



Koori Mail

The Voice of Indigenous Australia

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INSIDE



**NAIDOC
around
the
nation:**

*Pages 14-18,
30-34*



NAIDOC National Person of the Year Award winner, Democrats senator Aden Ridgeway, rear, with sons Jay and Liam and friend Bain Stuart at the NAIDOC Ball in Perth.
● See Page 31 for other NAIDOC winners



These may be hard times for Indigenous Australians, but there's no doubt that during NAIDOC celebrations we're ...

Proud to be Black

Joshua Ross' dream run to Olympic Games – Back Page

A Yarn With...



NARELLE OZIES

Derby Aboriginal Medical Services Council program co-ordinator (and newly-wed)

Favourite bush food?
Gubinge (bush berry).

Favourite ethnic dish?
Thai curry.

Favourite drink?
Diet Coke.

Favourite cultural activity?
Camping with my family.

Favourite sportsperson?
Nova Peris Kneebone.

Favourite person?
Nelson Mandela.

Favourite music?
1980s.

Favourite book?
Best Practice Primary Health Care.

Favourite destination?
I'd like to go and see the Queensland Gold Coast.

What are you watching on TV?
Foxtel.

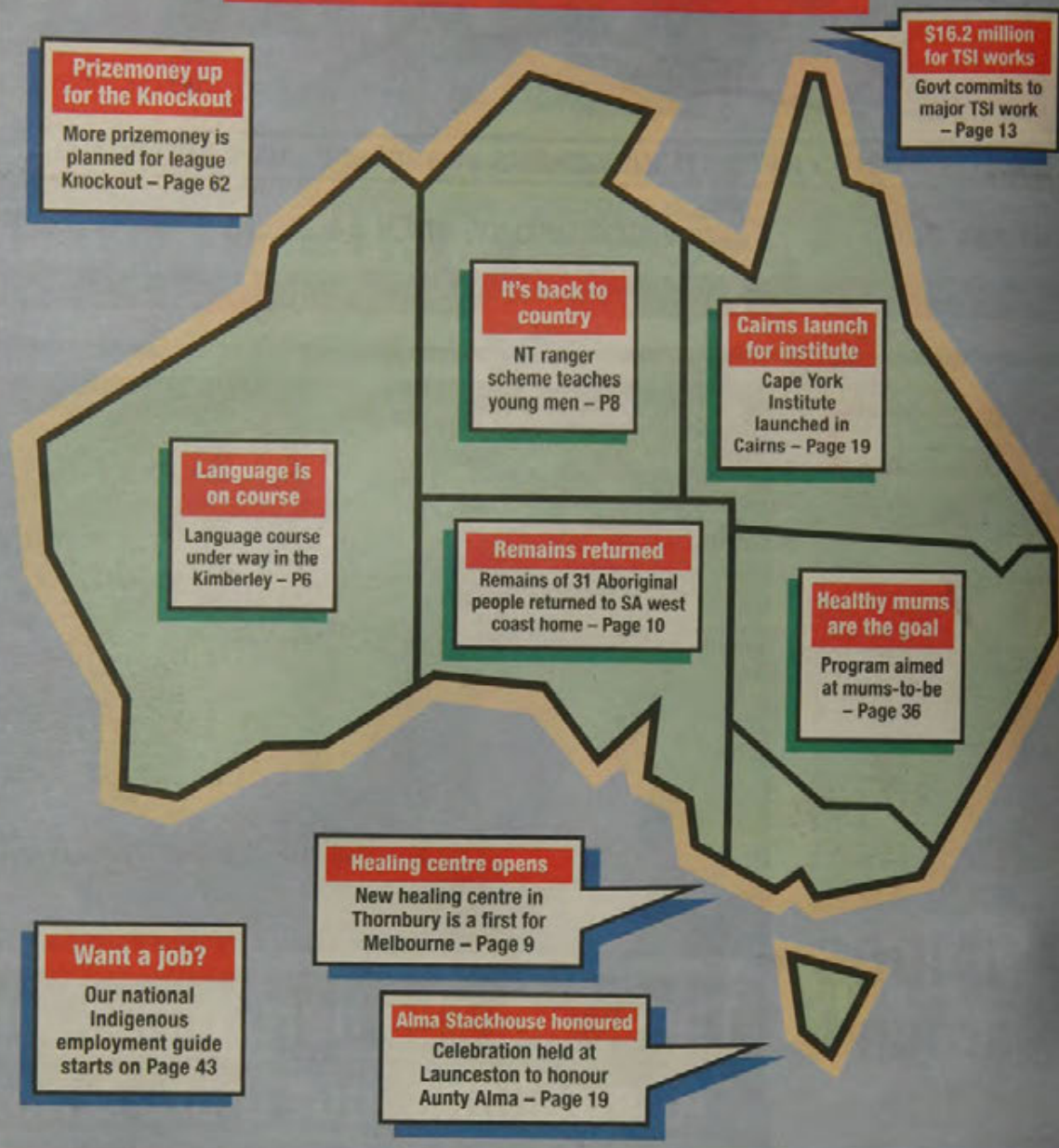
What is your vision for the future?
Increased intervention, prevention and resources to improve Aboriginal people's health.

Who would you like to share a campfire with?
Kimberley doctors Carmel Nelson and Sophie Cozous, and Nelson Mandela.

How do you forget the world's and your own troubles?
I go camping with my husband and kids.

(Koori Mail caught up with Narelle at the 'Our Way' health summit in Broome. For reports and pictures on the summit, see Pages 4 and 42.)

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A first for Yumba

Townsville community housing organisation Yumba-Meta Housing Association Ltd is the first Indigenous housing organisation in Australia to be awarded full accreditation through the National Community Housing Standards.

Queensland Standards and Accreditation Council chairman Keith Sullivan presented Yumba-Meta Housing Association with its accreditation certificate.

Yumba-Meta Housing Association Limited provides long-term, culturally appropriate, good quality and affordable housing to Aboriginal and Torres



Members of the Yumba-Meta Housing Association.

Strait Islander people in the Townsville region of north Queensland.

To attain accreditation, the organisation said it undertook a rigorous process of self-evaluation and development, followed by an independent external evaluation.

Interviews with tenants and external stakeholders, a review of the organisation's policies, procedures and practices, and inspection of office facilities and systems were all part of the accreditation process.

Mr Sullivan said: "Full accreditation is

a significant achievement and reflects an organisation's commitment to quality and continuous improvement that is worthy of recognition and celebration. Well done to all those involved for your commendable efforts."

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Jodie is a real lifesaver!



Jodie Bradley, a 10-year-old Bluff Point (Western Australia) school student, is a real hero. She is pictured after receiving a City of Geraldton bravery

award from Mayor Vickie Petersen at Bluff Point Primary School. The award stems from an incident at Pages Beach in January during a family fishing trip. Jodie grabbed a lifejacket from the car boot and swam it to her uncle and father, who were struggling in deep water after becoming separated from their boat. The uncle was unable to swim. The award was prompted by a letter to the mayor from Jodie's father, Robert, who said his courageous daughter acted on her own initiative to get the lifejacket, which may very well have averted a terrible tragedy. Mayor Petersen said Jodie showed exceptionally quick thinking and a maturity beyond her years. Such bravery, she said, needed to be rewarded. "Instead of panicking and doing nothing, she stepped up to the situation, looked for the best possible solution in the lifejacket and then without regard for her own safety, swam out to help the struggling fisherman," the Mayor said.

● PICTURED: Jodie with her award. Her father Robert Bradley is centre back and her uncle Kevin Bynder is on the right. Mayor Vickie Petersen is also pictured.

Pools for Pit Lands

SA

The Federal Government has announced \$4.7million in funding for two swimming pools and a petrol-

sniffing facility for the Anangu Pitjanjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands. But despite the Government's announcement, through a media release, it failed to notify the APY Lands Council of the decision.

"This is news to us," APY Lands Council chairman Gary Lewis told the Koori Mail.

"We haven't been told about these things. They keep saying they want to work in partnership and in consultation with us, but they don't."

However, Mr Lewis welcomed the announcement, saying a petrol-sniffing facility would assist in addressing some of the issues confronting the Lands.

"We have been calling for help regarding substance misuse for years," he said.

In the statement issued by Indigenous Affairs Minister Amanda Vanstone, the



GARY LEWIS

Government said it would spend \$2.2 million on the construction of a centre that would provide around-the-clock support for people with substance-abuse problems and their families.

It also said it had earmarked \$2.5 million for two swimming pools for the region and that "the locations for the three facilities will be determined through consultation with the APY executive council and funding is provided on the expectation that satisfactory progress in governance reforms in the APY Lands will be achieved".

It is understood that the work on the pools and substance

misuse facility won't begin until after elections are held on the Lands. The timeframe for the elections is unclear, but likely to be before the end of the year.

"We haven't been consulted about any of this, they are not talking to us," said Mr Lewis.

"We (the APY executive) wanted to be working with the Federal and State governments."

Senator Vanstone said the Government was putting resources on the ground in the places that needed them most.

"There is clear evidence that property-maintained community swimming pools reduce the incidence and prevalence of infectious diseases in remote areas, especially among children. They also promote physical activity, which is the basis of good health, and provide a recreational outlet to divert community members from substance abuse," she said.

"In addition, communities will need to sign up to the 'no school, no pool' policy to encourage school attendance."

● Allegations against APY Lands administrator - Page 6



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Health service providers praised

By WA north-west correspondent
DESIREE BISSETT



National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation chairman Tony McCartney has praised the efforts of Aboriginal health service providers throughout Australia.

During his presentation at the 'Our Way' health summit in Broome, Mr McCartney said that 'since the humble beginnings of the Aboriginal Medical Service in Redfern, we now have access to 128 Aboriginal community controlled health services'.

"We have grown because when each service was established, it was prepared to also help other communities acquire their own service. This legacy provided by past and present community members of sharing and unifying together remains strong today and continues to guide the work we do," Mr McCartney said.

He gave examples of the solid successes achieved through unified efforts to build up health services for Indigenous people:

- The introduction of a Medicare

rebate for preventative health assessment of younger Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

- The completion of the landmark large-scale clinical research trial on chronic ear infections and from that trial winning the Australian Medical Association's Wyeth Prize for the best research article published in the medical association's journal in 2003

- Following NACCHO's advocacy, the introduction in 1999 of the free supply of medicines through Aboriginal medical services in remote areas

During his address to delegates Mr McCartney criticised the Federal Government's June Budget allocation of \$40 million to the Primary Health Care Program funded over four years. He said the shortfall in Aboriginal health spending was estimated to be close to \$300 million according to respected Australian health economists.

- PICTURE: Tony McCartney, Lynette O'Donoghue, Albert Doughty and Anita Whitelum at the forum in Broome.

- More reports, pictures - Page 42



Australia hosts world bioethics conference



Ethics surrounding Indigenous health will be a major focus of the World Congress of Bioethics, which is being held in Australia for the first time.

The seventh biennial congress will be held at the University of New South Wales from November 9.

One of Australia's leading authorities on contemporary social issues in Aboriginal affairs, Marcia Langton, will deliver the keynote address on the Congress theme, 'Deep listening: bridging divides in local and global ethics'.

- Inquiries: Visit the congress web site www.bioethicsworldcongress.com

Grog bans will be reviewed



Alcohol restrictions in Queensland's remote Indigenous communities would be reviewed but only minor changes made, Premier

Peter Beattie said.

Alcohol management plans, introduced across 17 communities in Cape York in far north Queensland over the past 18 months, have come under fire from several quarters, including Indigenous councils and tourism operators who say business has slowed.

Some areas have been declared dry and in others there are restrictions on the amount of alcohol that can be carried.

Problems were highlighted recently when a visiting fisherman was fined after driving into the dry town of Kowanyama to get fuel while he also had beer in his car.

Even the State Government has been found guilty, after an adviser to Indigenous Affairs Minister Liddy Clark was found with a bottle of wine on the government jet while visiting Lockhart River earlier this year.

Premier Beattie said that while he was committed to the restrictions, he was taking advice

Law changes will 'only be very minor, they would not be significant'

- Peter Beattie



on possible changes to the law, which he would discuss with Indigenous leaders in coming months.

"Those plans are going to remain and no one should be under any misapprehension about that," Mr Beattie said.

"The only area that I am looking at is whether in emergency situations we need to clarify the position in relation to airports and particular places.

