydney to their hometown. One scholarship may be offered in 2020 to either a Master of Arts Screen or Bachelor of Arts: Production student after consideration by the selection committee.

Short-course subsidy
Indigenous participants are able to apply for a 50% subsidy (only one per financial year) for AFTRS short courses.

FEE-HELP
All students can apply for FEE-HELP for AFTRS’ undergraduate and postgraduate courses (Bachelor of Arts Screen, Graduate Diploma in Radio and Master of Arts Screen). FEE-HELP is a student loan that assists students to pay for their course fees.

Contact: Indigenous Unit - indigenous@aftrs.edu.au / (02) 9805 6514 or info@aftrs.edu.au
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (ATSIS) Unit

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (ATSIS) Unit was established at The University of Queensland (UQ) in 1984 as a commitment to the teaching, learning, research and cultural needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The ATSIS Unit celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and knowledge, and recognises the enormous contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have made and continue to make at UQ.

We work closely with faculties, schools, central units and the wider UQ community to provide a range of services for students. From pre-enrolment through to graduation, we provide:

- helpful advice and support on UQ’s admissions pathways, to help you find the best program for you and your goals;
- orientation for new students to assist with the transition to university life and study;
- access to scholarships and financial opportunities to support you throughout your studies;
- learning support and pastoral care, including tuition and individual consultations.

Our students have access to a range of professional development and employability services, including internships, graduate programs and global experiences.

The ATSIS Unit hosts a number of social and cultural events during the academic year, including workshops with guest speakers, music and cultural events, and NAIDOC and community activities.

At The University of Queensland you will have access to a large Indigenous student peer group with an active student association that provides a range of fun activities throughout the year.

Social and study spaces are provided for students in the ATSIS Unit across our campuses.

See more at atsis.uq.edu.au

Image credit: A Guidance in Time created by Quandamooka artists Casey Coolwell and Kina Mandrolay for The University of Queensland Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).
David Parsons, Yapug student.

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HE UQ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (ATSIS) Unit in partnership with the Confucius Institute at The University of Queensland (UQ CI) supported a month-long University of Queensland (UQ CI) sponsored a month-long experience to China this year for three engineering students. The students, Ashley Hughes, Riley Norris and Greta Stephensen, were immersed in cultural and academic activities in the four-week program based at Tianjin University (TJU), one of the top 10 universities in China. Mr Ashley Hughes said, “Local tutors and volunteer students accompanied the group at night and spoke very good English. This encourages you to put more effort into your Chinese as they have put effort into our language.” Visiting the Terracotta Warriors was a highlight of the trip for Mr Riley Norris. “Overall, the trip exceeded all my expectations and I would highly recommend that any future students considering to go on the trip take the chance and experience the trip of a lifetime,” he said. Ms Greta Stephensen enjoyed the Chinese classes. “They were incredibly engaging and helped so much when we were travelling, especially when ordering food. She said that she enjoyed learning Chinese so much that it is definitely something she’d like to continue at some stage. The tour activities provide opportunities for participants to benefit from practical research experiences, develop a global view in their area of interest and grow a deeper understanding of the Chinese language and culture.”

Professor Bronwyn Fredericks (Indigenous Engagement) Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement) Professor Bronwyn Fredericks said the feedback from the students proves this sponsored research and study experience works well, especially with the support from UQ ATSIS Unit and UQ CI. “It’s great that all three cultures can be shared together in this way and used as a point of connection on an academic level so the students can benefit from deeper learning and research experiences, develop a global view in their areas of interest, along with Indigenous students growing a deeper understanding of Chinese language and culture from the visit in its totality,” said Professor Fredericks.

The executive dean, UQ Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS), Professor Heather Zwicker, said, “There is so much energy across UQ, including at the UQ Confucius Institute and the HASS faculty, to carry forward the important work of acknowledging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.”

Bringing together the important partner of China with the important mission that we have to build better relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is especially exciting,” Professor Zwicker added.

The next UQ Research, Study and Experience Tour to China will occur in 2020. For more information about the tour please visit the UQ CI website at www.confucius-institute.centre.uq.edu.au.

For information on the University of Newcastle Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (ATSIS) Unit, see the ad on page 47.
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First Nations mob lead climate action marches

By JILLIAN MUNDY

ABORIGINAL and Torres Strait Islander people were front and centre for many of the climate strike actions across the country last Friday.

Hundreds of thousands of Australians joined marches across the country, most of which were led by First Nations people, calling for stronger action on climate change.

Hobart turned out in force for the Global Strike 4 Climate on Friday. With a crowd approaching 20,000, it has been hailed the state’s biggest rally ever — even topping the 1980s Franklin Dam protests.

Twenty-five-year-old pakana man Jamie Graham, who is studying antarctic science and marine biology, and is the Southern Tasmanian Seed Indigenous youth climate network coordinator, delivered the opening speech.

“I’m up here to talk to you about climate change from an Aboriginal perspective,” he said.

“Climate change is the big bad. It’s the result of digging stuff up, burning it, cutting trees down and honestly just a general lack of care for the environment, right?”

“The view that money is more valuable than the planet that keeps us alive is a view that might have been bearable — unethical but bearable — had it stayed in Europe. However, when that view was forced onto numerous Indigenous nations and cultures around the world it became unsustainable very quickly.

“Within the last few centuries, invaders across the world began extracting resources from sovereign Aboriginal peoples, displacing them and stealing culture and knowledge as they went, making money on the back of injustice.

“My ancestors fought bravely against this invasion — an invasion that nearly saw us wiped out completely, but it was a war worth fighting for the protection of future generations of palawa.

“Today we continue that intergenerational battle against our oppressors.

“We have fought the root causes of climate change for a very long time, as have every other group of indigenous peoples around the world.

“Jamie said that the fight has reached a tipping point.

“The planet is changing. We know why. The science is conclusive,” he said.

“The children are getting restless, for it is them that will have to deal with these unfolding changes, and now we are here, standing up against that legacy of injustice upheld by our government.

“All of our ancestors lead us here today, no matter who you are or where you come from, by coming to this rally you have joined an old battle against greed and abuse.

“Here in so-called Australia, we have governments who have just extinguished native title of the Wangan and Jagalingou peoples to make way for the Adani megamine.

“Here, in so-called Australia, we have an NT Government that just yesterday released a climate change report that promises their emissions will be net zero by 2050, but forgot to mention the massive plans for fracking of Aboriginal land with no consent, which would dwarf the promised cuts. And don’t even get me started on the Djap Wurrung!

(Stacked)

The turnout in Hobart was huge, hailed as the state’s biggest-ever rally.

“Indigenous people make up about 5% of the global population. Incredibly, this 5% are protecting 80% of the remaining biodiversity here on planet earth.

“Jill said our goal should be giving these people the resources needed to continue and grow their fight don’t you?

“We need to return land to Aboriginal people whose cultures, at their very core, are based in sustainability. “We need to avoid invading more Aboriginal land with green technology, because if we don’t fix the whole system it’s not real climate justice.

“Jamie is here as the southern Tasmanian coordinator of Seed. We are Australia’s largest network of Aboriginal and Torres Strait island youth fighting for climate justice.

“We stand in solidarity with all Indigenous communities on the frontlines fighting climate change and the root causes.

“We call for our sovereignty to be acknowledged, our land to be protected the right way and for the Government to uphold its responsibility to the future generations of this country.

“Inaction is not an option.”

Southern Tasmanian Seed Indigenous youth climate network coordinator and pakana man Jamie Graham delivered the opening speech in Hobart.
A gathering takes to the streets displaying banners in Yirrkala (above and right).

Strike 4 Climate action gets national response

Bundjalung youngster and Lismore South Public School student Scayt James Taylor is standing up for his future.

Protesters in traditional pacific islands attire take part in the rally in Brisbane.

Indigenous flags fly proudly in Adelaide.

Marchers in Brisbane.

In Alice Springs hundreds of people joined the strike. Picture: Central Land Council.

Large crowds attend in Sydney.

Protester in Sydney.
THE Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations (Coalition of Peaks) is working with the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to develop a new National Agreement that will set out efforts over the next 10 years to help close the gap.

This is the first time Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak bodies will have an equal say in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the policy framework. And the Coalition of Peaks, together with Australian governments, is offering Indigenous people an opportunity to contribute.

This month a survey has been sent to hundreds of Indigenous community-controlled organisations and their networks, inviting responses from both individuals and organisations. The survey is open to everyone and can be accessed here: https://www.naccho.org.au/programes/coalition-of-peaks/ have-your-say. The survey will close at 5pm on October 25, 2019.

There will also be opportunities in every state and territory for Indigenous people to have a say through face-to-face meetings.

Lead Convener of the Coalition of Peaks, Pat Turner said that listening to the voice of an affected community is critical to the success of any policy or program. “Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples know what works best for us and now the conversation on Closing the Gap is changing because we are finally at the negotiating table,” she said.

“The Coalition of Peaks wants to hear ideas on what should be included in the new National Agreement. “We want to hear from enough people across Australia to make sure we’re on the right track and have support to finalise the new national agreement with governments.”

“Some communities, organisations and people may have attended government-led meetings about Closing the Gap targets in 2017 and 2018, but this is different.

“This time the Coalition of Peaks is leading the discussion and we are now also talking about some important changes that we think need to happen to improve our lives faster. “And we have a seat at the table with governments so that they better hear what we are saying. “I hope every person and community-controlled organisation takes up this opportunity to influence policies that will have a direct impact on our communities. And I really look forward to reading the survey responses and attending engagement events across Australia over the next few months.”

A Joint Council meeting of COAG Ministers and the Coalition of Peaks recently agreed in principle to the three priority reforms that will underpin the new agreement – to form the basis of the survey and other engagements that will take place over the coming months. Those priority reforms are: Developing and strengthening structures to ensure the full involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to be provided by the Coalition of Peaks to be provided to governments and made public. A report will inform the finalisation of the National Agreement between the Coalition of Peaks and COAG.
Horticulture graduate is new face of TAFE Queensland

TAFE Queensland graduate Tamieka Barlow has a strong connection to country, and a powerful desire to conserve the environment for future generations.