"If there was an aircraft that was carrying alcohol and needed to land in a restricted area, then I think there are mitigating circumstances along those lines.

"(But) it really is just clarifying what is a commonsense application of the existing law. They would only be very minor, they would not be significant."

Mr Beattie said no changes would be made to tourist operators, who were able to

apply for permits to pass through restricted areas with alcohol.

His comments followed the release of new figures showing alcohol-related injuries and assaults had halved in Indigenous communities since the restrictions were introduced.

In the communities of Aurukun, Doomadgee, Lockhart River, Mornington Island, Pormpuraaw and Wujal Wujal, alcohol-related visits to health clinics had halved, Government figures showed.

Also, in 10 communities where the plans had been in place long enough to gather data, there was an average 11 per cent drop in the number of people dealt with by police for alcohol-related offences since last year.

There was also an average 15 per cent reduction in offences against the person. - AAP

Koori Mail

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Library boost for culture

By SOLUA MIDDLETON



Bookworms can now find Indigenous-related books and audio-visual materials

more easily at a northern New South Wales public library.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-specific materials now have their own section at the Inverell Shire Public Library, complete with an Aboriginal flag sticker on the spines.

Library manager Sally Walters, who launched the collection, said the Indigenous resources had been mixed in with the mainstream material and people weren't utilising what was there.

Ms Walters said there weren't enough Indigenous resources to warrant a separate collection, so the library applied for \$5000 funding from then ATSIK Tamworth. ATSIK provided the funding to enable the collection to become larger and a more prominent feature.

She says that since the books have had their own collection, all types of people have been using them and that they were no longer resting on the shelves.

"The incentive was, one, to encourage the local community to feel comfortable about coming into the library, and two, what we did have wasn't being utilised, so

pulling it all together highlighted the collection that we did have," she said. "It is important because our Indigenous community is about five per cent of the population and we need to represent the whole community and it helps to break down barriers with the stigmas attached with going to the library. We are hoping to break that stigma."

"It is also a tool to increase non-Indigenous community awareness, whether it be about art, history or someone's biography."

Publishers were requested to send out all their Indigenous-related material, then the Indigenous community, young and old, selected what they liked.

Kamilaroi regional manager for ATSIK Tamworth Bob Faulkner said

that the project was a good thing for the whole community.

"I think it is a great idea. I think it should be developed throughout Australia for all people, for culture and for people understanding one another," Mr Faulkner said.

"It opens up the opportunity to show people that they (Indigenous people) have a story to tell."

Ms Walters said she hoped the collection, which contains about 350 books, CDs and videos, would encourage Indigenous people to use the library and open up the opportunity to have an Indigenous appointment in the library.

"We have a strong commitment and will be continually adding to the collection. It is going to be growing," Ms Walters said.



With the collection, from left, is Kellie Blacklock, Sharnee Connors, Thomas Blair, Elizabeth Connors, library manager Sally Walters, Hilda Connors and Preston Connors.



ATSIK Tamworth regional manager Bob Faulkner with Inverell community member Hilda Connors at Inverell Public Shire Library.

Vanstone denial



Indigenous Affairs Minister Amanda Vanstone has denied being the source of an article claiming

she might dismiss ATSIK commissioners leading a legal challenge against the Federal Government. The article's publication prompted legal advice that Senator Vanstone could be in contempt of the High Court.

ATSIK is taking the Government to the court over its attempt to replace its powers with that of mainstream agencies, a move that has split the board.

ATSIK acting chairman Lionel Quartermaine sought legal advice on the commissioners' action from a small Canberra firm that was distributed to the three commissioners leading the challenge.

The commissioners said they had been told by the executive that the firm had come to the conclusion their action was improper and the three could face dismissal, criminal charges and financial ruin.

A Brisbane newspaper reported in April that the Minister

I'm not the source - Minister

was also aware of the advice.

"It is further understood Senator Vanstone is aware of that legal opinion, and the option is open to her to dismiss any commissioners who may have knowingly acted in an illegal manner," it said.

But law firm Slater and Gordon rubbished the original advice and said the Minister's reported position could be in contempt of the High Court - particularly if she had a role in it reaching the newspaper.

"The Minister appears to have been reported as considering the option of dismissing the commissioners who acted 'illegally' in starting High Court proceedings," the law firm said.

"In my view, the conduct of the Minister, prima facie, may

constitute a calculated attempt to apply improper pressure on ATSIK commissioners to end the High Court proceedings and to subvert the court processes."

Last week Senator Vanstone said she had never given that information to the newspaper for the article in question or a follow-up piece two days later.

The three ATSIK commissioners involved are considering pursuing the Minister for contempt. - AAP

● A Senate Select Committee on the Administration of Indigenous Affairs is examining the provisions of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Amendment Bill 2004, the proposed administration of Indigenous programs and services by mainstream agencies and related matters.

Submissions: By email: Indigenous.Affairs @aph.gov.au By facsimile: (02) 6277 5866 By post: The Secretary, Senate Select Committee on the Administration of Indigenous Affairs, Parliament House, Canberra, 2600.

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Senator flies the flag for Aboriginal studies



The Federal Government must fund mandatory Aboriginal studies in schools if it wanted to tie education funding to flying the Australian flag, the Australian Democrats said.

The party's Indigenous Affairs spokesman, Aden Ridgeway, said young Australians in public and private schools needed to learn about the Aboriginal history of their country.

"If the Prime Minister wants to talk about making it mandatory to get education funding to fly an Australian flag out the front, we ought to make it mandatory that Aboriginal studies are taught in our schools," Senator Ridgeway said.

"We can share in that together and move forward with a common understanding of our past."

Veterans' efforts 'will fail'



Efforts by Vietnam War veterans to take control of a former cattle station in far north Queensland which is subject to a native title claim would not succeed, the Queensland Government said. The Government took over the former Kalpowar Station on Cape York 15 years ago for environmental purposes, but a group of ex-soldiers who moved in on Anzac Day 1999 unofficially dubbed it Pandanus Park and set up a retreat for veterans.

Collins' family rejects claims



The family of former Labor senator Bob Collins has denied any wrongdoing by the former Federal minister and say he will fully co-operate with a Northern Territory police investigation into alleged sexual assaults. Mr Collins remains seriously ill in hospital following a car crash in Kakadu National Park last month, one day after being told of the police inquiry.

The allegations include accusations that Mr Collins assaulted four youths in the early 1970s and that he dealt inappropriately with youths in the Maningrida community.

Mr Collins had recently been appointed by the South Australian Government to oversee the crisis in living conditions and substance abuses that are plaguing the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands.

Jobs

One of the jobs assigned to Mr Collins was to ensure that elections are held to appoint a new APY Lands Council executive, which has been resisted by the present council executive.

APY Lands Council chairman Gary Lewis described as ridiculous

suggestions that the council was behind the NT police investigation into Mr Collins or that he was related to one of the complainants.

A spokeswoman for the South Australian Government said it would be inappropriate to consider a replacement for Mr Collins until they had an opportunity to speak with him.

"He is still unable to receive visitors," the spokeswoman said.

"We need to speak with him before we make any decisions."

The spokeswoman said the Government still had two people working on the ground in the APY Lands to ensure services were being delivered.

The Colony

Volunteers wanted to go back in time

SBS and Hilton Cordell Productions are looking for an outstanding Aboriginal family to travel back in time to experience life in the early colonial period of European invasion.

Would you like to represent your mob in Australia's first "living" history television series and show your colours alongside Irish, English and white Australians tracing their own ancestry? We're looking for a robust family who are happy to rough it and show the whitefellas a thing or two. If this could be you, why not ask for an application form? Our intention is to portray an accurate view of this period of history and your family would have a vital role in making this happen.

Filming will take place from the last week of August to mid December 2004. For more information or to obtain an application form go to our website at www.thecolony.com.au at home or at your local library, phone us on (02) 8362 4138 or write to us at Hilton Cordell Productions, PO Box 7176, Bondi, NSW 2026.

Applications close on Friday July 30, 2004.



Jabi Yawuru language program participants Nick Abel, Josie Stone, Elsie Edgar, Noreen Edgar, Jody Blurton, Antonia Parsons and Martha Lee with some of the young ones.

Children on course to learn language



Eight Weeks into a Yawuru language course in the Kimberley region of Western Australia, a dozen children five years and under are going ahead in leaps and bounds as they learn from their Elders.

The Yawuru Jarndu Aboriginal Corporation designed the interactive Jabi Yawuru program with games, jigsaw puzzles and a number of special resources that are presented to the children to teach them their language.

Currently, many of the young participants are from Jalygurr-Guwan Aboriginal Corporation's day care group, with parents being encouraged to bring their under-fives into Broome's Circle House to join in.

Yawuru language teacher and Elder Elsie Edgar said it is important for the children to learn their language.

"It's very important, they've got to learn everything that belongs to Aboriginal people. That's how we teach them the

'It's very important, they've got to learn everything that belongs to Aboriginal people'

traditional ways," she said after a busy morning working with the kids.

Resource developer Martha Lee said culturally appropriate material was presented to the children.

"Each week we get more advanced and each week the children are getting more familiar with the words," she said.

"We have developed a new game every week for them." Yawuru Jarndu co-ordinator Josie Stone said the program strengthened the bonds between young and old.

"At present our theme is fishing, it's something everyone does here," she said.

"The program also teaches the young to have respect and to learn important skills from their Elders.

"After the program finishes we'll have a performance in our centre.

The next step is developing a program for the next age group up to continue to have the language specialists to pass on their skills."

AUSTRALIAN SENATE



Senate Select Committee on the Administration of Indigenous Affairs

Following the Government's announcement of the abolition of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Service (ATSIS), and the reallocation of their programs into mainstream Australian government agencies, the Senate on 16 June 2004 appointed a Select Committee to inquire into and report on the Administration of Indigenous Affairs, and in particular:

- the provisions of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Amendment Bill 2004;
- the proposed administration of Indigenous programs and services by mainstream departments and agencies; and
- related matters.

The Committee is due to report by 31 October 2004. Closing date for submissions is 30 July 2004, although the Committee will consider late submissions.

The committee encourages lodgement of submissions in electronic form to: Indigenous.Affairs@aph.gov.au Submissions may also be faxed to (02) 6277 5866 or mailed to:

Senate Select Committee on the Administration of Indigenous Affairs
S1.107
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Please ensure that a postal address and phone number is enclosed with all submissions.

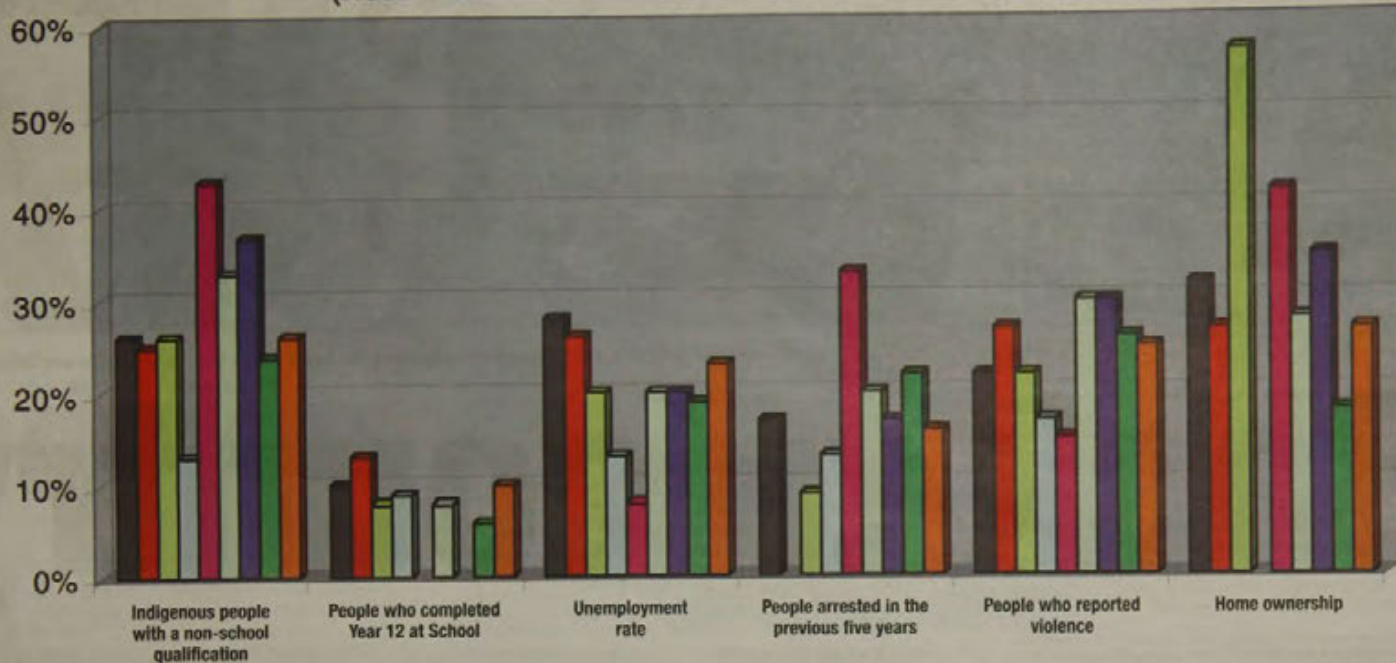
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Senate Select Committee

10/03/04

ABS Indigenous survey statistics (2002)

(Results were unavailable in areas where bars are missing)



Issues affecting Indigenous people

■ NSW ■ QLD □ TAS □ NT ■ ACT □ SA ■ VIC ■ WA ■ NATION

Still worlds apart



Indigenous and non-Indigenous people's wages are still worlds apart, with Indigenous Australians earning an average of \$271 less than the average non-Indigenous income.