A proud Birjrura woman, Ms Barlow has obtained a double Certificate III in Horticulture and Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management. Miss Barlow said her formal studies complement her traditional knowledge. “My people are from the Nakunungco country on the Atherton Tablelands, and my Aboriginal totem is Binda, meaning beautiful waterfall,” Ms Barlow said.

“I love being outdoors, and I have been working for Conservation Volunteers Australia since I was 16 years old. "I really wanted to expand my skills and knowledge within the industry, so I enrolled at TAFE Queensland. “My teachers were so helpful and knowledgeable, and I was even able to complete training to operate and maintain chainsaws.”

Ms Barlow gained her qualifications after six months of hard work, travelling more than two hours return to study at the Cairns campus. “I live in Malanda, so I was driving back and forth to Cairns from the Tablelands every morning and evening, four days a week,” she said.

“I had to wake up early and go to bed late so I could do my assessments. “In some ways it was draining, but I kept myself motivated to ensure I didn’t lose my drive to succeed. “I enjoyed meeting new people who had an interest in the same thing as I do.”

Ms Barlow, 21, hopes to use her TAFE Queensland training to follow in her ancestors’ footsteps. “I would love to see myself as a head Indigenous ranger working on my tribal land,” she said.

“I want to teach youth about the importance of trees, conservation and the horticultural industry to hopefully get them inspired to make a change for a brighter future for the land. “I want to be someone who makes and leaves a massive positive mark on the youth of today and the ecosystem so that there will be a future rainforest and jobs for the younger generation."

Ms Barlow’s dedication and enthusiasm for her studies paved the way for her to become a face of TAFE Queensland, with her image to be used in digital and print advertising to encourage others to pursue vocational education and training.

“I was so happy that I received the opportunity to get involved in the TAFE Queensland photo shoot; it was such an amazing experience,” she said.

Class is on country

MORE than 80 school principals, teachers, rangers and ranger coordinators, Learning on Country coordinators and Indigenous cultural advisors came together for a three-day Learning on Country forum in Darwin this month.

Managed by the Northern Land Council’s Caring for Country branch, the Learning on Country program is a secondary school-based Indigenous ranger-facilitated program that links Australian curriculum subjects with field-based experiential learning and data collection.

During the forum, the newly established Learning on Country Steering Committee met for the first time and one of its first actions was to elect a chairperson, Lirripya Mununggurr, cultural manager for the Yirralka Rangers.

The forum offered delegates opportunities for information sharing and included practitioner workshops, with presentations from teachers, researchers and education specialists about the different education and training streams available to students, and how these are being applied in schools across the Northern Territory.

Northern Land Council Learning on Country program manager Anna Morgan said the program is expected to grow over the next 12 months.

“Based on advice from the Learning on Country sites, its estimated student participation in the program’s activities will exceed 1000 students during the 2020 school year,” she said.

Currently there are 15 Learning on Country sites, including Maminginda, Yirmakula Homelands, Yirmikala, Galiwin’ku, Angurugu and Umbakumba (Grooto Eylandt), Milingimbi, Ramingining, Gapuwiyak, Beswick, Barunga, Borroloola, Gunbalanya, Ngukurr and Numbulwar. Ms Morgan said collaboration between remote community schools and Aboriginal ranger groups was essential to the success of this flagship program to deliver community identified outcomes by bringing together the school curriculum and on-country activities.

Newly elected chairperson of the Learning on Country Steering Committee Mr Mununggurr said the
Supporting the next generation of NIDA talent

CLEVERMAN star Rob Collins is encouraging other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who want to act to apply to Australia’s best known acting school, NIDA. Collins was one of the guests of honour at NIDA’s recent Diamond Anniversary dinner, celebrating 60 years and dedicated to the founding of a NIDA Student Fund.

The goal of this Student Fund is two-fold: removing financial barriers for talented prospective students to attend Australia’s most prestigious drama school, and making sure that once at NIDA, they can make the most of the experiences presented to them by NIDA’s extensive TV, film and theatre industry connections.

Known for The Wrong Girl, Cleverman and Mystery Road, Rob himself had the benefit of philanthropic support when he moved from Darwin to undertake his training at NIDA in Sydney.

“Having a sense of security, of being able to focus on developing my craft, is a gift I am very grateful for,” Rob said. “I hope this fund will remove one of the barriers to the dream of training at NIDA for many years to come.”

NIDA chief executive Jennifer Bott said that one of the very things that sets NIDA apart – the rigour of its training, and the commitment and hours required to attain greatness – means that the usual casual or part-time jobs that students at other types of universities use to support themselves are almost impossible to hold down for a student at NIDA.

“Amrap will serve as a vital resource for students whose families cannot fully support them, particularly affecting students from interstate,” she said.

“During the admissions period, our heads of department travel all around Australia, from Hobart to Darwin to Perth and back again, interviewing and auditioning diverse prospective students,” she said.

“When they unearth an extraordinary talent, no matter their family background or financial capability, we need to be able to look them in the eye and promise that we can bring them to NIDA, where they will be supported as they strive to fulfil their talents. The talent pool from which we select our elite cohort must not be restricted by individual financial situations.”

“We must foster future generations of storytellers who can tell our stories with diverse voices.”

— Actor Rob Collins when he was a student at NIDA in Sydney.

Radio project shares songs

A NEW project is aiming to raise the profile of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. The Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBAA) has received funding from the Australia Council for the Arts in their recent grant round, and is partnering with First Nations Media Australia on a new initiative to help to share First Nations songs and stories.

For two decades, the CBAA’s Australian Music Radio Airplay Project (Amrap) has been a crucial initiative for Australian musicians and community radio broadcasters, ensuring more local sounds are heard across the country.

Amrap will be distributing new music from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander musicians to increase the representation of First Nations music on community radio airwaves.

First Nations Media Australia will feature selected music on its national content platform, indigiTube, which showcases music and video content for listeners to stream and download within the app – and for broadcasters to replay on air.

CBAA chief executive Jon Bisset said he was proud that Amrap has exposed new Australian music over many years.

“Now and then we’re looking forward to working with First Nations Media Australia on this fantastic initiative,” he said.

Fantastic initiative

“Amrap will serve as a vital stepping stone for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists into the local music industry and be a great resource for early-career musicians.”

A series of music compilations will be curated by indigiTube with a panel of First Nations people, and distributed Australia-wide.

First Nations Media Australia general manager Daniel Featherstone said the project will focus on developing more regional and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, ensuring greater awareness of heritage, history and culture, by supporting the First Nations music industry.

“The project is a great opportunity to build on the connections indigiTUBE has made and to expand the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander music across the community media landscape through the Amrap catalogue,” he said.

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Meereeng 50 taking successful businesses to the next level

PwC's Indigenous Consulting (PIC) has launched a program to help Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business owners accelerate the growth of their businesses.

The accelerator program, Meereeng 50, is a collaborative project led by Kinaway Chamber of Commerce Victoria, PIC and the University of Melbourne. They are working together with some of Australia’s largest companies, including Lendlease, National Australia Bank, and Telstra, as well as Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) and the Victorian State Government, through its Aboriginal Business strategy (Tharamba Bugheen), to deliver an accelerator program for mature businesses aspiring to develop opportunities with major companies.

PIC co-chief executive Jodie Sizer said that over a 15-month period, Meereeng 50 will enable Indigenous businesses are supported with mentoring, coaching and networking opportunities that position them to take advantage of the very best market opportunities.

“Our mob are true entrepreneurs,” she said.

“We just need to help them get access to those opportunities.”

Kinaway general manager Paul Kruspe sees Meereeng 50 as a significant step forward for Victorian Indigenous businesses.

“Our collaborators being part of this program is a really key thing,” he said.

We know that one of the barriers to Aboriginal businesses getting contract opportunities is a lack of confidence to connect with key decision makers. By bringing suppliers and corporates together, Meereeng 50 will help to break down this initial hurdle.

According to co-deans of the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Melbourne, Professor Paul Kolman and Professor Ian Harper, Meereeng 50 supports the university’s ongoing pledge to advance capability in the Indigenous business sector.

“At a time when demand for Indigenous services is growing very fast, suppliers and buyers will be provided with a unique opportunity to learn from each other and grow their businesses in parallel,” Professor Kolman said.

“Meereeng 50 is unique in that it provides corporates with insight into how they can best collaborate with Indigenous business.”

It’s this focus on expanding and nurturing the value in the buyer-supplier relationship that will ensure continued growth of the sector,” Professor Harper said.

The pilot program is a key initiative of PIC and PwC’s joint Elevate Reconciliation Action Plan.

It will initially include up to 10 Victorian Indigenous businesses, with the intention to roll out the developed program nationally.

Expressions of interest for Meereeng 50 will open in the near future.

New awards celebrate Indigenous ingenuity

FOR the first time Indigenous Business Month (IBM) will introduce three awards to recognise the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses to their community and to Australian society.

The Indigenous Business Month Awards will showcase the outstanding achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses.

Indigenous Business Month is an initiative driven by the alumni of Melbourne Business School’s MURRA Indigenous Business Master Class program, Iscarot Media, PwC and CGU.

The Indigenous Business Month Awards are:

I2I Award

Indigenous businesses buying from and/or supplying to fellow Indigenous businesses on a larger scale than ever through digital expression (emails, instant messaging and texting) and at a much larger scale through digital enterprise (business operations and technology).

This award celebrates the intersection between cultural creativity, business nous and technology.

Indigenous Ingenuity Award

Indigenous business which has a role to play in using business models to confront challenging community issues.

This award celebrates an Indigenous business which is working on how to solve challenges in partnerships with Indigenous communities.

The IBM Awards will be held on October 30 at the Melbourne Business School, with the final winners will be announced.

Indigenous Business Month Awards end early December.

Registrations to host and attend an Indigenous Business Month event are available.


The Indigenous Business Month initiative is supported by 33 Creative, MURRA Indigenous Business Master Class program, Iscarot Media, PwC and CGU.

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Four exhibitions on show

A painting created by Marnda Grik, Blackgin is one of the many works currently on show at QAGOMA. Her work explores the cultural significance of spiders to Indigenous communities, and how these creatures can be used to reflect a contemporary understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

**NSW-ACT**

Ongoing:
- Lismore women’s and men’s healing groups. Held at Rekindling the Spirit, Lismore, Monday and Wednesday, 11am to 2pm. Details: 02 6622 5354.
- Water for Walgett, Walgett Balo. For those in need of safe drinking water, a collection point is available in Walgett. This initiative helps provide clean water to remote communities. Details: walgettbalocommunity.com.au.

**Queensland**

Ongoing:
- The Aboriginal Ngarbri. The exhibition at QAGOMA explores the cultural significance of spiders to Indigenous communities, and how these creatures can be used to reflect a contemporary understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

**South Australia**

Ongoing:
- South Australia National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Fair in Adelaide. This fair brings together urban, regional, emerging and established artists from across the nation to meet and acquire works of art from different communities. All proceeds go directly to the artist or their art organisation.

**Victoria**

Ongoing:
- Ngurrungurr Ngurrungurr. The exhibition at NGV features a collection of objects and artworks created by survivors and artists, highlighting the impact of trauma on Indigenous communities.
- Our Mob artwork at Melbourne’s MoMA. The exhibition features a collection of objects and artworks made by Indigenous artists from across Australia, celebrating their unique cultural heritage.
- KOORI MAIL website: koorimail.com. The digital version is available for free on your device, delivering the latest news and events from the Indigenous community.

**national calendar**

The Koorie Heritage Trust in Melbourne is presenting four solo exhibitions – Dancing on Country by Aurora Bronwyn Razem; Old and New by Uncle Greg Muir; Mamda Grik by Blackgin and Dry Your Dresses on My Culture by Kait James. Each exhibition will be launched on Saturday, October 5, and closed on Sunday, November 24. Details: koorigallery.com.au.

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A NEW round of students has started a land management course designed to support traditional owners’ work on country in Victoria.

It follows the first Certificate III of Conservation and Land Management held in 2018 at the Holmesglen Institute, which saw all of the graduates employed in land management roles after the course.

The course, which has been given the name Warreen Beek Rangers by the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, has been designed specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to learn skills to work on country, providing accredited training in skills such as pest plant control, revegetation, construction, chainsaw use, occupational health and safety and cultural studies.

Students have been working in coastal areas and on properties that have conservation covenants, providing landholders with the chance to understand traditional knowledge while the students can learn landcare skills such as plant identification and threatened species conservation techniques.

Conservation covenants are voluntary agreements that are tied to titles and protect habitat, even after a property changes hands.

The certificate is supported by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning’s Port Phillip Bay Fund, which protects the health of the bay, including its coastal and broader catchment areas.

Bunurong Land Council chief executive Dan Turnbull said they had partnered with Trust for Nature to deliver the course and provide technical skills and future employment opportunities for traditional owners.

“It’s been extremely encouraging to have neighbouring traditional owners and other Aboriginal Victorians working collaboratively with Bunurong traditional owners on Bunurong country in order to nurture our broader Port Phillip Bay traditional lands and coasts,” he said.

“The Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation appreciates the Trust’s facilitation of the Warreen Beek Rangers program which has ultimately resulted in getting Bunurong people back on, and learning about, and caring for, Bunurong country.”

Trust for Nature’s Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority have also helped to support the course.

Trust for Nature is a not-for-profit organisation that relies on the generosity of supporters to help protect Victoria’s biodiversity.

Trust for Nature’s Rachel Douglas with Wurundjeri community member and course participant David Mullins.

Members of the Wurundjeri community and course participants Isaac Sainy and Jayden Mills.

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!
Aboriginal Health Worker

- Full time, fixed term until 30 June 2021
- Based in Queanbeyan

We are currently recruiting an Aboriginal Health Worker, on a full-time basis, to deliver services across The Capital region. The position aims to support the delivery of health services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through improving access to health care, health screening, chronic disease management and health promotion.

To apply visit: www.gph.org.au or contact Simon Sadler, Aboriginal Health & Integrated Care Manager on 02 4448 2222 or 0497 849 901.

To apply visit: www.gph.org.au or contact Simon Sadler, Aboriginal Health & Integrated Care Manager on 02 4448 2222 or 0497 849 901.

Aboriginal Allied Health Cadetship

Department: South Western Sydney LHD
Enquiries: Aboriginal Workforce on (02) 8738 5713 or (02) 8738 5933.

In this role Aboriginality is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised by section 14(d) of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1997.

Stepping Up aims to assist Aboriginal job applicants and Aboriginal Allied Health Cadetship applicants by providing information about applying for roles in NSW Health organisations.

For more information, please visit: http://www.steppingup.health.nsw.gov.au/

Closing Date: 13 October 2019

Applications must be lodged electronically. Please go to healthjobs.nsw.gov.au/ and search Job Reference Number REC002656.

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

Aboriginal Allied Health Cadetship

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Closing Date: 13 October 2019

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NSW Health Service: employer of choice

Non-Executive Director

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

Sunshine Coast Health Network Limited

We are seeking an experienced Independent Director with expertise in Indigenous healthcare, policy, and/or service delivery. This is an identified position. We are seeking an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander candidate to fill this role.

About SCHN

SCHN is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. We are the legal entity underpinning the Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast PHN.

Our objective is to manage the commissioning of high quality primary health care services that reflect the evidence-based needs of communities and individuals in our region.

More information about us is available at www.schn.org.au.

SCHN Board

SCHN Directors have the interests of our communities at heart, as well as a commitment to high quality service delivery.

Director’s term commitment: eight Board meetings per year, plus a two-day strategy workshop per year. Subcommittees meet as required.

Independent Director Role

We invite applications from candidates with the following attributes:

- Experience on Boards or equivalent governance-level bodies;
- Sound knowledge of corporate governance, or capacity and willingness to develop same (formal qualifications desirable but not essential);
- Experience and expertise in Indigenous healthcare, policy, planning and/or service delivery;
- Established networks in social and community services, primary healthcare or business;
- Availability to commit to filling the duties of a company director;
- A current connection to the Central Queensland, Wide Bay and/or Sunshine Coast areas.

To Apply

Applications must be made on the nomination documentation available from the Company Secretary, Amanda Boland, on 0434 595 590 or at amanda@businessgovernance.com.au.

Closing Date: 13 October 2019

Visit www.jobs.qld.gov.au or search 006908.
We are committed to creating opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of diverse sexualities and genders* to live their healthiest lives. We do this by providing a range of health promotion services including peer education and support, community engagement in health promotion, research and policy development. ACON is seeking an organised and enthusiastic person to plan and deliver our work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with a particular focus on gay men and bisexuals.

Program Coordinator, Aboriginal Health Promotion

Aboriginality is a genuine requirement of this position as per Section 14 of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act, 1977.

We have an exciting opportunity for a talented and resilient person to coordinate delivery of ACON’s work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of diverse sexualities and genders. The program’s focus on HIV and sexual health promotion is set within a culturally appropriate model of holistic health.

Your work will further ACON’s commitment to developing partnerships with appropriate model of holistic health. The program’s focus on HIV and sexual health promotion is set within a culturally appropriate peer education workshops, community development activities and outreach at major events.

If you are a people person, with strong community connection and commitment to the health and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of diverse sexualities and genders, this is the job for you.

If you would like to check out ACON’s offices, meet some of the team and yarn with staff before deciding to apply please contact Megan Balletico on 02 9266 2000.

ACON has a Recognition Action Plan and strives to be an employer of choice.

Applications close 5pm Monday, 30 September 2019.

Teacher of Community Services

TAFE NSW is looking for individuals with current industry experience and knowledge in Community Services to join our team of teachers on a part time casual basis at Coffs Harbour, Grafton and Maclean campuses.

If you are interested in sharing your talents by teaching the next generation, then this is for you.

You will love this position if you:

- Like to share your passion in Community Services, AOD, Disability or Mental Health
- Work as part of a collaborative and dynamic teaching team and are committed to developing the skills of students.
- Have a demonstrated commitment to or previous experience in delivering training in an adult learning environment.

This position is targeted for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people under Government Sector Employment Rules 26. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.

Applications close: Sunday 13 October 2019, 11:59pm

Job Specific Enquiries please contact
Linda Dewberry, Talent Resourcing Officer (02) 6691 6399.

For more information go to iworkfor.nsw.gov.au and search for job reference number 00007808.

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Mechanical Project Engineer

- Transport Service Grade 8 - $112,329 + $125,807 employer’s contribution to superannuation and annual leave loading
- Four year fixed term contract until June 2023
- Grafton/Chippendale location (Near Central Station)

About us
At Transport for NSW (TfNSW), people are at the center of everything we do. It’s a team that will affect the lives of millions of people every day, connecting the population of NSW and shaping the future of our cities, centres and regions. It’s an exciting journey and a great time to join our team as we transform NSW.

The opportunity
The Rolling Stock Delivery Program is providing new trains for a more comfortable, reliable, efficient and accessible journey. Current rail projects include; the New Intercity Fleet, Sydney Growth Trains, Regional Rail Program, and the Tangara Technology Upgrade, for Sydney Metropolitan and Regional customers.

We have an exciting opportunity for a Mechanical Project Engineer to join the Regional Rail Project which is delivering a new regional fleet and a new maintenance facility at Dubbo.

About you
You are Degree qualified in a Mechanical or Mechatronic Engineering discipline. You will have knowledge or experience in rolling stock design, production, delivery or maintenance.

Our Commitment to Diversity
At Transport for NSW we promote diversity and inclusion in our work practices. We encourage the employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and respect their rights, culture and traditions. We are committed to providing a workplace where our employees feel valued, respected, supported and included.

Applications close: 11:59pm, 1 October 2019

For any enquiries about the role, please contact Trisha Smith Trish.smith@transport.nsw.gov.au or 0466 586 248.