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey 2002 reveals – in the first national social survey since 1994 – that Indigenous people are still 'behind the eight ball' when compared with non-Indigenous Australians. However, there have been some improvements in areas including education, employment, income, health, cultures, family and community, law and justice and housing.

Figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) reveal that in 2002, Indigenous people aged 18 and over earned \$394 per week compared with \$665 for non-Indigenous people, after adjusting for household size and composition. That is 41 per cent lower than a non-Indigenous person's wage.

Fewer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people received government pensions and allowances as their main source of income, dropping 5 per cent to sit at 50 per cent in 2002.

Education saw a significant improvement, with the proportion of Indigenous people aged 15 and over who obtained a non-school qualification from institutions such as university and TAFE more than doubling between 1994 and 2002 – from one in eight (12 per cent) to one in four (26 per cent).

Indigenous people with a bachelor degree or higher qualification rose from 1 per cent to 3 per cent, and Indigenous people opting to finish high school (Year 12) had risen from 7 per cent in 1994 to 10 per cent in 2002.

The ABS concluded that despite these



improvements, in 2002 Indigenous people were still less likely than non-Indigenous people to have a non-school qualification.

More Indigenous people are employed these days, with the rate of unemployment falling from 38 per cent in 1994 to 23 per cent in 2002. Indigenous people unemployed for more than a year also fell from 49 per cent to 25 per cent. The Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) made a contribution to Indigenous employment growth during this period but mainstream jobs for Indigenous people had also risen from 28 per cent to 34 per cent.

Indigenous people are twice as likely to

report their health as 'fair' or 'poor' than non-Indigenous people, and half as likely to report their health as 'excellent' or 'very good'. Indigenous Australians are also almost one-and-a-half times more likely to have a disability or long-term health condition than non-Indigenous people.

Culture has remained stable over the eight years. In 2002 more than two-thirds of Indigenous people reported attending Indigenous cultural events in the previous 12 months, over half of Indigenous people surveyed identified with a clan, tribal or language group and one in eight Indigenous people reported using an Indigenous language as their main

language spoken at home.

When it came to family and community, Indigenous people in 2002 were almost one-and-a-half times more likely to experience at least one stressful situation in life (example, 'death of family member or close friend', 'serious illness or disability', or 'inability to get a job') than non-Indigenous people (83 per cent compared with 57 per cent).

Similar to the non-Indigenous community, the overwhelming majority of Indigenous people received support from someone outside the household – 91 per cent for Indigenous people compared with 94 per cent for non-Indigenous people.

The same proportion of Indigenous people (aged 15 or over) reported they had been taken away from their natural family as recorded in 1994 (both 8 per cent).

Numbers for Indigenous people who reported being arrested in the previous five years had dropped to 16 per cent, 4 per cent lower than the survey results from 1994.

More Indigenous people were twice as likely to report that they have been a victim of physical or threatened violence in the previous 12 months, jumping from 13 per cent in 1994 to 25 per cent in 2002. Also, these rates were high among unemployed people (38 per cent) and younger people (33 per cent aged 15-24).

Home ownership is up 5 per cent with over one-quarter (27 per cent) of Indigenous people living in dwellings either owned or being purchased in 2002. In remote areas in 2002, the majority of Indigenous people (64 per cent) were living in rented dwellings provided by Indigenous housing organisations, or in other community housing.

For more information on these statistics, see the Australian Bureau of Statistics website www.abs.gov.au



Wulaign Rangers and their teachers after successfully hunting for a goanna in the Northern Tanami Desert.

Back to country

By LEANNE COLEMAN



We were driving through desert country. The view from the road stretched as far as the eye could see. On both sides the sparse acacias and eucalypts dotted the red sands seen through tufts of spinifex grass.

The landscape abruptly vanished, as a plume of dust covered our vehicle, forcing Jamie to slam on the brakes of the troop carrier. The white ute, which had stopped so suddenly before us, appeared through the dust and we skidded to a halt almost on top of it.

Two young Aboriginal men ran from the ute into the scrub on the side of the road, shortly followed by two more, one holding a shovel. They turned and signalled for us to come and see what they had found and we arrived to see them furiously digging a large hole in the ground.

After some time digging a tail appeared, flicking from side to side. Robert, one of the young men, jumped into the hole and, surrounded by the others to prevent its escape, grabbed the tail and pulled. After more digging and several more attempts, they succeeded in retrieving the unsuspecting animal from its burrow.

"Wardapi ... sand goanna!" they said. We were following the Wulaign Rangers, a group of young Aboriginal men who are following in their grandfathers' footsteps, learning how to look after their country.

The land we were driving through was the same that the Aboriginal people had been walking over for thousands of years. This goanna tracking group of rangers were from the community of Lajamanu in the Northern Tanami Desert in the Northern Territory of Australia.

The ranger program is a community initiative supported by the Central Land Council (CLC). It was established as a means to address land management issues on the vast Central Desert Land Trust while at the same time create employment and training opportunities for young Indigenous people.

The rangers were in the Tanami with senior traditional owners, the CLC and scientists from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment (DIPE) as part of a two-year planning project. This project aims to determine the region's conservation status by conducting cultural and scientific surveys of the area. It would also build community capacity to sustainably manage it as a potential Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). The establishment of an IPA would result in the Indigenous landowners entering into an agreement with the

NT ranger scheme teaches young men

Commonwealth Government to manage their lands for the protection of natural and cultural features.

The focus of the trip was land management, with the traditional owners providing cultural and traditional ecological knowledge and the CLC and DIPE scientists western scientific expertise. This provided an opportunity for the Aboriginal rangers to gain hands-on experience to look after country by checking fauna traps and observing plant collecting, as well as learning cultural aspects of land management and law.

One of the CLC's major aims is supporting traditional owners in caring for their land. In conjunction with Lajamanu community and the Wulaign Homelands Association, the CLC helped establish this Indigenous ranger program almost three years ago.

Nic Gambold, who has worked with the CLC in land management on and off for the past eight years, has worked on several ranger programs in the north of Australia, enabling communities to successfully manage their own land. This program in Lajamanu was set up after he and other land assessment and planning officers at the CLC met with the community to discuss their ideas and concerns about natural and cultural land management. Issues such as cultural site access for ceremony and visits were a high priority for the community, while issues involving feral animals, weeds and fire were of regional and national concern.

By combining all concerns, a strategic plan was created for the area and a local management group run by traditional owners was set up to oversee and direct projects for the younger people (rangers) in the community who could physically manage the land.

The community's involvement is crucial to the programs because although the basic wage for the rangers is provided through the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) and specific project funding comes via the National Heritage Trust

(NHT), the community must also contribute a portion of their mining royalty money. This money helps to run the Wulaign Outstation Resource Centre, which is the host organisation of the program. This centre provides a coordinator, materials and an educational resource for the community.

The 11 outstations in the land trust area owned by the traditional people also provide much of the work for the Wulaign rangers, who are invited out to various stations to perform environmental management.

Twelve rangers from the community of Lajamanu are currently participating in the program. They work on different projects depending on their skills. The four included on this trip had all been involved in the program for over a year, with three of the group involved for the entire period of the program in Lajamanu.

Jefferson Lewis, one of the rangers, said that his parents were from Lajamanu and it was good to have something to do in the community and help look after the land.

Shannon Rose, also one of the rangers, said that this was his grandfather's land and that he had come to Lajamanu from Tennant Creek with his mother when he was 16.

Mr Rose, now aged 25, said it was important to look after the land, which held the tracks and waterholes where the old people once walked by foot and with their spears.

He said he had been doing other work before he became a ranger and that when his friend Jerome Anderson, also one of the rangers, was telling him about the work, at first he was unsure.

"At first I was scared, but I tested myself and now I feel comfortable in the job and I'm going to stick to it," he said.

By working within the community the rangers are able to learn from their Elders, who are pleased to see the younger people remaining on the land and taking an interest in traditional ways. The rangers accompanied senior traditional owners, who visited sites of cultural and natural significance to improve their knowledge about traditional uses and aspects of ecology.

Mr Gambold said the program was part of the bigger picture to enable the community to manage their own land as an IPA.

By building their skills the rangers also had an opportunity to create work for themselves in areas of mining environmental work and eco-tourism.

The rangers already top up their CDEP through work with Newmont Mining. Using their skills learned as rangers they are now able to complete real paid work, rather than simply being paid for 'work on the dole'.

Heritage Act, 1977

Notice of intention to consider listing on the State Heritage Register

The Heritage Council of NSW provides advice to the Minister Assisting the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning on all aspects of the State's heritage including Aboriginal, archaeological, built, movable and natural. The Heritage Council maintains the State Heritage Register which is a list of places and items of particular importance to the people of New South Wales.

The Heritage Council is currently considering whether or not to recommend listing of the following item on the State Heritage Register in acknowledgment of its heritage significance:

Yuranigh's Grave near Molong

The Heritage Council is interested in receiving submissions either in writing, by telephone or in person from the Aboriginal community or Aboriginal organisations on matters relating to the cultural heritage values for the above item. Submissions can be forwarded to the Heritage Council of NSW at the address below until the 27th July 2004.

Further enquiries may be made by contacting Adell Hyslop, Aboriginal Heritage Officer on (02) 9873 8593. Heritage Council of New South Wales, Locked Bag 5020, Parramatta NSW 2124.

04/07/04

PUBLIC NOTICE FROM GURANG LAND COUNCIL (ABORIGINAL CORPORATION) ["GLC (AC)"]

The GLC (AC) invites all persons who assert native title rights and interests, or who hold or may hold native title rights and interests in the area of the map shown below to attend an authorisation meeting for the filing of native title determination applications on behalf of the traditional owners within the GLC's Western Sub-Region and to withdraw the registered claims of Kangouli People, Kangouli People #2, Ghungulu People and Jagalingou/Wangan People.

DATE: 6 August, 7 August and 8 August 2004
VENUE: Cool Waters Holiday Village, Kinka Beach
TIME: 9AM - 5PM Daily



In response to requests for assistance by the traditional owners from this region, the GLC has provided assistance in the compiling of Native Title Determination Applications to be lodged with the National Native Title Tribunal for registration on the Register of Native Title Claims. The purpose of the above meeting will be to provide all those persons who assert native title rights and interests, or who hold or may hold native title rights and interests in the area of the claim to authorise the making of the application on their behalf.

Agenda items are: authorisation of applicants, details of claimant group, claim boundaries, rights and interests claimed, supporting evidence, withdrawal of current claims, NNTT processes, Federal Court processes, GLC's role and general business.

All those persons who assert native title rights and interests, or who hold or may hold native title rights and interests in the area of the map above are invited to contact Tim Auguston on Toll Free 1800 804 747 or 0417 766 960 to register their intention to be present at the meeting.

Inquest police seek advice



The inquest into the death of teenager Thomas 'TJ' Hickey, who died after being impaled on a fence, was adjourned late last week while one of the police witnesses sought legal advice.

Senior Constable Michael Hollingsworth was due to give evidence at the inquest at Glebe Coroner's Court.