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*Please note that this position is targeted for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people but is open to people of all backgrounds.
Indigenous Arts Officer (In Prisons & Community) The Torch

Are you passionate about Indigenous art and culture and would like to help build alternative pathways for Indigenous offenders? This role provides highly creative and cultural support.

If you are keen to work with The Torch and help make a positive impact on people's lives then we are interested in hearing from you.

Indigenous Arts Officer (3-5 days, $70k pro-rata) is a role that delivers cultural support to Indigenous men and women across Victorian prisons and in community upon their release.

We are looking for a strong Indigenous artist who is capable of teaching our mob about art techniques.

Job descriptions and application details can be found at [thetorch.org.au/work-with-us/](http://thetorch.org.au/work-with-us/)

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**AP3S Service Officers**

The Department of Human Services is seeking AP3S Service Officers to join our team.

As a Service Officer, you will help customers in a face-to-face environment, assist people to access DHS digital services, answer enquiries and undertake processing related to their needs.

These positions will be available in the following locations within Western Australia: Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Meekatharra and Newman.


Applications close: Tuesday 8 October 2019

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**Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Project Officer**

**Relationships Australia Australia (RAQ)** is a leading provider of relationship and family support services. We are committed to offering the best possible counselling, mediation, education and support services, and are committed to social justice and inclusion.

We are currently seeking applications for the Full-time role of Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Project Officer located at our Head Office: Eight Mile Plains.

The project officer will be responsible for developing and implementing RAQ’s Reconciliation Action Plan as well as other projects as determined by the CEO and RAQ’s Strategic Management.

Applications close: 4pm on 5 September 2019.
Southern Cross University

Associate Lecturer in Education (Indigenous Identified position/s)

Southern Cross University has opportunities for Indigenous early career academics to join the School of Education. The Associate Lecturer in Education will undertake student centred teaching practice and development in initial teacher education, and contribute to the profile of the School through research activities, publications and industry and community engagement.

We are seeking applications from candidates who are committed to the enhancement of the student experience and graduate outcomes, and display an innovative and energetic approach to teaching. Demonstration of alignment with the University’s values, collegiality and integrity, is a fundamental requirement of the role, along with a proven record of making a positive contribution to a team.

For more information about this opportunity and to apply online please visit scu.edu.au/about/jobs/scu/vacancies/

Applications close at 9am Monday 14 October 2019.

Vacancy ID 19100.

Seeking a Child Protection Counsellor in Deniliquin

Department: Murrumbidgee Local Health District

• Rewarding role that enables you to support young people in your community

• Permanent full-time opportunity with attractive salary and packaging provisions

Are you a qualified as a Counsellor with experience working with children, young people and families? We want to hear from you! We are looking for someone who will provide counselling services at our Deniliquin Health Service, who will also provide support and education for health workers on child protection issues and concerns.

You will be registered with APRA or an appropriate registered professional organisation, with a minimum Bachelor degree qualification. This position has been designated as a targeted role. Preference will be given to persons of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.


Applications close: 4 October 2019

To learn more please visit: https://healthnsw.gov.au/careers/employment
to/about/jobs/muhsc/vacancies/

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

ST PATRICK’S COLLEGE FOR GIRLS

Campbelltown

A school of Good Samaritan Education

educating girls in Years 7-12 in the Good Samaritan Tradition

St Patrick’s College for Girls is an innovative Catholic educational community with high academic standards and a strong co-curricular program. We are dedicated to educating girls for the 21st Century and developing confident, independent women.

HSIE TEACHER

Permanent full time commencing 28 January 2020

Ability to teach Aboriginal Studies is essential

Role description and Employment Application are available from the College website www.saintpatricks.campbelltown.nsw.edu.au

Closing date: Friday 4 October 2019 at 4pm
FOR OPPORTUNITY. FLEXIBILITY. PURPOSE. I WORK FOR SA.

SENIOR PROJECT OFFICER (ABORIGINAL HERITAGE REPARATION)
ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND RECONCILIATION

Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation supports the Promoter to develop Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation in advancing the well being and strengthening capability with Aboriginal people and communities in South Australia and negotiate Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal South Australians in the achievement of the reconciliation agenda.

Project based - Up to 2 years available

The Senior Project Officer (Aboriginal Heritage Reparation) is accountable for the effective leadership, planning and management of the riparisation and reinstatement of Aboriginal ancestral remains and objects currently held in trust by South Australian State Institutions.

Commenced: 1st December 2019

Commonwealth and State Government agencies.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply.

Applications close: 3 October 2019 at 5:00pm

To apply for this position please visit https://worsc.ca.gov.au/ and search vacancy number 361803.

Amanda Fuller, Water Regulation Manager North.

NATURAL RESOURCES ACCESS REGULATOR

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS POSITION AND A LINK TO APPLY SEE OUR AD ON THE KOORI MAIL WEBSITE UNDER JOBS & GENERAL WEB ADS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS POSITION AND A LINK TO APPLY SEE OUR AD ON THE KOORI MAIL WEBSITE UNDER JOBS & GENERAL WEB ADS.
GUMBAYNGGIRR PEOPLE (BONEY-WITT #2)
NATIVE TITLE CLAIM GROUP MEETING

Date: Sunday 20 October 2019
Time: 1:30pm – 3:30pm
Venue: Valla Beach Tourist Park
1 Regatta Drive, Valla Beach NSW 2448

NTSCORP Limited ("NTSCORP"), the native title service provider for NSW, provides assistance and legal representation to the Gumbaynggirr People in relation to their native title application (Federal Court proceedings NSD 1312/2018). NTSCORP is convening a meeting for the purposes of considering and making decisions about authorising a new Applicant, a proposed settlement of the native title application, and the nomination of the prescribed body corporate ("PBC").

Who should attend?
(a) The biological descendants of:

(b) persons who have been adopted into the families of those persons (and the biological descendants of any such adopted persons); AND
(c) persons who have been otherwise incorporated, or who are direct descendants of a person who has been otherwise incorporated, as a member of the Gumbaynggirr People and who identify as and are accepted as a Gumbaynggirr person, in accordance with Gumbaynggirr laws and customs.

Map of the Claim Area
The area proposed to be subject of the section 87 agreement and consent determination includes land and waters within the external boundary of the Gumbaynggirr People’s (the Gumba and the Three Islands) native title determination application (Federal Court Proceedings NSD 1305/2016) as shown in the map below.

The lands and waters subject to the native title application are the lands and waters blocked in black and marked with black hatching in the map below, being Lots 554, 555, 556, 557, 558 and 559 in DP 1072228 located at Nabucca Heads on the mid north coast of NSW.

The Agenda for the Meeting:
1. Welcome and acknowledgement of country;
2. To provide an update on the proposed section 87 agreement and consent determination recognising Gumbaynggirr People’s native title rights and interests;
3. To confirm the decision-making process for the native title application;
4. To consider and make decisions in relation to the authorisation of a new Applicant for the native title application on the basis that, Uncle Barry Phyball, who was one of the persons jointly comprising the Applicant, has sadly passed away;
5. To consider and make decisions in relation to the authorisation of the proposed access agreement for Lot 555 in DP 1072228;
6. To consider and make decisions in relation to the authorisation of the proposed section 87 agreement and consent determination recognising Gumbaynggirr People’s native title rights and interests;
7. To consider and make decisions in relation to the authorisation of the proposed access agreement for Lot 555 in DP 1072228;
8. Any other business as determined by Gumbaynggirr People.

Attending the Meeting
If you wish to attend the meeting, please contact NTSCORP Limited by no later than Friday 11 October 2019 so that all relevant arrangements can be made.

Our details are:
Freecall 1800 111 844 or (02) 9310 3188
Post: P.O. Box 2105, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012
Fax: (02) 9310 4177
Email: CFC@ntscorp.com.au

Mileage assistance and accommodation may be available to persons attending this meeting in accordance with NTSCORP’s meeting assistance policies.
NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS
NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth, WA 6004 or telephone (08) 9222 3518. * - 1 Graticular Block = 2.8 km²

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THE KOORI MAIL, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 | 65

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NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION PERMIT FOR MINERALS, RENEWAL AND GRANT OF MINERAL CLAIMS AND RENEWAL OF MINING LEASES

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 Exploration Permit 27307, renewal of Exploration Permit 27306 and Exploration Permit 27306 and mining of ore subject to the provisions of the Native Title Act 1993 (Qld), shown below under the Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld).

Further information about the proposed grant of the Exploration Permit including extract of plans showing the boundaries of the Exploration Permit Application may be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Principal Mining Registrar, Mineral Assessment Hub, Level 9, Verde Tower, 445 Flinders St, Brisbane, Qld 4000, or Email: qldreg@fedcourt.gov.au.

Name and address of person doing acts: The grant of Exploration Permits under the Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld), authorises the holder to explore for minerals for a term not exceeding five (5) years, with the possibility of renewal for a term not exceeding ten (10) years. The renewal of Mining Leases under the Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld) by the holder to mine and carry out associated activities subject to the provisions of the Native Title Act 1993 (Qld), for a term not exceeding ten (10) years, with the possibility of renewal for a term not exceeding ten (10) years.

For all your advertising needs email: advertising@koorimail.com or call 02 6622 2666

www.koorimail.com
WATERSNSW MIDDLE HASTINGS RIVER WATER SOURCE
An application to amend a WATER SUPPLY WORKS AND USE APPROVAL has been received from WATHERING HEIGHTS SUPPLY LTD to change from pump size 2 – 50mm and pump 2 – 80mm to 150mm on the Hastings River Lot 9 DPS6794, Dairy Creek, County of Cawungan, County of Macquarie. (Ref: A019195)
Objectives to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to WATERSNSW, PO Box 1400 Grafton NSW 2460 or email to customer.helpdesk@waternsw.com.au within 28 days of this notice.
The objection must include your name and address and specify the grounds of objection.
Any queries please call 1300 662 077 or email the above. Amanda Fuller, Manager Water Regulation North.