The 17-year-old TJ was impaled on a fence after coming off his bicycle in inner-city Redfern in Sydney on February 14. He died the following day in hospital from neck and chest injuries.

His death sparked the Redfern riots which left 40 police officers injured. More than 25 people have been charged over the riots.

The teenager's family and some in the community say police were chasing TJ just before he died. Police have rejected that claim.

Snr Const Hollingsworth exercised his right to seek legal representation and his lawyer Ken Madden requested an adjournment until this week to familiarise himself with the issues involved in the inquest.

Earlier, the inquest was told that four police officers who denied chasing teenager TJ discussed their statements before giving them to investigators.

Constable Ruth Rocha told the inquest that four police officers who saw TJ shortly before his death had discussed their statements as they wrote them in the same room.

Two officers, Constables Hollingsworth and Maree Reynolds, told them there were allegations that police had pursued TJ shortly before his death.

Discussed

The four then discussed when and where they had seen the teenager.

"Did those two officers bring that information to your attention as a result of something they had been confronted with at the hospital?" counsel assisting the coroner Elizabeth Fullerton, SC, asked.

"Yes," Constable Rocha replied.

"The allegations came via TJ's family?" Ms Fullerton asked.

"Yes," Constable Rocha said. -AAP

Healing centre is a first for Melbourne



Maya centre manager Justin Coburn and chief executive Ross Morgan.



Local children at the Maya centre. Pictures: Tony Reddrop



Melbourne's first Aboriginal healing centre, the Maya Healing Centre,

has opened in suburban Thornbury.

The idea for a healing centre came from community meetings and consultations with Ngwala Willumbong and the Darebin City Council after concern about the effects of drug and alcohol addiction on Aboriginal families.

After several workshops, one of the recommendations was that a healing centre be developed for the northern suburbs.

The name Maya comes from a Yorta Yorta word which means 'cure of sickness'.

Maya chief executive officer Ross Morgan had been actively involved in providing support groups at the Minanjalku Centre.

Pilot program

Mr Morgan said Maya should be seen as a pilot program for the establishment of healing centres throughout Victoria.

The goal of Maya is to reduce addiction, family breakdown, poor health and contact with the justice system by creating a safe environment for people.

The Maya Living Free Healing Association will also provide training to Aboriginal workers in other organisations.

The Maya Healing Centre provides programs including life skills, overcoming addiction, women's and men's days, well-being programs and Koori Art programs.

Individual drug and alcohol counselling also will be available.

For more information about Maya Healing Centre contact Justin Coburn on (03) 9480 1111 or visit the centre at 11 Rossmoyne Street, Thornbury.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Nature Conservation Act 1992 s115

Draft Plan for Carnarvon National Park available for public comment

Landholders, local governments, interested groups and persons, including Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, and members of the public are invited to comment on the future management of Carnarvon National Park.

The Minister for Environment is inviting comments on the Draft Management Plan for Carnarvon National Park under s115 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992. Comments will be considered by the Minister in preparing a final management plan.

Copies of the plans are available free from Claire Grant, Senior Conservation Officer Management Planning, PO Box 149, Charleville QLD 4470, phone (07) 4654 4712, fax (07) 4654 1418.

Copies can be inspected or obtained in person in business hours at the Naturally Queensland Information Centre, 160 Ann Street, Brisbane. The plans are also displayed on the Environmental Protection Agency's website (www.epa.qld.gov.au).

Comments should be sent to Senior Conservation Officer, Management Planning, PO Box 149, Charleville QLD 4470, fax (07) 4654 1418, to be received by 28 August 2004.



Queensland Government
Environmental Protection Agency
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

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Australian Government

Department of Communications,
Information Technology and the Arts

A Review of the Viability of Creating an Indigenous Digital Television Service

The Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts is conducting a review into the viability of establishing an Indigenous digital television broadcasting service. This review is one of a number of reviews being conducted by the department on the digital television regulatory framework.

A discussion paper has been prepared for community comment. This discussion paper will be used to canvass issues relevant to the review and the regulatory arrangements that should apply to the digital transmission of such a service.

Stakeholders and interested members of the community are encouraged to participate in the review. The discussion paper is available from the Consultation link on the Broadcasting home page at www.dcit.gov.au or by calling free call 1800 680 841.

Submissions close 10 August 2004.

A meeting with representatives from the department to discuss the review will be held from 5.30pm to 7.30pm at:

Aborigines Advancement League, 2 Watt Street, Thornbury, Melbourne on Thursday 15 July 2004 and interested parties are invited to attend.



● LEFT: Community Elders at right, and members of West Coast Aboriginal communities and the South Australian Government holding the plaque (top) and (below), some of those who attended the ceremony.

● ABOVE: The community respectfully joins in the smoking ceremony.

Remains returned

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Support for Koori Carers

Carers are "people who provide or have provided unpaid care and support to a person who has needs associated with disability, ageing, ongoing physical and/or mental illness"

- Do you care for someone at home?
- Do you need a break?
- Would you like to meet other Carers?

Carers ACT can provide Carers with:

- Information about services in the Canberra community
- Physical, emotional and social support
- Organising respite
- After hours respite care in times of crisis or emergency
- Someone to "lend an ear" to listen to you
- Access to respite in nursing homes or hostels
- Referral to other services for ongoing support
- Counselling • Social and recreational programs
- Carer's lounge • Educational programs

Koori Support Group

The Koori Support Group is an ideal opportunity to gain social support from other Koori Carers in the ACT

Contact Jacqui Brandy, Indigenous Coordinator at Carers ACT
(02) 6296 9924



After more than a century spending a world away from their traditional lands, remains of 31 Aboriginal people have been returned home to the west coast of South Australia.

In a very moving reburial, community from surrounding areas came together to ensure their ancestors were respectfully returned to what would be their final resting place – a special spot in the local Koonibba Cemetery.

The remains had been housed in museums and private collections, and although returned some time ago, the community had wanted to carefully plan when and how they would bury their people.

Elders Wilfred Sandamar, Warren Bryant and Barker Bryant prepared the burial site according to local traditions, which included smoking each individual grave, as more than 200 community members looked on.

Chairman of the Wirungu Association Mitch Dunnnett described it as a moving

ceremony. "It is important that these remains were returned even though, in some cases, it is 100 years after they were taken. The effect on the community is positive and we feel it. It was vital for families to know their ancestors are now resting in peace in the place where they belong. You can go to a funeral and feel sorry, but this stays with you," he said.

Mr Dunnnett said the ceremony also further encouraged the community to continue to have remains returned from museums and other collections and they wanted museums to work more closely with them in the repatriation. "What we want is for museums to not just provide financial assistance for the return of remains, but to work more closely with us. It is insulting to be given money and then left to do it on our own. We did not take the remains away. They did, and they should be more responsible," he said.

As the smoking began and the Yalata Choir sang, and as prayers were said, Elder Alan Wilson read out the words on the plaque:

"This plaque celebrates the lives of 31 traditional Aboriginal ancestors whose remains were taken away from the west coast of South Australia over a period of about 100 years. Some were sent as far away as Scotland. Many were held in Adelaide.

"These people were taken for many reasons and without the consent of Aboriginal people. Some were collected by scientists in the late 1890s and early 1900s. Some were handed into the police when found, and some were held by non-Aboriginal people as souvenirs. Often only the skulls of these people were collected.

"The 31 people were returned to the west coast in 2004, and have been laid to rest at a place where Aboriginal people have always met: Koonibba Mission. May they now rest in peace."

The repatriation followed discussions between the Wirungu Association Incorporated, Koonibba Aboriginal Community Council, the South Australian Museum, the National Museum of Australia and the SA Department for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation.

NEW Aboriginal Men's and Women's Sexual Health Clinics Opening 27 July 2004

- All services including tests and treatments are free and confidential
- No Medicare card is required

Services include:

- Pap smears and breast checks
- Treatment for sexually transmitted infections
- Pregnancy information, testing and counselling
- Birth control advice

- Sexual health counselling
- Hepatitis A and B vaccinations
- Information, testing and treatment for Hepatitis C

Men's Clinic times: 2pm-4pm Tuesdays
 Women's Clinic times: 10am-12pm Fridays

Location: The Livingstone Road Clinic, 182 Livingstone Road, Marrickville.

For more information please call the Female Aboriginal Health Worker on 9515 3318 or the Male Aboriginal Health Worker on 9515 3239. You can also contact the clinic directly on 9560 3057.

These clinics are a Central Sydney Area Health Service initiative in partnership with the Aboriginal Medical Service, Redfern.



Cotton claims are wrong, says KLC

Microsoft helps out Yarnteen



Yarnteen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation is

one of the beneficiaries of Unlimited Potential (UP), a Microsoft community initiative to help people across Australia overcome the 'digital divide' regardless of their circumstances.

Microsoft is partnering with community organisations The Smith Family, Australian Seniors Computer Clubs (ASCCA), WorkVentures, Inspire Foundation and Yarnteen to provide more than \$40 million over five years to build a network of community technology learning centres (CTLs) around the country. The centres will provide Australians who face disadvantage with access to technology training, advice and support.



The Kimberley Land Council (KLC) has rejected claims that proposals to develop a cotton industry in the West Kimberley region of Western Australia had widespread support. KLC executive director Wayne Bergmann described the claims as misleading.

"A dubious three-day survey, conducted directly by the proponent, is really quite

meaningless," said Mr Bergmann. "This can not be construed as showing widespread support for the proposal."

"The cotton proposal has been 100 per cent rejected by senior traditional owners in the West Kimberley. These people spoke with full authority for country when they told State Government representatives on May 11 that they wanted no cotton on country, no feasibility studies, and no further discussions with (industry

proponent) WAI.

"It is disappointing that after years of discussion with traditional owners, WAI has failed to understand that no means no. Traditional owners are concerned about the health of the country, and the WAI proposal, with its large-scale land clearing and great thirst for water, is not sustainable in this fragile region."

"Surely we must learn from the destruction caused by over-utilisation of the Murray-

Darling system. Water and land issues are a major concern across Australia.

"WA Premier Geoff Gallop has recognised the need for better water management in the south-west of the State. Allocating control of water resources to WAI's proposal would be short-sighted."

"We must not be misled into creating water and land problems for future generations in the Kimberley."

Youth pick up award

By SOLUA MIDDLETON



A group of young Gooi people were rewarded for their achievements in Indigenous youth support, at an awards night in Lismore in northern New South Wales.

The Kids in Community Awards 2004 is in its fourth year and aims to raise public awareness of young people's commitment to community work and supporting others to benefit the community.

Gooi Youth Connections were announced as winners of the Indigenous Youth Support category, which recognises efforts of young people that result in the positive promotion of life skills, attitudes or attributes and actions of Indigenous youth, as well as closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth.

The group promotes awareness and preservation of Bundjalung cultural heritage within local Bundjalung youth. Vivienne Roberts from Gooi Youth Connections said



The Gooi Youth Connections group, from left, Roger Holten, Greg Harrington, Jessica Webb, Craig Morgan, Jamahl Roberts, former Australian rugby player Ben Darwin, Vivienne Roberts, (back) Charles King, (kneeling) Kevin Anderson and Jacinta King.

winning the award felt good. "I think that being nominated as a group will make us recognised," she said. "The key to our success probably would be that we are committed, we practise hard and that we enjoy being ourselves and learning about dance and the stories behind it."

"The thing that drives us to

succeed is that we know what other Indigenous youth are feeling, and we know what they want."

The group will also spread their cultural message to the local and international community when they go overseas to Sweden for a 12-day trip to participate in a world culture and music festival.

Getting it Right for Victoria's Indigenous Community

To start the process of consultation, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Gavin Jennings will conduct a series of Indigenous community forums across Victoria seeking Koori input into a number of changes to Aboriginal Affairs in this state including:

(A) Cultural heritage legislation.

The government wants to develop new Victorian Aboriginal cultural heritage legislation.

We need to ask Indigenous communities how we can draw on the strengths of the current Act and at the same time make improvements where necessary.

(B) The development of an Aboriginal Land and Resource Development Strategy.

It is widely acknowledged that access to land and natural resources is fundamental to Aboriginal well being.

The development of this Strategy will aim to provide a broad range of benefits to Victoria's Aboriginal people and communities, including land ownership, increased involvement in land and natural resource management, and opportunities for training, economic development and employment.

We need to ask Indigenous communities to participate in identifying the most appropriate ways that we can meet their aspirations for land.

(C) Recognition of Aboriginal People in the Victorian Constitution.

The government recently announced that it would introduce a Bill to Parliament to amend the Victorian Constitution, giving recognition to Victoria's Aboriginal people and their contribution to the state. We need to consult with Indigenous people about the appropriateness of this amendment. The Exposure Draft of the Bill can be viewed at www.dvc.vic.gov.au

(D) Finally the forums will ask the Indigenous community response to the whole of government approach to service delivery in Victoria.

Over the past five years the government has developed a series of strategies targeting the needs of Aboriginal people, including the Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement and the Department of Human Services's Aboriginal Services Plan.

These strategies represent a significant advance in the coordination of Indigenous programs and policy but we need to ask the Indigenous community how we can strengthen our Whole of Government approach.

The Indigenous Community Forums will be held at:

North West - Tuesday 13 July

10am - 12pm, Mildura Aboriginal Corporation

120 Madden Ave Mildura

3 - 5pm, Swan Hill & District Aboriginal Co-operative

79B Chapman Street Swan Hill

Melbourne - Wednesday 14 July

10am - 1pm, Aborigines Advancement League

2 Watt Street Thornbury

South West - Monday 19 July

2.30 - 4.30pm, Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation

21 Scott Street Heywood

South West - Wednesday 21 July

10am - 12pm, Brambuk

Grampians Road Halls Gap

North East - Thursday 22 July

10am - 12pm, Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation

21 Howell Street Wadonga

2.30 - 4.30pm, Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-op

Mercury Drive Shepparton

Gippsland - Tuesday 27 July

10am - 12pm, Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation

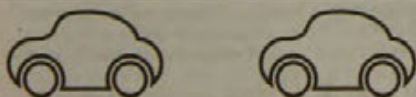
48 Mc Allister St. Sale

4 - 6pm, Moogji Aboriginal Council

52-54 Stanley Street Cribston



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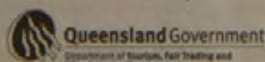
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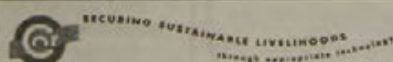
Ph (07) 3246 1599

Mon, Wed-Sat 8:30am-4:45pm

Tues 9:30am-4:45pm



Department of Tourism, Fair Trading and Wine Industry Development



Expression of Interest

The Centre for Appropriate Technology is seeking technically skilled people interested in delivering training to Indigenous people in Alice Springs and on Remote communities in the areas of:

- Automotive
- General Carpentry
- Building and Construction
- Welding

Casual and full time-positions will be available in the near future.

Forward a resume and covering letter to:

Lucy Ayre
PO Box 8044
Alice Springs, NT. 0871

For further information contact Janice Harris

Phone: (08) 8951 4350
Fax: (08) 8951 4333
E-Mail: info@icat.org.au
Website: www.icat.org.au

Closing Date: Wednesday 28th June 2004.

Aboriginal school opens in Bunbury



ABOVE: Local artist Troy Bennell with his painting at the school in Bunbury.

LEFT: The pre-primary class students and staff.

Class of their own



Department of State and Regional Development



Building a Future in Business



DIZ Home Improvements

Aboriginal builder and businessman Doug Delaney established DIZ Home Improvements in 2001. The St Mary's based company provides high quality renovation and home improvement services across Sydney.

In 2003, DIZ Home Improvements completed 126 housing upgrades and 93 kitchen installations. The firm's success was recognised when it was named co-winner in the Emerging Business category of the 2003 Aboriginal Employment and Business Awards.

The company attributes its achievements to quality workmanship, tight financial management and highly skilled staff of 17 people, many of whom are Aboriginal.

DIZ Home Improvements worked with the NSW Government's Department of State and Regional Development to set up a traineeship program to provide sustainable career pathways for six young Aboriginal people.

The Department assists Aboriginal people to develop successful, enduring commercial enterprises through its services and programs delivered in Sydney and regional NSW.

These include:

- The Business Review Program, which assesses the current position of an Indigenous business and identifies steps to help build the enterprise;
- The Aboriginal Business Link Program which supports groups of businesses to participate in industry trade shows;
- The Budyari Ngalaya: Business Partnerships Program which helps Aboriginal businesses and communities link with non-indigenous firms to provide employment for Aboriginal people, encourage supply of goods and services by Aboriginal firms, or offer mentoring for Aboriginal business owners.

For more information on NSW Government initiatives for Aboriginal business visit the small business website www.aboriginalbiz.nsw.gov.au or phone 02 9338 6600.

By SOLUA MIDDLETON



Aboriginal children from Bunbury, in the south of Western Australia, will have a better chance at preserving their culture and traditions,

thanks to a new school. The Djidi Djidi Aboriginal School was established in 1996 and began as an infant primary school but each year the numbers have grown and the school now caters for Kindergarten to Year 7, boasting about 120 students and 24 staff.

The new school was officially opened last week in a ceremony attended by parents, students, teachers, Elders, community and government representatives.

The school is modern, clean, student- and teacher-friendly, welcoming, colourful and culturally appropriate. Students have a cultural centre, a fire to cook damper, and a water feature, as well as a Noongar language centre.

Djidi Djidi principal Felicity Dear says the Aboriginal school plays an important role to mainstream education because it makes Aboriginal culture a central theme to its programs while in other schools Indigenous culture or studies is just one component.

WA Education Minister Alan Carpenter officially opened the school. He said he had a strong belief in Noongar culture and he felt the school would deliver a great benefit to the community.

Mr Carpenter said: "You've created something wonderful.

"It has grown organically out of the community, rather than plonked down by the government.

"I've never seen a better primary school ... enjoy yourselves and enrich yourselves."

Noongar language is compulsory and some of the students are bringing it home to their parents and teaching them their own language.

"By having a language at school the kids are reclaiming it back," said



The entry sign at Djidi Djidi School in Bunbury.

Ms Dear. "Everyone knows kids learn language better at a young age. That is why we start in kindie here.

"Their own self-esteem and cultural pride is boosted by just being able to go home and communicate with their parents and not feeling like a minority."

The school has a bus that picks up all the children from home, and Ms Dear says that the school has a 93 per cent attendance rate. The State average is 95.6 per cent.

Djidi Djidi also caters for children with special needs. There are students with cerebral palsy, learning disabilities and deafness. Ms Dear says these children fit in with the rest of the school and that the rooms are designed so that hearing is maximised for children who suffer from otitis media (glue ear).

Oh, and students at Djidi Djidi don't address their teachers as Mr or Mrs - they are called Aunty and Uncle.

\$16.2m for TSI works



The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) has welcomed the Federal

Government's \$16.2 million commitment to major infrastructure development on Torres Strait's geographically challenged islands.

TSRA chairman John Toshie Kris said this third release of funding by the Australian Government to complete the last phase of the Major Infrastructure Program (MIP) would enable this strategy to continue.

"This injection of funds by the Australian Government is crucial to our communities' future development, health and well-being by effectively addressing some of the core problems that were identified as contributing to the poor health of our people," Mr Kris said.

"It's the introduction of these essential services like sewage reticulation and improved quality and quantity of water available in outer island communities which has

contributed to significant improvements in the poor health of our people. "Certainly there is still a lot of work to be done in the Torres Strait before the standard of living reaches a level that is comparable to that enjoyed by the



JOHN TOSHIE KRIS

majority of Australians on the mainland, but with projects like the MIP that adopt a strategic and whole-of-government approach, we are making significant headway."

Mr Kris said that since 1998 the Commonwealth and Queensland governments had equally contributed a total of \$60 million towards MIP projects in the Torres Strait.

"We are hopeful that the Queensland Government will match the support of the Australian Government and allocate this funding for MIP stage three for 2004-2007 in its next budget," he said.

is completing justice studies in Brisbane, with the goal of transferring to law next year. "I want to be an international model and a lawyer, specifically representing Indigenous people," she said.

Koori woman aims to be a model lawyer



Not many aspiring lawyers also aim to be international models, but

those are the goals for young Koori woman Melissa Greenwood.



MELISSA GREENWOOD: Modelling is empowering and great fun.

And she's already well on the way to both, studying full-time at QUT in Brisbane while also capitalising on a short but successful modelling career.

The 19-year-old from Bowraville, on the NSW north coast, is already a finalist in the Miss Indy Quest on the Gold Coast in September as well as the QC (Queen of Clubs) Model Search.

And she will feature in the 2005 Australian Swimsuit Calendar out in September, being named Miss January for what is one of Australia's biggest selling calendars.

"I'm hoping all the Aboriginal people out there will get the calendar and vote for me, giving me the chance to represent Australia in the world finals," Ms Greenwood said.

She also appears in a Coca-Cola television ad currently appearing on national television.

In between modelling assignments, Ms Greenwood

is completing justice studies in Brisbane, with the goal of transferring to law next year.

"You've got to have goals, and these are mine."

Ms Greenwood, whose sister Sandy, 23, is also a model, rejects any idea that being a fashion model is demeaning to women.

"Quite the opposite, I find it empowering," she says. "And on top of that, it's great fun."

Lynskey joins Reconciliation Australia



Mike Lynskey, who helped Fred Hollows build one of the most successful and best known not-for-profit organisations in Australia, the Fred Hollows Foundation, has been appointed chief executive of Reconciliation Australia.

Mr Lynskey's move comes at a time of considerable uncertainty in Indigenous affairs and signals a new era of influence and activity for Reconciliation Australia.

"I take on this role with great trepidation. Many good people in Australia are working their guts out to make things better between Indigenous and non-Indigenous

Australians. I look forward to talking with them in my new role with Reconciliation Australia. Their advice and involvement will be crucial," he said.

"I am also very conscious that there are no quick fixes. I sense impatience amongst some Indigenous people at the pace of change."

Disability Support Available

Family Support Programs for Adults

Additional support is now available for families caring for an adult with a disability.

Disability Services Queensland now has new funding to help families caring for an adult family member with high and complex disability support needs living in the family home.

Assistance will be provided as required to support families on the basis of priority of need.

Interested families can obtain further information and relevant Application and Registration forms from:

www.disability.qld.gov.au or

Brisbane (07) 3109 7007

North Qld (07) 4727 0666

Central Qld/Wide Bay (07) 4932 1600

Ipswich/South West (07) 3280 1872

Nth Coast (07) 5490 1080

Sth Coast (07) 3287 0742

For general information contact the Disability Information and Awareness Line (DIAL)

Phone: 1800 177 120 toll free

Closing date for applications: 6 August 2004



The NSW Government's Environmental Trust invites applications to the

Protecting our Places Aboriginal Grants Program

This program supports Aboriginal community groups and organisations to protect land that is significant to Aboriginal people and run education projects about the environment and its importance in Aboriginal life.

Grants of between \$2,000 and \$45,000 are available.

(Total program \$500,000)

Applications close at 5pm on 27 August 2004

Workshops will be held to help applicants prepare a quality grant application. The workshops will be in Lismore (12 July), Armidale (14 July), Dubbo (15 July), Deniliquin (20 July), Wagga Wagga (21 July), Queanbeyan (23 July), Brewarrina (26 July) and Parramatta (28 July).

To register for workshops phone Suzanne Chong on (02) 9995 5369.

For more information about the program and support with filling out your application, contact the Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Jackie Puckeridge, on (02) 9995 5326.

Guidelines and application forms are available on the Trust website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/envtrust



Adelaide soccer star Fred Agius, right, attended the NAIDOC celebrations at Yatala Prison with Sandy Agius and played a friendly game of soccer with the inmates, including Travis Agius (centre). The three men are cousins.

Big day for prisoners

SA Indigenous inmates at Yatala Labour Prison in Adelaide's northern suburbs received a rare treat during NAIDOC Week with visits from several AFL stars and rising soccer star Fred Agius.

Inmates mingled with their sporting heroes including Chad and Kane Cornes, Dominic Cassisi and James Schofield from the Port Power team.

And while the Port players signed autographs and happily chatted to the inmates, Fred Agius brought along some teammates to challenge the boys to a soccer game.

Among the other highlights of the day were visits from many Elders, who were warmly welcomed. Those Elders included Josie Agius, Joy Wilson, Coral Wilson, Dianne Sansbury and Tom Karpany, who has been visiting the prison for more than 20 years.