WATERNWSW LOWER MACQUARIE ZONE 6 GROUNDWATER SOURCE
An application for a NEW WATER SUPPLY WORKS APPROVAL & USE APPROVAL has been received from EDWARD JAY McPhee for one existing 9 litres per second groundwater bore located on Lot 171 DP 686866, Parish of Weston, County of Narrabeen. (Ref: A019289).
Objectives to the granting of this approvals must be forwarded to WATERNWSW, PO Box 1018, DUBBO NSW 2830 or customer.helpdesk@waternsw.com.au within 28 days of this notice.
The objection must include your name and address and specify the grounds of objection.
Any queries please call 1300062077 or email the above. Amanda Fuller, Manager Water Regulation North.

(Ref: A019156)
Any queries please call 1300 662 077 or email the above. Tracey Scarrfame, Manager Water Regulation South.

NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS
NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (Cth) SECTION 29
The Butchulla People have made an application to the Federal Court of Australia, QUD460/2018 Butchulla People Land & Sea Claim #2 (formerly QUD288/2009), seeking recognition of their native title rights and interests under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) (the Native Title Act) (Butchulla Claimant Application).
The Butchulla Claimant Application covers all claimable land and waters north of Tin Can Bay and Mount Bauple and east to the mouth of the Burrum River, and includes Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Great Sandy Strait, and waters around Fraser Island to Double Island Point (as depicted in Map 1).
The Butchulla People are described as the biological descendants of the following people:
1. Father/Mother of Grace and
2. James & Helen
3. Father/Mother of Susan and
4. Percy Coulson;
5. Roger Bennett;
6. Mother of Mary Ann (mother of Susan
7. Mother of Lucy Wheeler.
8. Lucy Wheeler.

AUTHORISATION MEETING – TO AUTHORISE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BUTCHULLA CLAIMANT APPLICATION & PROPOSED SECTION 87 AGREEMENT (INCLUDING CONSENT DETERMINATION ORDERS)
This Public Notice invites all members of the Butchulla People (the Butchulla People) to attend an Authorisation Meeting at the time and location below:
Date: Saturday, 12 October 2019
Venue: Mantra Hervey Bay Resort, Buccaneer Drive, Urangan, Hervey Bay Time: Meeting commences at 10:00 am (Registration for Authorisation Meeting opens at 8:30 am)
The purposes of the Authorisation Meeting are for the Butchulla People to:
1. consider and authorise the Applicant to make amendments to the current Butchulla Claimant Application, including by way of readouts to the area of land or waters within the external boundary of the application, as so agreed by the Butchulla People, in order to ensure that the application is consistent with agreed positions on tenure and extinguishment and can be in proper, final form before the Court in readiness for the proposed consent determination hearing of the matter; and
2. consider and authorise the Applicant to consent to the section 87 agreement and consent determination orders proposed for filing in the proceedings.

INFORMATION SESSION
In order to fully inform the Butchulla People about matters to be discussed and decided at the Authorisation Meeting noticed above, all Butchulla People are invited to attend an Information Session to be held at the time and location below:
Date: Friday, 11 October 2019
Venue: Mantra Hervey Bay Resort, Buccaneer Drive, Urangan, Hervey Bay Time: 10.00 am to 3.00 pm
REGISTRATION FOR THE AUTHORISATION MEETING & INFORMATION SESSION
All members of the Butchulla People are invited to contact QSNTS Community Relations Officer, Richard Sporne, on free call 1800 663 693, or (07) 4921 1090 (charged call), to register their intention to attend the Authorisation Meeting, and for Information Session above.
QSNTS regrets that it is unable to assist with accommodation costs or transport to/from the Authorisation Meeting or Information Session above.

Notice of a non-application for claim determination
The Attorney-General for New South Wales has received an application, an application made by persons to the Federal Court of Australia (Federal Court) who are not claiming native title themselves but are seeking a determination that native title does not exist in relation to the area described. The applicant has a non-native title interest in the area, set out in their application as described in the notice below.

Under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) (the Act) there can be only one determination of native title for a particular area.

PLEASE NOTE: A person who claims to hold native title rights and interests in this area may wish to file a native title claim application prior to 8 January 2020. Unless there is a relevant native title claim (as defined in section 249F of the Act) over this area on or before 8 January 2020, the area may be subject to proceedings by which extinguishment or determination of native title may be achieved.

A person who claims native title rights and interests may also seek to become a party to the non-native title claim application on the condition of being included as a party to the non-native title claim application. If you are interested in having the opportunity to have those rights and interests in relation to the area considered. Any person who wants to become a party to this non-native title claim application must write to the Registrar of the Federal Court, Level 17 Law Court, 66 Market Square, Sydney NSW 2000 before 8 January 2020. After 8 January 2020, the Federal Court’s permission to become a party is required.

Applicant’s name: Griffin Local Aboriginal Land Council
Federal Court File No: NSD1223/2019
Non-native title interest: Freehold title in certificate of title folio D1281271, Map 1.
Order sought by Applicant: The applicant seeks a determination that native title does not exist.
Description: The area application covers approx. 20,700 sq m, being lot 2 in DP1373419 located approx. 2.4 km north-west of Griffin town along the Old Pacific Highway road and otherwise bounded by Nooria Street and Dickson Road
For assistance and further information about this application, call Suzanne Lukosius on freecall 1800 640 501 or visit www.nnta.gov.au.

www.koorimail.com
THE KOOKI MAIL, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 | 67
By ALF WILSON

A HEART-stopping cliffhanger was how fans described Kowanyama Warriors’ 10-8 rugby league grand final win over Lower Gulf at May Smiler Memorial Oval in Kowanyama recently.

The final was part of weekend-long sports carnival at the small community on the western side of Cape York in far north Queensland. Organisers estimate that around 1000 people from several communities were at the event.

The Kowanyama Warriors Memorial Team was formed to honour the late Damien Smiler. Warriors captain Maxwell Luke paid tribute to his opponents.

“I’d like to thank Lower Gulf for a tough game. You boys played well going into extra time,” he said.

“I’d like to thank Pormpuraaw and the other teams for coming in, and the softball teams as well. That’s made it the best.

“It’s been a long time coming. Thank you, boys.”

The Warriors were joined by Pormpuraaw Crocs, Kowanyama Kin-kopl and Kowanyama Minh-kular Wallabies.

Warriors centre Tyson Smiler, lock Michael Gibbo, five-eighth and captain Maxwell Luke and utility Joshua Malachi were among the best players in the final.

The winning team was coached by Lawrence Hudson.

Lower Gulf were served best by centre Tibau Stephens, halfback Isaac Toby and second-rower Desmond Armstrong. Local footballers from the region were joined by other players from Townsville and Cairns.

With the success of this event, Kowanyama community is keen to host at least one major sporting carnival a year.

The oval was named after May Smiler, a highly respected Kowanyama Elder who passed away recently.
Majapturr the best in the Cape

By CHRISTINE HOWES

KOWANYAMA'S first sports carnival in several years featured the community's first softball competition in 10 years.

And local team Majapturr gave cause for more celebration when they won the final over the Gulf and Normanton's Kurtiijar Mixed Relations in a hard-fought contest.

Organiser Tania Major said interest in the game was well and truly re-awakened.

“This weekend’s competition was in dedication to our softball team players and captains who are no longer with us: Corrine Daniel, Elizabeth Donald, Yvette Frank and Alma Martin,” she said.

Old-school

“They were the old-school legendary players who really brought a standard of what was expected in playing the game.

“We saw there were some really good strategists out there on the weekend, and throwers, and I was very impressed. What we’ve seen this weekend is camaraderie and team spirit.”

She said it was exciting to see her own former team win the title.

“I’m very proud of the leadership the local team bought into this,” she said.

“Not only leadership, but the standard in games and what we can now expect for next year.

“We had good support from the men too. This has really unified this carnival.”

“Overall, it’s been a great weekend and we’d like to thank all our sponsors and all of those who travelled to support us.”

Carnival return a boost for community

By CHRISTINE HOWES

A STRONG sporting tradition of rugby league and softball has been revisited and revived in the Cape York/Gulf of Carpentaria community of Kowanyama to celebrate the life of their longest-living Elder, May Smiler.

She recently passed at the age of 105.

The May Smiler Memorial Oval was officially opened with an action-packed carnival that saw nine teams across both sports.

Mayor of Kowanyama Michael Yam said it had been a great weekend.

“The new field is a great memorial to our oldest Elder,” he said.

“What a great weekend. “It’s been a long time coming to have football and softball back in the community as a carnival and, you know, just bringing back the spirit of these sports.

“It’s been a reminder to us about our younger days when we were running around.

“It’s been good to see those younger ones running around, and especially our sons, following in the footsteps of their fathers.”

He said player of the carnival, Tyson Smiler, who played for the winning Kowanyama Warriors side, wore his father Damien Smiler’s name and image on his jersey.

“He’s done his father proud, young Tyson,” Cr Yam said.

“Overall, it’s been a great weekend and we’d like to thank all our sponsors and all of those who travelled to support us.”

QLD

Majapturr women’s softball team, winners at the Kowanyama sports carnival in far north Queensland.

Above: the Kurtiijar Mixed Relations women’s softball team were runners-up in the final. Left and right: Action from the softball carnival which saw several community teams compete. Pictures: Christine Howes
Dhungutti Bundjalung (black, red and yellow) and Cubawee Connections played out a thrilling final at the Lismore Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival, which the Dhungutti team won, 30-24. Pictures: Darren Moncrieff
The Gold Coast Titans Leagueability team (dark blue) played an exhibition match with Knockout players in Northern United colours forming an opposition side. Pictures: Darren Moncrieff

The Tabulam Turtle Divers men’s team.

The Lismore (black and white) and Coraki women’s teams.

The under-17s Yamboora Roos (yellow and green) and Cabbage Tree Island sides played a high-class exhibition match at the Knockout.