"I love to come here to give the men some encouragement and talk about what they'll do when they get out," Mr Karpany told the Koori Mail. "It's important that they know we care about them. It's hard being in here, and I know our visits make life a little easier for them."

A barbecue lunch cooked by the inmates was shared by the visitors. The day was organised by the Aboriginal liaison officers at the prison.



These women visit the inmates at Yatala Prison regularly, as part of an Aboriginal inmate support program. They are, from left, Joy Wilson, Josie Agius, Coral Wilson and Dianne Sansbury.



Eric Guerkin, Elder George Tongerie and Michael Taylor.

Plenty to do in Sth Australia

SA NAIDOC week was celebrated across South Australia with a wide range of activities. Many communities, in the metropolitan and country centres, celebrated with official flag-raising ceremonies.

At Port Adelaide, the Port

Adelaide Enfield Council and local Indigenous youth performing arts company Kurruru jointly hosted an awards night - one of the feature events of the week.

The Indigenous Person of the Year was awarded to Auntie Veronica Brodie and a merit award went to Lesley Sparrow. Cameron Miller received the Young Indigenous

Person award with a merit award given to Kerron Miller.

Other highlights of the week included the launch of several art exhibitions, including the 2004 NAIDOC Exhibition 'Our Harmony' at Salisbury.

In Adelaide's southern suburbs a family fun day was held at the Hackham West Community Centre featuring

hip-hop workshops, body art tattooing and a barbecue.

Another community event was held by the Port Adelaide Enfield Council and Kurruru at the Parks Community Centre. Football and netball clinics were enjoyed by dozens of youngsters. The highlight of the week was the NAIDOC march through the city of Adelaide. Hundreds took part.



Children perform at the fun day in Adelaide.



Four-year-old twins Dharma and Kasmira Ducasse enjoyed NAIDOC Week.



Direk school helped prepare this work which was featured in a NAIDOC art exhibition at the Salisbury Council. Pictured with the students are artists Raylene Snow, Cecelia O'Loughlin and Rosslyn Richards from Marra Dreaming.



● LEFT: Getting into the NAIDOC spirit at The Parks were Caleb Webster, 7, Rosemary Webster, Kelly Mundy and Joy Pollard.



● RIGHT: These kids celebrated NAIDOC week at the City of Port Adelaide and Kurruru Awards Night.



● ABOVE: Local girls Rikkia Brooking, Whitney Roe, Caitlin George and Josephine Baker take part in the fashion show at the Palmerston NAIDOC day.
 ● LEFT: A display of traditional dance performed by the Darwin Correctional Services Dancers set the mood for the day.

Dancers a highlight

By Darwin correspondent
DELSEY TAMIANO



The Palmerston Family and Community Day held at Marlow Lagoon marked the beginning of yet another week of NAIDOC celebrations in the Top End.

The day opened with a display of traditional dance performed by the Darwin Correctional Services Dancers. The performance set the mood for a day which had a strong focus on the survival of culture and community spirit.

Other activities included a talent quest, basket weaving with Larrakia woman Lorraine Williams, joyrides in the back of the Aboriginal Community Policing Unit paddy wagon, a fashion parade organised by Lenore Dembski of Paperbark Woman, and several display stalls. Families also tucked into a free barbecue which was cooked by members of the Palmerston Lions Club.

In line with this year's theme of 'Self-Determination: Our Community; Our Future; Our Responsibility', local youth were invited to raise the flags at a ceremony hosted by the Palmerston City Council. In his address to the gathering, recently elected Yilli Rreung ATSIC Regional Council chairman Kimberley Hunter acknowledged that the history of NAIDOC went back to 1937 when



Candidate for Solomon Jim Davidson, NT Leader of the Opposition and Member for Blain Terry Mills, Yilli Rreung ATSIC Regional Council chairman Kimberley Hunter, NT Minister Marion Scrymgour and Senator Trish Crossin sing 'Bad Habits'.

Aboriginal people began to lobby government about their plight with the call by William Cooper for a national day of mourning.

He said: "Further down the track, in this day and age, things haven't really changed, with the Government trying to do away with ATSIC/ATSIS."

Mr Hunter also noted the importance of the youth. "It will be our young people that will endeavour to drive the needs, wishes and aspirations of Indigenous people in the future," he said.

Also present was Harold Thomas, the

designer of the Aboriginal flag. Palmerston Elders were treated to a luncheon and joined by a number of the Territory's highest-ranking politicians including Australia's first and only female Indigenous Minister, Marion Scrymgour. In a lighthearted moment, the polities were asked for their contribution to the newly introduced 'singing for your supper' tax. At the request of the Elders, they took to the stage to sing the appropriately entitled song, 'Bad Habits'.

● Palmerston NAIDOC chairwoman Joanie Mullins thanked the committee

members for their work in planning and organising the week's activities and praised the ongoing support of local businesses and organisations that contributed which included ATSIC, Yilli Rreung Aboriginal Housing Corporation, Northern Land Council, Palmerston Community Wheel, National Native Title Tribunal, Darwin Regional CDEP, Palmerston Lions Club, Dennis Lew Fatt (Darwin Correctional Services), The Hub Palmerston Sports Club, Palmerston City Council, Warren Snowdon, Member for Blain Terry Mills, Tasma Nicholl, Palmerston YMCA, Indigenous Sports Club, Radio Larrakia, TEABBA Radio, Top FM Radio, John Wilson (Palmerston and Beyond/ Palmerston Around Town), Darwin Bakery, Danila Dilba Aboriginal Medical Service, St John Ambulance, Garden Point Association, Aboriginal Community Policing Unit, Palmerston Senior Songsters, Palmerston Senior Boot Scooters, Talent Quest Judges, Rod and Judy Joyce, Aunty Nan Marron, Joseph Daby, Lenore Dembski and Lorraine Williams.

Palmerston NAIDOC's week of activities ended with two house parties held for local youth at the Palmerston YMCA.

● More highlights of Darwin NAIDOC celebrations hosted by Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation will be in the next edition of Koori Mail.



● LEFT: Yilli Rreung Housing general manager John Nal-Smith, Palmerston NAIDOC chairwoman Joan Mullins and Yilli Rreung housing policy and development officer Garry Gardiner at the flag-raising ceremony.



● RIGHT: Boydy Scully with Roy and Val Manaway at the seniors luncheon.

They're the pride of the West



West Australian NAIDOC award winners are pictured above. LEFT: Award-winner Gingala Yarren-Clanton with three of her five daughters, Deja Anne, Gingala Rose and Thiera.



● ABOVE: Ashley Saltner and junior dancers explain aspects of Indigenous culture to a young crowd member.

● RIGHT: Darryl Ross and six-year-old nephew Noel Ross at the opening of NAIDOC Week in Townsville.

A time to share culture

By ALF WILSON



A young non-Indigenous girl walked up to traditional dancers in Townsville's Flinders Mall during the opening ceremony of NAIDOC Week celebrations and asked what was the significance of the didgeridoos they had.

Dancer Ashley Saltner was delighted to answer her question and to also explain the significance of NAIDOC.

The girl was one of many non-Indigenous people who learnt about NAIDOC celebrations and Aboriginal and Islander culture during the official opening for Townsville and Thuringowa.

One of the highlights of opening day was the raising of the Aboriginal flag on a high pole in the Mall and this was watched by hundreds.

Elders Francis Tapim and Graham Pattel gave inspirational speeches to the crowd before the flag-raising.

Jordan Wyles, 17, Ashley Saltner jnr, 13, and Travis Barnes, 11, also danced during the opening ceremony and this was appreciated by the audience.

Also there with a didgeridoo were

Darryl Ross and his six-year-old nephew Noel Ross, who are members of the Bindal dance group.

Emmanuel Santo had a traditional hunting spear and said NAIDOC meant a lot to his people.

The week kicked off the day before on Sunday, July 4, with a multi-sports family fun day at Thuringowa Pioneer Park.

Monday saw the official opening and a corporate breakfast at Southbank Motor Convention Centre.

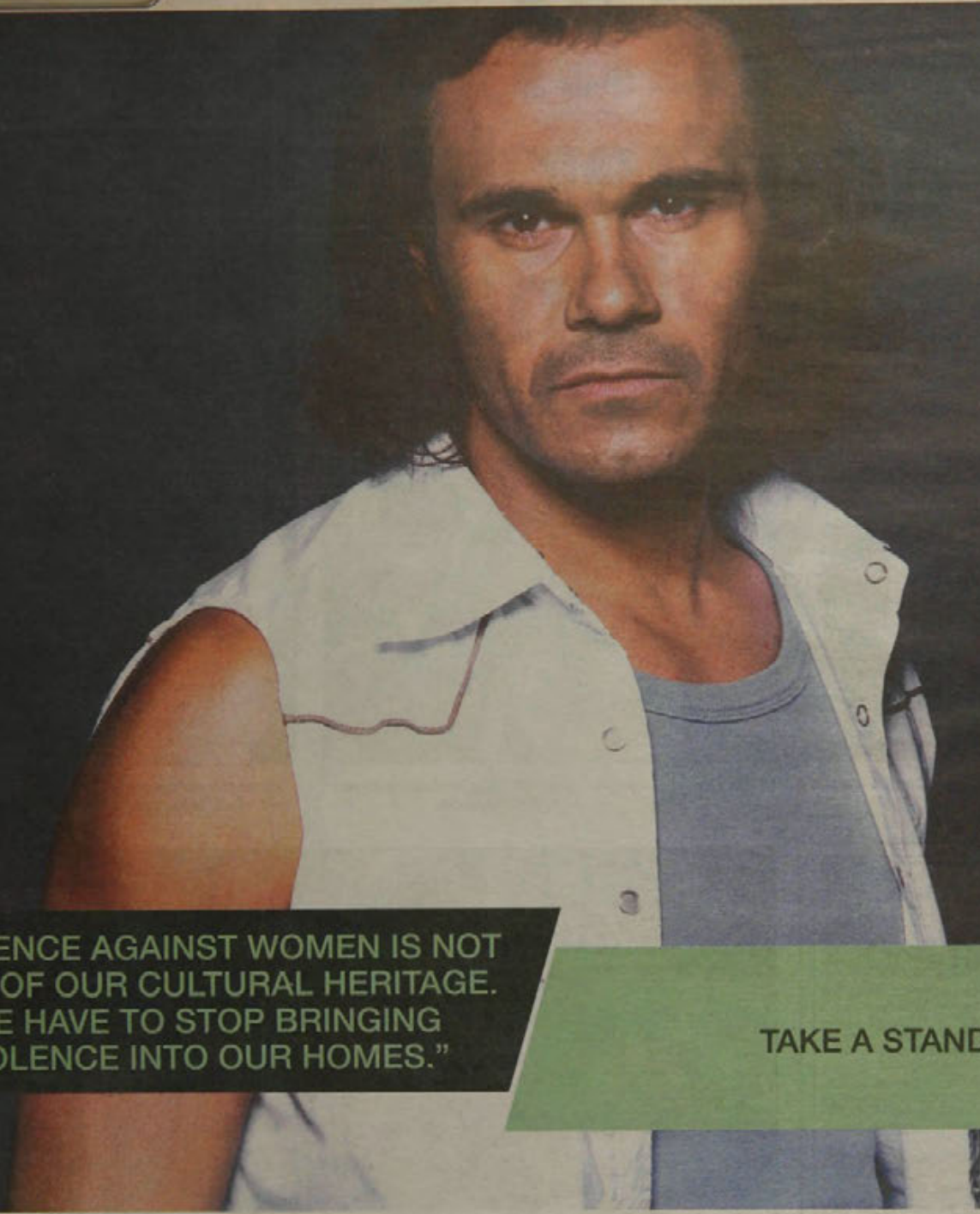
On Tuesday there was a mayor's Elders luncheon and a cultural collaborations forum and many of the Indigenous people, including visitors from outside communities, took the opportunity on the Wednesday – a public holiday in the north Queensland twin cities – to go to the Townsville Show.

Thursday saw a NAIDOC corporate dinner hosted by Thuringowa City Council and on Friday was the traditional march from Magani House in Flinders Street to Queens Park in North Ward suburb.

Saturday saw a grassroots dance at the Italian Club and Sunday completed the NAIDOC celebrations with a social golf day at Rowes Bay Club.



More NAIDOC coverage will be published in our next edition



"VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS NOT PART OF OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE. WE HAVE TO STOP BRINGING VIOLENCE INTO OUR HOMES."