The Cabbage Tree Island women’s team.
lismore knockout

Pictures: Darren Moncrieff
lismore knockout

Pictures: Darren Moncrieff
The top four a level apart from the rest

IT’S all happening in the world of rugby league at the moment. September is always my favourite time of the year as it’s finals time in the NRL and the NRLW is in full swing and, of course, for all us mob it’s Knockout time! The finals have seen a bit of everything and, as the top sides and the rest, the Sydney Roosters, Melbourne Storm and Canberra have shown that they are a few paces ahead of the competition with their on-field performances lately.

My prediction is that South Sydney will come good, that they will have a massive two weeks, beat the Raiders in the premiership final and then beat the Roosters in the grand final.

Fingers crossed!

The second NRLW season has been sensational. I’m so proud of our girls who are playing. A few standouts for me so far have been Shakiah Tungai from the Dragons, Amber Pilley from Brisbane and Tallisha Harden, now with the Roosters after crossing from the Broncos.

‘Shak’ is the most dangerous player in the competition at the moment and is one of the most exciting to watch. Amber is back to her best at the Broncos and is the dominant centre in the game right now. Tallisha has been the best player in a disappointing Roosters team. She is looking strong and dangerous with limited opportunities.

Knockout yarns

My favourite thing in rugby league is the Knockout, and all the yarns about all the teams. There are so many players out there chasing money or glory to just play. There are even some guys out there who have told five or six teams they are playing with them. It’s crazy! One thing that I will say that win Knockouts is loyalty and passion.

Most of the winning Knockout teams are led by people with strong loyalties to their clubs and the club’s histories and what they represent in the community.

Communities that chop and change teams every year – they lose that advantage.

The build-up has been huge for this Knockout. A lot of teams playing there will be stacked, but what it will all come down to is two things: the draw and the performance on the day. Right now, I’ll say good luck everyone, and up Narwan.

“Dean Widders is a proud Anaiwan man. He played 159 NRL games for the Sydney Roosters, South Sydney and Parramatta and 60 Super League games for Castleford. He is the NRL Indigenous Pathways manager.”

Kings of Cape York

Lockhart River Scorpions defend Peninsula crown

By ALF WILSON

Lockhart River have been crowned kings of Cape York after defending their regional title at Weipa.

The Scorpions held off Napranum in an entertaining grand final of the 2019 Cape Peninsula Rugby League competition, 32-22.

Led by coach Wayne Butcher, Lockhart River kept their heads, and an early lead, in front of a large crowd to defeat the Bulldogs by 10 points at Andoom Oval.

The Scorpions’ Isaac Rokeye was named best player in the grand final with teammates Martin Pascoe and Gennis Giblet named as the game’s best backs and forwards, respectively.

Pascoe and Giblet were among the tryscorers with two each, with Smithy Bally and Brandon Piva scoring one each, while Rokeye capped of their good work by converting each.

Napranum were well served by tryscorers Alfred Bond, Hassim Addi, Cameron Jawai, Eli Tabuai and Shaz Addidi-Nixon, while Kareem Tabuai kicked one goal.

The Bulldogs could hold their heads high despite missing out in the deciding Bulldogs brave

The men from Napranum led the points table after the qualifying rounds with 17 points, ahead of the Scorpions (16), Gulf Storm (12), Weipa (11) and Aurukun (2).

And Bulldog Kareem Tabuai led the competition scoreboard with 54 points, followed by Rokeye (48), Weipa Raiders’ Wuralumbe Pablo (44) and Giblet (32).

Napranum’s Dale Awang’s 12 tries was the highest across the competition and he was followed by Giblet (8) and Aurukun’s Alfred Bond, the Scorpions’ Martin Pascoe and Dale Awang with five each.

Tabuai’s 19 goals was the competition’s highest, ahead of Pablo (16) and Rokeye (14).

In the final that got them there, Napranum 30 (Dale Awang 3, Hassim Addi, Shaz Addidi-Nixon, Jason Nixon 1 tries. Kareem Tabuai 3 goals) defeated Weipa 28 (Leeroy Nixon 1, Andrew Sampson, Jack Backo 1 try, Lumbee Pablo 4 goals), while Lockhart River 16 (Steven Bally, Gennis Giblet, Brandon Piva 1 tries, Isaac Rokeye 2 goals) defeated Gulf Storm 12 (Maurice Burke 2 tries, Lyell Bowie 2 goals).

Templeman, Fogarty square off in Qld Cup final

By DARREN MONCRIEFF

Jamal Fogarty and Pat Templeman are likely to give a lesson in goal kicking when they meet at opposite ends in next weekend’s Queensland Cup grand final.

Fogarty’s Burleigh Bears gave Sunshine Coast a football lesson when they defeated this year’s minor premiers 24-6 in their preliminary final on the Gold Coast on Sunday.

Earlier, Templeman’s Wynnum-Manly Seagulls brushed aside Townsville 26-14 in their preliminary final in Townsville to qualify for the season decider this weekend.

Fogarty and Templeman are two of several Indigenous stars across 14 teams in the statewide competition this year.

Bears sharp-shooter Fogarty didn’t miss a thing in converting his side’s tries and three pairs before the home side could get on the board, which they did only after half-time.

Blackhawks star Shaun Nona willed his side back into the contest, converting Townsville’s two tries and a penalty goal.

But the visitors were too classy and put to rest any chance of a late comeback with a try two minutes from full-time.

Burleigh kept the highly fancied Falcons scoreless in the first half, 14-0, and didn’t give them a look in until late in the game when they crossed over for their one and only try.

The 2019 Queensland Cup grand final will be played at Redcliffe, north of Brisbane, on Sunday.

Star Scorpion Martin Pascoe celebrates with teammates and happy fans after the win.

Lockhart River celebrate their 2019 Cape Peninsula Rugby League title after defeating Napranum at Weipa. Pictures: Alf Wilson

Lockhart River Scorpions defend Peninsula crown

By ALF WILSON

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Future looks bright in women’s football

By CHRIS PIKE

AFLW players and potential draftees showed their skills during the first WAFLW season across the five teams and a growing talent base of Indigenous female footballers. The new Western Australian women’s competition saw five teams emerge from the original WAWFL, which are Claremont, East Fremantle, Peel Thunder, Subiaco and Swan Districts, which are aligned with their established WAFL (men’s) clubs.

Live TV coverage
And more than 3000 fans and many more thousands on Channel 7’s live statewide broadcast watched on as Swan Districts and East Fremantle played out the first WAFLW grand final, won by the Sharks 8.15 (53) to 4.28 (42), at Laathlain Park. Despite her AFLW experience with Fremantle, and solid season, Swan Districts’ Gemma Houghton had a hard day out as a defender in the decider. Houghton kicked 15 goals for Swans throughout the season but was kept scoreless by the Sharks defenders.

Teammates Imhara Cameron and Emily McGuire worked hard for Swans in attack and defence. There was more grand final heartbreak earlier when twins Shakeeda and Shakira Pickett’s South Fremantle lost to Peel Thunder in the Youth Girls grand final, 6.8 (44) to 5.1 (31). Souths had finished the regular season as minor premiers so the grand final after kicking 23 goals between them for the Bulldogs.

Lachlan draws praise in Eagles’ back-to-back premiership win

By PETER ARGENT

KEY-POSITION defender Lachlan Jones played a crucial role in his side’s premiership victory. The Woodville-West Torrens fullback shut down his South Adelaide opponent as the Eagles claimed the 2019 SANFL under-18s flag, defeating the Panthers by 23 points, 12.11 (83) to 9.6 (60), in a high-class grand final at Adelaide Oval.

The win was the junior Eagles’ second premiership in a row and fourth this decade. Lachlan was one of three Aboriginal players in the Eagles side, joined by Jase Burgoyne and Deakan Jackson.

A happy Eagles coach Shane Reardon sung the youngster’s praises. “Lachlan was simply outstanding in the last line of defence for us,” he said.

“He was integral to our victory. He still has another season at this level next year. “During the latter part of our season, he had 31 possessions in three successive games, displaying his versatility, playing both through the middle and in defence.”

Reardon was also happy with Jase and Deakan.

“For a 16-year-old Jase was impressive on his wing, especially with strong skill execution on both sides of his body,” he said.

“And Deakan worked hard both offensively and defensively and kicked a goal during the second term.”

Woodville-West Torrens SANFL under-18 premiership players Deakan Jackson (left), Lachlan Jones and Jase Burgoyne. Picture: Peter Argent

The big game that brings out the best

As grand final fever ramps up in the AFL, I wanted to have a look at some of the great performances by Indigenous players in premiership teams of the modern era.

I will have to start with Andrew McLeod. ‘Bunjii’ (‘brother’) was pivotal in Adelaide’s back-to-back premierships in 1997 and 1998. Bunji was simply beautiful to watch in both those games and the panel of voters for the Norm Smith Medal thought so too. He became the first player to win back-to-back medals as best-on-ground.

Byron Pickett was another big-game player. ‘Choppy’ – I’m loving these nicknames – played in two premierships, for North Melbourne in 1996 and in Port Adelaide’s first premiership in 2004, where he kicked three goals and was incredible. Who could forget his run-bounce-and-carry down the MCG that day and he was a deserved winner of that Norm Smith Medal.

Gavin Wanganeen was a teammate of Choppy’s in the 2004 premiership side and was a rebounding defender in Essendon’s 1993 premiership side, the same year he won the Brownlow Medal, the first Aboriginal player to do so.

Longy’s greatest game

In that ’93 Bombers side, too, was none other than the great Michael Long, who I vividly remember playing one of the greatest games he had ever played. And what about that goal after several bounces and weaving around opposition players? That Norm Smith Medal was always going to be his. Longy was also part of the 2000 Essendon premiership side.

Peter Matera – ‘Roo’ – schooled everyone on how to play on the wing during his career and in West Coast’s 1995 and 1996 premiership teams. Who could forget Sandy Roberts’ iconic call: “And Matera... sets sail for home!” after one of his long-range goals in the ’92 decider, in which he won the Norm Smith Medal.

Brisbane’s Darryl White and Chris Johnson formed part of the best backlines you will ever see and they were key to the Lions’ premiership sides of 2001, 2002 and 2003.