TAKE A STAND.

Violence and sexual assault against women is a crime. It breaks up families and destroys communities. It's time we took a stand and said No.

If you or anyone you know has experienced violence or sexual abuse, you should report it immediately.

There's no reason to feel shame, and you should never believe that you deserved it – it's not your fault.

There's always someone who'll listen. Talk to a friend, a family member or someone you can trust. Or you can call the new confidential Helpline. You can also visit our website, www.australiasaysno.gov.au



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

AARON SAYS NO

Confidential Helpline

1800 200 526

Authorised by the Australian Government, Capital Hill, Canberra.

©MAGDOCHAY

Yet another big Hostels lunch

One of the major NAIDOC events in Canberra is the annual Aboriginal Hostels Luncheon – and this year was no exception. Hundreds of people turned out at the Hellenic Club for what was a major event, including entertainment by Christine Anu.



Aboriginal Hostels staff Matt Clark, Lisa and Sam Reardon and Matt Noone.



Emma O'Neil, left, and Trish Mu enjoyed the luncheon.



Torres Strait Islanders Lellai Hodges with Nepo Banu and, front, Masepah Bann and Tesepa Law were there.

YOUR INVITATION TO

HEALING OUR SPIRIT WORLDWIDE
CONFERENCE ON ALCOHOL & SUBSTANCE
MISUSE • September 1 to 5, 2004

HOSTED BY THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DRUG AND
ALCOHOL COUNCIL (ADAC) & THE NATIONAL INDIGENOUS
SUBSTANCE MISUSE COUNCIL (NISMIC)

The 2004 conference will focus on the concepts of healing and health care of Indigenous people, together with developing a submission to the United Nations forum on Indigenous people. 2004 is also the climax of the United Nations decade of Indigenous people and it is expected that the United Nations' will make a special declaration at the end of the year on Indigenous people.

Activities will be incorporated into the conference agenda, which will facilitate the involvement of those working in the addictions community, those in recovery as well as tribal youth and elders together with the local community and Indigenous people throughout Australia.

THE DREAMING TOGETHER EXPERIENCE 6TH
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DIABETES IN
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE • September 6 to 10, 2004

The Dreaming Together Experience is the theme for the 2004 6th International Conference on Diabetes in Indigenous Peoples at the Cairns Convention Centre. In Australia Indigenous people talk about dreaming not as dreams as such, but the stories of creation which over eons has guided Indigenous people from the past to the present day, as well as the future. The Dream Time is a way of life, and being.

For information and to register contact Indigenous Conventions on
phone 07 5448 6107 • fax 07 5448 6017
email conventionsinfo@westnet.com.au
www.indigenousconferences.com.au



Fashionable in Palmerston

NAIDOC events were held around the country. Taking part in the fashion show at Palmerston NAIDOC celebrations, in the Top End of the Northern Territory, were young girls, from left, Rose Peris, Jaylene Liddy and Christa Thomas, with Monita Ashley at the back.

Are you the Treasurer or Secretary for a:

- self-help group
- childcare centre
- closed religious order, or
- charity?

The definition and endorsement requirements for charities are changing.

Publications and services are available to explain these changes.

Visit
www.ato.gov.au/nonprofit

▶ If you need more information you can attend a **free** seminar.

To book your place phone **1300 130 248**.



Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office

Institute launched



MARCIA LANGTON



A new tertiary institute to ensure Cape York Aboriginal communities steer Indigenous policy creation in the right direction has been launched in Cairns.

The Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership, headed by Noel Pearson, was officially launched by Queensland Premier Peter Beattie and Federal Education Minister Brendan Nelson.

The institute, with a core

staff of 12 based at the TAFE campus in Cairns, aims to drive policy innovation and promote active Aboriginal participation in public policy debates.

The Federal and State governments each committed \$2.5 million to the project, which is a partnership between them, Indigenous communities on Cape York, and Griffith University, with corporate support.

Mr Pearson, the institute's inaugural director, said it had a strong agenda for welfare reform and for confronting

substance abuse in Cape communities.

"We completely agree with the actions of the Queensland Government in assisting us in putting alcohol management plans into place," he said.

"These are dynamic initiatives and we have to monitor what happens with these alcohol management plans and we have to propose policies to government to ensure these plans work for the long term."

Melbourne University professor of Indigenous studies

Marcia Langton will chair the institute's board.

The institute incorporates a think tank and research, leadership and coursework programs.

Dr Nelson said the institute would make a critical difference to Indigenous Australians, especially on the Cape.

Mr Beattie said the institute would help to ensure that young people, in particular, gained new hope and opportunities through education, mentoring and leadership. - AAP



NOEL PEARSON

Alma Stackhouse honoured



A celebration was held at the Aboriginal Elders Association in Launceston, Tasmania, in appreciation of the work of Aunty Alma Stackhouse. Aunty Alma has been involved in education for 25 years, working in a voluntary capacity in many organisations, as well as with the National Aboriginal Education Committee and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Education Consultative Committee.

Well-wishers travelled from around Tasmania and Canberra to mark the occasion. Aunty Alma's daughter, Virginia, accepted a framed certificate of appreciation from the Minister for Education on her behalf, and many relations, colleagues and departmental officers wrote their sentiments in a specially prepared satin-bound book.

Patsy Cameron, assisted by Vicki Matson-Green, acknowledged their Nanna Alma in a moving tribute to her achievements.

Aunty Alma was not able to attend, due to a spell in hospital, but some participants visited her after the celebration, where she was presented with a bouquet of roses from the Acting Premier, Paul Lennon.

The presentation for Aunty Alma was organised by the Aboriginal Education Unit, Department of Education Tasmania, in association with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Education Association.



Paula Wriedt and Aunty Alma's daughter Virginia.



Sonia Brown and Aunty Molly Mallett.



Vicki Matson-Green and Patsy Cameron.



Jim Everitt and Marianne Watson. Pictures: KAYE PRICE and MARIANNE WATSON



VERNON GRAHAM



KAYE PRICE



Rosemaria Brown and Marilyn Snooks.

2004 MUSICOZ AWARDS

CALLING ALL UNSIGNED INDIGENOUS PERFORMERS
HELP US MAKE 2004 THE YEAR FOR INDIGENOUS MUSIC

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Having your music listened to by hundreds of people?

If so the MUSICOZ Awards could be for you.

If you have a simple demo of your music please contact the MUSICOZ team on 1800 002 955 or visit www.musicoz.org to enter in the 2004 Awards or contact the Musicoz Indigenous Music Coordinator on 4227 1715.

VOLUME



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Dowling's View

Poetry

Anangu Culture Pride!

I'm an Anangu man, a McInerney
I don't have the connections
Because I'm not Ngarrindjeri
But I would like acknowledgment
Even though I'm not family.

My skin is white, because I am Celtic
Got my Anangu side
Pride, have you felt it?

Because my Mum was stolen,
Nan, an elder Anangu
From Yankunytjatjara, Antikirinja and
Luritja too.

As a grandchild, I am sad
Because I love my people and I have
nothing to grab
Nothing to hold on, because Mum's
culture was stolen
I pray to God, my hope keeps going.

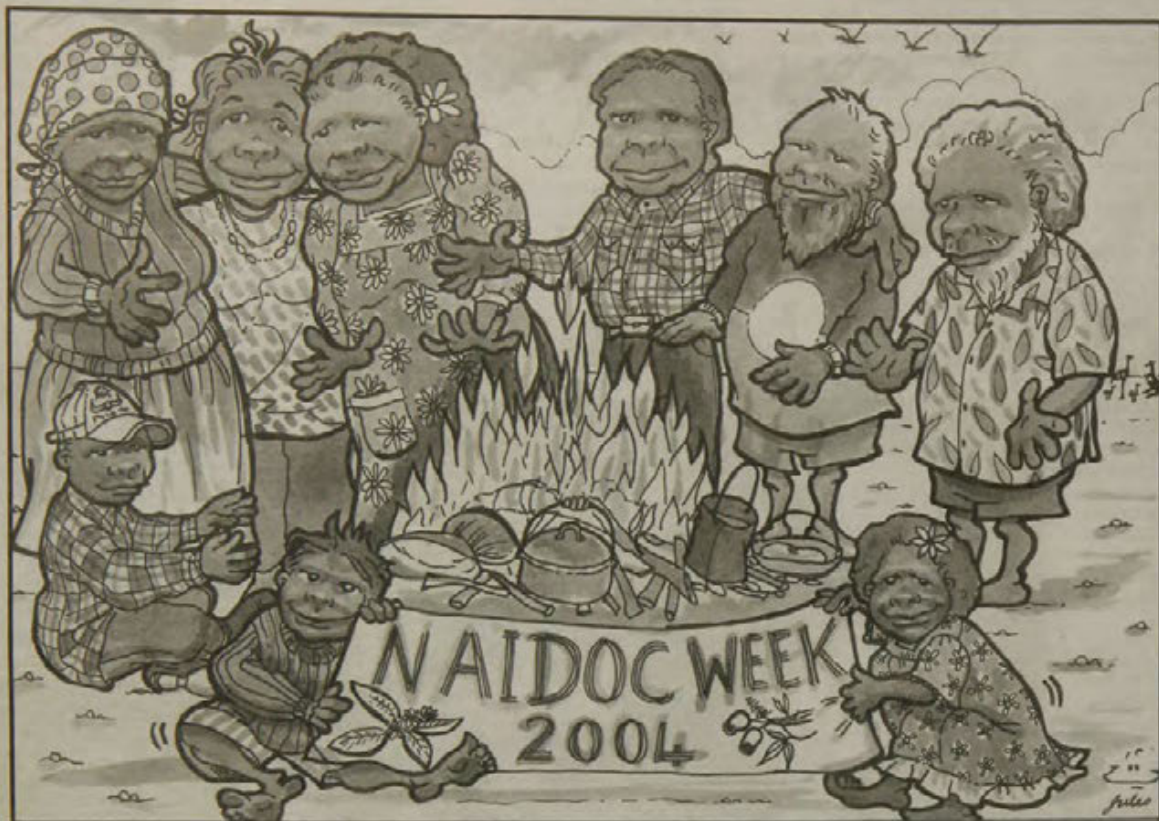
Because I have people, bringing me
down
Insulting my pride
Turning my smiles to frowns.

Because I want to stand up, in front
of a crowd
And tell every one, how much I'm
proud.

Of my Anangu blood
Which I embrace
If you question my pride
You're out of place.

Because I'm Aboriginal; through and
through
I want to learn my culture
Because I'm Anangu!

MINUNGKA-MARC McINERNEY
Adelaide, SA



From the Editor's desk

The Editor, PO Box 117, Lismore, NSW 2480 • email: editor@koorimail.com • phone: (02) 66 222 666 • fax: (02) 66 222 600

Ridgeway worthy of the award

The venue was this year's Yabun Concert in Redfern, Sydney, and the Koori Mail reporter assigned to cover the event had just met Aden Ridgeway for the first time. It was a relaxed day, with some of the best Indigenous musicians easing the crowd's pain over why they were there – it was, after all, Survival Day, or, as many call it, Invasion Day.

Senator Ridgeway was keen to chat about affairs of the nation, and wanted to introduce the reporter to his press secretary.

Then a couple of aunties approached the senator. They wanted advice about a problem they were having. Senator Ridgeway excused himself from the reporter, asking if he would not mind waiting while he spoke with the senior women.

The best part of half an hour later, Senator Ridgeway resumed proceedings with our reporter, who didn't mind in the least about having to wait – the music was

good and there were plenty of good photo opportunities. It was then that the reporter met the senator's press person.

We recount this tale as an example of Senator Ridgeway's standing in the Aboriginal community, and his willingness to listen to community members.

To the aunties, Aden Ridgeway represented a man in a leadership position and someone who may be able to help them. To Senator Ridgeway, the aunties represented his people – and he must listen to his people.

It is fitting that Senator Ridgeway is this year's NAIDOC National Person of the Year.

The past few years have not been a good time for Aboriginal leadership. There's been the troubled ATSIC leadership, which has given an unfriendly – some might even say adversarial – Federal Government excuses to attack and dismantle the national body.

And there's many a good leader who must despair about the attacks against Indigenous self-determination by this unfriendly Government.

Amid all this, Aden Ridgeway has steadfastly spoken out against the wrongs in Indigenous society. He has done so with great dignity and with great pride in his heritage.