One of the greatest footballers of all time, Adam Goodes, played in two premierships for Sydney, in 2005 and 2012. He was almost on one leg in the 2012 game but kicked a crucial goal in the final quarter.


The AFL has truly blessed with Indigenous footballers as some of the greatest players in the game. Let’s hope this weekend’s grand final delivers more of the same.

Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide. She appears on NITV’s Mamangrook Footy Show and AFL.com.au’s Colour Of Your Jumper.
BROOKE Peris, Mariah Williams and the Hockeyroos will have to draw on all their experience to qualify for next year’s Olympics following a shock result in Rockhampton.

New Zealand caused a trans-Tasman boilover when the Black Sticks women won the Oceania Cup series against the Hockeyroos with a superior goal difference (6-5) to automatically qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Games.

The New Zealanders won the Olympic qualifier best-of-three series on aggregate.

The Kiwi women got a headstart when they won game one 3-1 but the Aussies fought back to win game two 3-2, which necessitated a tiebreak game three which was a 1-1 draw but New Zealand were awarded the series on goal difference.

The Hockeyroos now face Russia, ranked 19 in the world, in a do-or-die two-game series in Perth on October 25 and 26.

Goalscorers

Indigenous women Peris and Williams were among the goalscorers for the Aussies in Rockhampton.

Williams’ clever deflection into goal in the second minute in game three gave the Hockeyroos the lead, but that was pegged back when the Black Sticks equalised in the final quarter, and Peris’ 43rd minute strike saw the Aussies take the lead in game two. Peris and Williams played in all three matches in which the Black Sticks equalised in the final quarter, and Peris’ 43rd minute strike saw the Aussies take the lead in game two. Peris and Williams played in all three matches in which the Aussies fought back to win game two 3-2, which necessitated a tiebreak game three which was a 1-1 draw but New Zealand were awarded the series on goal difference.

Peris, Williams to face Russia for Games spot after shock loss

The updated second edition of The Aboriginal Soccer Tribe by John Maynard.

Updated book uncovers hidden gems

A SECOND edition of Professor John Maynard’s The Aboriginal Soccer Tribe reveals new players, new stories and more events since the first edition was published more than eight years ago.

Maynard says he felt it was time to expand and update the book with what he’s since uncovered of the relationship between First Australians and football.

Among the many stories Maynard relates was a proposal to send six or seven Aboriginal players on a playing tour of England in the 1880s. The tour didn’t go ahead but Maynard wonders about the impact this would have had on the development of the sport over subsequent decades.

Maynard has also included a new chapter on Indigenous women who have played for the Matildas.

Maynard, chair of Macarthur FC’s Indigenous Football Academy, also sets out what he would like to see football authorities do to get more young Indigenous players into the game.

AUS

By CHRIS PIKE

She is one of the most exciting young basketballers in the country and now Nes’eya Williams will get to show her talents in the WNBL this upcoming season.

Teenager Nes’eya has signed up to play with Perth Lynx, a team expected to be a championship contender in 2019/20.

She was part of the Lynx pathway academy for two years, training with the club in 2017 and as a development player in 2018.

The Lynx have now completed their roster ahead of the October 13 season start.

Australian Opals star and Perth teammate Lauren Mansfield, who has played with Nes’eya in the SBL with Perth Redbacks, predicted big things for the youngster.

“Gifted”

“I love working and playing with Nes’eya,” Mansfield said.

“She’s obviously very gifted and has massive natural ability, and she makes everything look really easy, which I’m quite jealous of.

“Nes’eya’s elevation to the Lynx squad proper sees the side now with two Indigenous players Maddie Allen, the 2019 SBL Grand Final MVP, returning to the WNBL.

Nes’eya was part of the AIB All-Stars team that won gold at the 2019 Indigenous basketball tournament in New Zealand in March.

And she took part in the Australian Boomerv-USA curtain-raiser game against Hawaii last month.

In between, Nes’eya produced another strong season with the Redbacks where she delivered career-best numbers: 13.6 points, 7.1 rebounds and 2.3 assists per game.

Nes’eya Williams has signed up with Perth Lynx in the WNBL. Picture: Perth Lynx

Peris, Williams to face Russia for Games spot after shock loss

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Aboriginal team in camp on Sunny Coast

INDIGENOUS cricketers have had a sporting and cultural boost during the past week at a camp on the Sunshine Coast.

The Australian Aboriginal men’s cricket squad spent seven days in camp engaging in cricket development and cultural connection.

The camp was the first since an Aboriginal cricket men’s and women’s squad toured and played in England in 2018 for the 150-year anniversary of the Aboriginal team that toured there in 1868, the first team from Australia to do so.

The team on the Sunshine Coast last week played in four matches, one against a visiting side from Vanuatu and one each against NSW, Queensland and South Australia.

A tour by traditional owners on Gubbi Gubbi country showed the squad culturally significant sites, practices and the importance of culture.

It was from the 2018 tour to England and its educational component that players formed bonds with descendants of the original team.

“For some players their Aboriginal culture has been a part of their life since birth and influenced who they are today, (but) for others they are new on this journey and cricket provides the unique opportunity to help them connect to their identity and culture through a connection to other players and some of the opportunities camps like this provide,” a spokesman from Cricket Australia said.

The camp has evolved to become an opportunity for the best Indigenous cricket talent to test themselves against state opposition.

In previous years, Indigenous teams have defeated state sides with the likes of Twenty20 star D’Arcy Short and others getting noticed in these matches.

National Indigenous Cricket Team (men)

Darcy Short (vice-captain), Dan Christian (captain, if attending), Scott Boland (Vic.), Nick Boland (Vic.), Brendan Doggett (Qld.), Sam Doggett (Qld.), Damon Egan (Vic.), Brock Larance (NSW), Tyran Liddiard (NSW), Brendan Smith (NSW), Jonte Pattinson (Qld.), Ben Patterson (NSW), Djalii Bloomfield (ACT), Zac Chapman (SA), Callan Morse (Tas.)

New soccer academy sets up in Adelaide

ABORIGINAL high school students involved in a South Australian Government learning program will get a kick out of being involved in the state’s first Indigenous soccer academy.

Students involved in the SA Aboriginal Secondary Training Academy (SAASTA) can participate in the soccer program as part of their SACE.

The State Government has committed $100,000 over two years to establish the Aboriginal soccer academy.

The academy will run once a week when the school term commences in February 2020.

SAASTA’s sports academies coordinator Nick Drury said the day will be evenly split between soccer and engaging in a curriculum-run program.

“We look at their health and wellbeing as well as literacy and numeracy and post-school pathways,” Mr Drury said.

“With the influx of new students, we’re looking to include a life skills component: looking at food and nutrition and financial literacy.”

Todha Wanganeen is involved in SAASTA’s AFL program and will participate in the soccer academy.

The 16-year-old said playing soccer helps build her self-confidence.

“I can’t wait to start and I hope I can get more of my friends to be a part of it too,” she said.

Former Adelaide United Football Club captain Travis Dodd is the ambassador for the academy.

“Being an Indigenous footballer for 16 years, I’ve not seen a lot of Indigenous players coming through,” he said.

“I speak from experience because I left school when I was 16 to pursue a career in football and came out without an education. I understand now how important it is to have a dual focus on sport and schooling. We hope to get a lot more kids involved in the game and we might see a future Socceroo or Matilda.”

Premier Steven Marshall said the State Government was dedicated to improving educational outcomes for young Aboriginal students.

“This new academy will create another avenue for Aboriginal students to join the SAASTA program and achieve their higher education goals,” he said.

“In addition to achieving their SACE, students in this academy will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in a globally recognised sport. (It could) potentially open the door to local or even worldwide opportunities.” – AAP

Two-way contract for McD-White

By CHRIS PIKE

THE NBA dream for William McDowell-White is another step closer after the young point-guard signed a two-way contract with the Houston Rockets.

A two-way contract is where an athlete’s salary is dependent upon the league in which the athlete is assigned to play.

These contracts are offered to undrafted players whom a team would like to keep ‘on retainer’ without having to sign to a full-time contract.

Each NBA team can have up to two two-way contract players per season, and are considered to be the 16th and 17th men on a roster.

This means that McDowell-White, 21, is signed to Rockets in the NBA and their D-League affiliate club, the Rio Grande Valley Vipers.

McDowell-White will start the season with the Vipers but if there are injuries to any Rockets guards he can automatically be brought into the Houston’s NBA squad.

This American summer, McDowell-White impressed with the Houston Rockets during Summer League and his two-way contract is a just reward for his hard work.

William McDowell-White
Murris return to the south for Artie

**By A.L.F WILSON**

There will be more than 100 Aboriginal rugby league teams from across Queensland at this year’s Arthur Beetson Foundation Queensland Murri Rugby League Carnival, organisers have confirmed.

Now in its ninth year, the carnival carries the name of Aboriginal rugby league great and Immortal, Arthur Beetson, who passed away in 2011. The 2019 carnival will be held at Brisbane’s South Pines Sports Complex at Brendale, a northern suburb in Brisbane, on the midweek/weekend of October 7-8, 2011. The event returns to Queensland’s south-east after being held in the state’s far north, in Townsville, for the first time last year.

It has grown to become the big league event in Queensland for Murri teams to prove their wares.

Prizemoney, the size of which depends upon total team nominations within each division, will be $30,000 for the winning women’s teams, and a separate amount for an approved community project nominated by each.

Ash Gardner

Gardner, Aussies make clean sweep of Windies

ASH Gardner and the Australian women’s cricket team have returned home following a 6-0 series clean sweep against the West Indies in the Caribbean.

The Australians won the Twenty20 final by nine wickets in Bridgetown, Barbados, last week to wrap up the six-game T20 and One-Day International tour.

All-rounder Gardner enhanced her credentials with a record-equalling 50 (57 not out) off 23 deliveries in game two of the three-game ODI series. She batted at number five and partnered with centurion Ellyse Perry. Gardner’s half-century is only the second time an Australian woman has scored 50 in 23 deliveries.

Australia will play a T20 and ODI series against Sri Lanka starting on September 29 at North Sydney Oval. The squads for that series will be announced this week. – w/WAP

Mills enhances reputation at World Cup

**By CHRIS PIKE**

NBA star Patty Mills represented Australia with distinction at the recent World Cup in China and can now be regarded as one of the best Australian players in basketball.

But FIBA selectors of the All Star Five and MVPs didn’t think so.

The 31-year-old became the most prolific scorer at FIBA World Cups when he averaged 22.8 points and 3.9 assists in China including a massive 34 points in the dramatic 95-88 double-overtime semifinal loss to Spain.

That defeat was another handed to the Boomers by Spain at semisinals, repeating what happened at the Rio Olympics in Brazil in 2016. The Aussies then lost the play-off for bronze to France 67-59.

The Boomers won three group stages matches, really only challenged by Lithuania, winning that game 87-82, to advance to the semi-final stage. His non-selection as an MVP and an All Star became a comedic mix-up after he was earlier told by someone at Basketball Australia that he had actually won selection.

It was a long time in the making but they finally did it. Fitzroy Stars celebrate their premiership win.
When NT Thunder ruled the roost

NT THUNDER entered the newly-formed NEAFL competition in 2011 with a headful of steam.

A restructure saw the QAFL give way to a new competition, the NEAFL, which saw select QAFL clubs and the NT side combine with clubs from AFL Canberra, AFL Sydney and Brisbane Lions, Gold Coast Suns and Sydney Swans reserves.

The Thunder, finalists in 2010, went hard on recruitment and signed football great and recent AFL retiree Andrew McLeod.

Joining McLeod were several former AFL players like Jason Roe (Collingwood, Brisbane) and Shannon Rusca (Western Bulldogs) and an elite array of Northern Territory talent.

The Thunder dropped just four games that season and destroyed Rusca (Western Bulldogs) and an elite (Collingwood, Brisbane) and Shannon football great and recent AFL retiree hard on recruitment and signed Swans reserves.

Lions, Gold Coast Suns and Sydney Canberra, AFL Sydney and Brisbane side combine with clubs from AFL saw select QAFL clubs and the NT discouraged last week.

Indigenous player involvement shifted in priorities last week.

The club that has had way and above the highest level of indigenous player involvement of a state team since its inception in 2009 was disbanded last week.

The men’s side played 10 seasons in the QALF and NEAFL which yielded three premierships while the new women’s team had just completed its second season in the VFLW.

Both sides have now been disbanded along with the Thunder program.

The Darwin-based AFLNT, which administers the code in the Northern Territory, called a sharp reduction of NT players drafted into the AFL as its principle reason to disband the men’s club.

And with the growing popularity of the AFLW, AFLNT chief executive Stuart Totham said the focus will shift back toward local players being draft-ready.

“In 2010, there were 27 (male) players on (AFL club) lists from the NT; today there is only 13. Something in our system is not right,” Totham said last week.

“We’re committed to getting more players on AFL and AFLW lists.”

The Thunder program has had a strong Indigenous influence since it began 10 years ago.

The men’s side’s first coach in 2009 was AFL Indigenous Team of the Century member Michael McLean.

Other former Indigenous AFL players have either coached or captained the side.

Former St Kilda and Brisbane utility Xavier Clarke was coach in 2015 when the Thunder won its third premiership and when Aaron Motlop was captain.

Shannon Rioli was named captain in 2016 and held onto that position until the end of the 2019 season.

The Thunder struck from competition

By DARREN MONCRIEFF

THE Northern Territory Football Club Inc is no more after Top End football made a shift in priorities last week.

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Rioli ‘frustrated’ at ASADA test regime

Rioli’s urine-tampering defence

Rioli is facing a ban of up to four years after the star West Coast goalsneak, allegedly tampered with his urine sample during a routine ASADA drug test on August 20.

It’s been reported a frustrated Rioli poured a sports drink into the sample container after going hours without being able to pass urine.

It was reported that Rioli has told people around him he acted naively and in frustration rather than purposely trying to subvert the testing process.

The results of a subsequent blood test could prove crucial in Rioli’s defence.

But even if that blood test shows up negative to any performance-enhancing or illicit substances, Rioli could still face the maximum penalty of four years.

Testing with a urine sample is viewed as more serious than returning a positive drug result and ASADA may not take into account any extenuating circumstances such as dehydration or the results of follow-up testing.

Rioli will be represented by David Grace when he

but it could take six months or more.

Rioli will be provisionally suspended throughout that period.

The controversy erupted just days before West Coast’s semifinal against Geelong at the MCG, which the Eagles lost.

Rioli has already apologised to family and friends in a heartfelt Facebook post.

The 24-year-old was left devastated after being told of his provisional suspension, and is now being looked after by family in the Tiwi Islands.

The Eagles are worried about Rioli’s mental health, and are considering sending a club official to be with him as well. – AAP

From Outside 50

Basketball finally making big inroads

ASKETBALL is finally making strides toward a greater representation of our people in the game.

I say ‘finally’ because basketball has been the one sport that is played at remote communities any time of the year and which crosses the gender divide but whose officials have sat idle by without any meaningful engagement with Indigenous Australia.

But that’s slowly changing.

If you have been a regular reader of these pages, over the last couple of months we have featured several stories of basketball at NBL, WNBL, and high school level in an effort to bring awareness and promoting our people in the game.

Indigenous Round, a round of fixtures in the AFL and NRL that honours the contribution our people have made in those codes, is slowly growing our Indigenous basketball, into netball, cricket, and lately basketball with a handful of clubs taking their own initiative.

Engagement

Perhaps the best indicator of Indigenous engagement in a sport is players competing at the top level.

The AFL and NRL footy codes lead in this space by a mile, but quietly building on that is both the NBL and WNBL.

Ahead of the 2019/20 season, both leagues will have eight players and coaches combined across seven clubs.

In the WNBL, Maddie Allen will be joined by newcomer Net-eyes Williams at Perth Lynx, whom we write about on page 76. Leilani Mitchell will turn out for new team Southside Flyers, Sirithorn will again play for Sydney Uni Flames and Abby Cubillo will also go around again with the Canberra Capitals.

In the NBL, Jeremy Jawai will hit the courts for Cairns Taipans while William Hickey, as a development player, could well force his way into the mix.

Off the court, at the NBL’s Illawara Hawks, Tyson Demos, a former NBL player, will take on the assistant coach role and will take charge of the team’s defence on game day; this on top of his position as the Hawks’ Indigenous programs manager.

Add in Patty Mills in the NBA, Jaden Weldon training with Illawarra, Verte Williams and Tamuri Wigness training and in practice matches with Brisbane Bullets and Jakebe Hunter training at Cairns Taipans, and Mitchell in the WNBA, and Indigenous representation at basketball’s top level is at an all-time high. All this on top of the growing number of Indigenous men and women in the second-tier NBL1 and the state leagues.

And in this space is the Australian Indigenous Basketball (AIB) organisation, led by Joel Khau and Ricky Baldwin, men who have put their all into the advancement of our people in basketball.

AIB, while maintaining its independence and autonomy, has laid the groundwork for Indigenous basketballers with local events, overseas tours and Indigenous internationals, fostering an environment of encouragement and advancement of Indigenous basketball.

When it eventually becomes commonplace for us to see our people in the NBL/WNBL, like we do in the AFL and NRL, it would be because of the hard work and toll from organisations such as AIB, making the professional environment conducive for our people to prosper.

Got something to say? Then say it! Drop us a line: sport@koorimail.com

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THE KOORI MAIL, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 | 79
KO countdown

By DARREN MONCRIEFF

‘PLAYING only what’s in front of us’ is the mantra defending champions Newcastle All Blacks will take with them to the sweet or bitter end as the clock ticks down to Aboriginal sport’s largest, historic and most popular event.

Teams have been putting the finishing touches to their preparations ahead of the 49th NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival at Tuggerah on the Central Coast from October 4-7.

The All Blacks, breakthrough winners last year at Dubbo, will bring with them some new faces mixed with old heads in an attempt to hold on to the coveted Knockout crown they won in 2018 after five previous attempts.

The emotional win at Dubbo erased years of heartbreak for the community side, finally going all the way on Knockout Monday.

“Everyone kinda knew we were a competitive side and have been at the last four or five Mondays at the Knockout,” Randall Briggs, captain of NAB, said.

“But I suppose for us having won it was a plus in that we know we have what it takes. Having said that, there is no easy game and we respect every team we play against and have since day one.”

Newcastle will have to climb the mountain again without local products, the Parramatta Eels’ Will Smith, who is out with a broken hand, and Isaac Briggs, who copped a suspension in club football.

Briggs said his team will have to deal with those losses.

“Will is a big loss. He’s almost irreplaceable. He led from the front at Dubbo, but these things can be a good thing,” he said.

“It’s a chance for some of the young fellas, their time to step up. I think this is going to be the hardest Knockout for us, because we’re the winners from last year, and the hosts, and from what I’m hearing there’s a fair few good sides out there.

“We’re confident with our footy. We will just play what’s in front of us. We’ve been training toward our strengths. We have that luxury of our boys being family and living in the area.”

Meanwhile, organisers have finalised on 64 men’s teams for the Knockout.

With the 20 women’s teams, the 20 teams each in the under-12s, -15s and -17s divisions, and the 16 teams in the under-16s girls division, there will be over 150 teams at this year’s Knockout.

The best Indigenous players in AFL grand finals – Shelley Ware, page 75

Sunny Coast camp for our cricket team

THE Aboriginal Australian men’s cricket team spent a week on the Sunshine Coast to reconnect and chart a new course forward.

Russia in way of Hockeyroos’ Olympic dreams, page 76

Dhungutti Bundjalung win epic at Lismore Knockout

NSW Dhungutti’s Brian Kelly wills himself over the tryline in his side’s 30-24 win over Cubawee Connections in the final of the Lismore Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout last weekend. The regional knockout was one of many across NSW as teams finalise preparations for the main event at Tuggerah next weekend. Photos, pages 70-73

Rugby league teams across NSW are counting down to the Koori Knockout in Tuggerah.