Senator Ridgeway himself says 'there is no greater honour for an Indigenous person than to be acknowledged by your own people with an award like NAIDOC National Person of the Year'.

"I don't want to downplay the significance of this award but it is not a separate moment in my life, it places me in a continuum of culture – in one of the oldest living cultures in the world," Senator Ridgeway said. "Our culture has had its 'award-winners' before me and will have many more after me. We are not all going to

get awards like this one; there just aren't enough to go around."

As only the second Indigenous Federal parliamentarian, Senator Ridgeway stands as a role model to Indigenous Australians.

He says he believes it will not be long until he is joined in Canberra by more Aboriginal politicians, including a black prime minister.

It is to be hoped that that is the case. Indigenous Australians must be a part of the system if they want to change it.

And if it happens that one day there is a black prime minister of Australia, Aden Ridgeway – and his Federal parliamentary predecessor Neville Bonner – will have played a major role in that.

Koori Mail congratulates not only Aden Ridgeway, but all recipients of NAIDOC awards, from national level to grassroots level. You've done your race and your culture proud.

The Koori Mail welcomes your letters and poems. Please send them to any of the addresses listed on Page 2. 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.

Where are our MPs?

Families express their gratitude

Since our invasion in 1788, white politicians have been making decisions for Aboriginal Australia. We have never had any control of our destinies.

And their paternalistic attitudes have never given us equality, or autonomy, or self-determination.

And (prime minister) little Johnnie Howard (10 foot tall) wants to mainstream all our Aboriginal services, which will deny us the rights to be Aborigines of Australia, but will be another form of assimilation, and turn us into Europeans with black skins, which was legislated for by Paul Hasluck in the 1940s and 1950s.

Charles Perkins should have been our first Aboriginal minister in Parliament, yet a lot of people might beg to differ. He was university educated and was in the public service where he was not supposed to make comment on politics, but, as soon as Aboriginal issues were mentioned in the media, he was there with his mouth going, talkin' for us.

The white political powers in Australia will never let Aboriginal Australians have any political power to run our own destinies! They are so used to telling us who we are, and what to do, and the closest Charles came to being our minister was as secretary to the white minister of Aboriginal affairs (there ya go). Their dispossession of us has made us welfare-dependent, which we constantly get blamed for. We never dispossessed ourselves, white Australia did!

We have had only had two Aboriginal politicians in 216 years of colonial history in Australia, Senator Neville Bonner and Aden Ridgeway, yet you have every ethnic minority portrayed generously in State and Federal parliaments. Where are my mob to talk on behalf of our people?

The Maori have been sharing the parliament in New Zealand with the Pakea (white man) for over 100 years and they had a treaty which the Poms reneged on (Watangi Treaty).



RUBY LANGFORD GINIBI

This country should have educated my people long time ago, so we could take our rightful place in this now multi-cultural Australia.

And we would never have this division we now live with today. We were never allowed into mainstream schools because of the racism of white Australia. Hence we are a long way behind everyone in Australia – even the multi-cultural ones are treated better than we, who are the First People of this land.

Big shame Australia, I say, big shame!

And you only have an Anglo Saxon history taught in

Australian schools, which says nothing about our timeless, ancient culture. And the laws of this land, from Old Westminster, England, that we all have to live by – they are not the laws of this land. Our Aboriginal laws are the first laws of this land, but are not recognised or acknowledged.

When will this country acknowledge the fact that we never gave up our sovereign rights to our land, because there were no treaties made with us. It was only cultural theft of our land, history, and heritage.

We must have a treaty, or a bill of rights, so that any incoming political power – Liberal, Labor, Democrats, Greens or whatever – will never be able to dispossess my people again.

We Kooris are not multi-cultural, we never migrated here – we were always here, since time immemorial.

And as for our degrees of caste, we were not responsible for those degrees of caste, because of the rape

of our grandmothers.

Besides, the only real Aborigines in Australia, according to the white governments, are the full-blood tribal ones sitting on a rock with a spear in his hand, hunting and gathering. But we define ourselves as the descendants of those traditional ones.

RUBY LANGFORD GINIBI
Eagle Vale, NSW

Mahalia Lester

Tranby Aboriginal College is holding some personal effects belonging to Mahalia Lester.

Could she please contact Julia on (02) 9660 3444 as we would like to return them to her.

JULIA MANT
Archivist, Tranby
Aboriginal College
13 Mansfield Street
Glebe, NSW, 2037
Phone (02) 9660 3444
Email:
archives@tranby.com.au

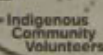
On behalf of Glen Mason, and our entire family, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all the people, organisations and services who extended to us such generous and overwhelming kindness, support, and assistance in our time of grief. We are deeply and humbly grateful to all of you for your compassion and sympathy at the passing of Joanne, Keith, Brenda-Lee and Glenn Jnr.

From the
Mason/Williams/
Ingrey families of the
La Perouse and south
coast Aboriginal
communities.

DO YOU NEED NEW SKILLS?

Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV) assists Indigenous communities by supporting skills transfer projects

THIS IS A FREE SERVICE



Our goal is to work with Indigenous communities/organisations to build a stronger future for themselves, in their own way. Communities identify what skills they want, design their projects, discuss their ideas with ICV and submit an application. ICV will match a skilled volunteer to the project.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities anywhere in Australia can ask for a volunteer. There is no fee. ICV works closely with the community to support the project.

Phone toll-free
1800 819 542



Western Sydney Aboriginal Child Youth and Family Plan 2003-2006 (WSACYFP) Call for Expressions of Interest

The WSACYFP 2003-2006 is a holistic planning approach which aims to deliver services through an 'Aboriginal Family Network' to Aboriginal children, young people and their families across Western Sydney through a number of funding programs and cross agency collaboration.

The Department of Community Services (DoCS) invites Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from incorporated non-profit organisations to provide a service across the Richmond, Windsor, Penrith and Blue Mountains areas. The service will link closely with other WSACYFP Plan components and will aim to:

- Strengthen connections between communities and families;
- Assist families who need extra support;
- Strengthen key protective factors for young people and reduce risks; and
- Assist in keeping young people at school to achieve their educational attainment.

Funds are available for this service, through the Aboriginal Child Youth and Family Strategy- \$180,000 in 2004/05 and \$200,000 in 2005/06. One off establishment costs are also available.

Joint EOIs are encouraged. Funds will not be split across more than one organisation.

Further information is provided in the Information Package and the 2003-06 Western Sydney Aboriginal Child Youth and Family Plan (WSACYFP).

Expressions of interest close 5pm Friday 13 August 2004. Information packages are available from Belinda Cashman, DoCS Metro West Region on (02) 4732 1322 or e-mail Belinda.Cashman@community.nsw.gov.au for an electronic package.

Important Note:

The act of inviting Expressions of Interest does not commit the Department of Community Services to the provision of funding to any prospective service provider.



Queensland Government
Department of Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Policy

Indigenous wages and savings reparations process

- Are you Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?
- Did you live or work in Queensland at any time up to the 1980s?
- Were you born on or before 31 December 1956?
- Do you believe the Queensland Government controlled your wages or your savings under a 'Protection Act' at any time up to the 1980s?

If you have answered 'yes' to all of the above questions, you may be eligible for a reparation payment of either \$2,000 or \$4,000 from the Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy (DATSIP).

This process is scheduled to finish 31 December 2005.

For further information, go to www.datsip.qld.gov.au and follow the links: DATSIP programs > Work and savings histories.

Information, including claim forms, is also available from the DATSIP Work and Savings Histories Branch. Freecall 1800 809 097 or phone (07) 3235 9645, or write to PO Box 397, Brisbane Albert Street QLD 4002.



Michael Connolly's number plate designed in the Aboriginal colours, and (below), the Mackay number plate.

What's the difference?

I read with interest the letter titled 'An Aboriginal plate' (Koori Mail, June 16). The number plate's design has been well thought out, and I would love to see it in colour.

Opening our local paper this month, they show a number plate depicting a tropical sunset with the slogan 'Mackay - Tropical Haven'.

While it looks nice, I don't think it any different to Michael's plate.

The plate can be viewed at the website www.ppq.com.au

Hope you can use this to justify Michael's plate coming to fruition.

STEVE CHRISTIAN
Mackay, Qld



Paying respect to Herbert Simms

Recently I read a funeral notice for the late Herbert Simms, of La Perouse. He had been a respected Commonwealth public servant for many years. May I, a gubba (white man) who had known him when I lived in Sydney, add my own respects to his memory.

Mr Simms first came to public notice after a short time in the NSW Welfare Board staff when he and Ray Saunders were together appointed as liaison officers in the Office of Aboriginal Affairs (about December 1967) serving a Council for Aboriginal Affairs whose chairman would be HG 'Nugget' Coombs in 1968.

He took good advantage of his transfers in this way to the Commonwealth public service. In the work of OAA and in later departments,

Mr Simms was a steady, honest and responsible worker and he won promotions.

In 1995 I received a friendly letter from Herbert Simms in thanks for the 1967 referendum.

This change in law had enabled him to transfer his service to different departments, he wrote.

At the 2000 Corroboree weekend, when the Government House reception was opened by the Premier of New South Wales, Mr Simms welcomed all the guests to Eora country.

He was also in the first golf buggy to cross the Sydney Harbour Bridge on the following day, leading the procession.

JACK HORNER
Dickson, ACT

Ruby, please put your story on CD

I read in the Koori Mail (June 16) about Ruby Hunter telling her story via a musical piece.

I know a bit about both Archie Roach's and Ruby's struggles, hurts and pain from a mutual friend, and I am proud of them both. They have both been in dark places of pain and sadness but today they shine.

Aborigines are great story-tellers, via yarning, music, songs and poetry.

Please, Ruby, put your story on video or CD, so I can listen and live your story in full.

Best wishes and bless you both.

NAJELLA GREEN
Palm Beach, Qld



RUBY HUNTER

After ATSIIC



MICHAEL MANSELL

While Prime Minister John Howard was wrong to close ATSIIC without first getting Aboriginal approval, ATSIIC will be seen by Tasmanian Aborigines as like the bad weather we're getting - glad to see the back of it!

ATSIIC was an experiment worth trying but which lost its way. In the finish ATSIIC was out of touch with the Aboriginal people it was meant to serve, which helped bring about its own demise.

There will be little difference on the ground when ATSIIC is gone. However, there is a need for a

national voice for Aboriginal people and an Aboriginal government should replace ATSIIC. Along with the Federal Government, the six State governments, the two Territory governments and the hundred or so local governments, an Aboriginal government's powers would be strictly spelled out.

Just as the courts resolve disputes between existing tiers of government, so too could that arrangement determine how far Aboriginal government could go.

But the powers of a black government should at least include

the right to speak openly on behalf of Aboriginal people without fear of a Federal government being able to close it down. Aboriginal customary laws developing new programs and gaining better education for Aboriginal people should also be its domain.

Our real issue is not to save ATSIIC but to save our services. The Prime Minister wants to shut down Aboriginal legal aid in the guise of putting the services out to tender. He also wants to stop Aborigines getting legal aid where they have a prior conviction, and wants legal aid

to stay away from law reform activities such as changing public drunkenness laws, identifying systemic discriminatory practices in the courts and by police and so on.

This will result in a higher number of Aborigines being put in jails. In Tasmania it is already the case that Aborigines are six times more likely to go to jail than anyone else and 16 times more likely nationally.

MICHAEL MANSELL
Tasmanian Aboriginal
Centre legal spokesman

Overlooked again

Prime Minister John Howard has it wrong - it is not the ATSIIC board or councillors he needs to remove from the system; it is his very own people he should be removing.

The day that the ATSIIC staff were to move on to their new departments, the Sydney office was still making decisions on who should be getting funding. Campbelltown (western Sydney) missed out. ATSIIC has never funded a program in this area and now never will.

This is home to the second largest Aboriginal group in the Australia and still it cannot get funding.

I do hope that Opposition Leader Mark Latham - if and when he gets into office - will remember us out this way. Yours in the Indigenous struggle.

PATRICK LOCK
Campbelltown, NSW

Dora: Queen of the Highways

You possessed a defiance that you could by no means conceal
Your eyes shone with an obsession which became only too real
As nothing else mattered when you were seated behind the wheel.

Sometimes your place of destination was never all that clear
Family was your companionship and you had nothing to fear
No time to think of loneliness and certainly no time to shed a tear.

At times when I sit beside you and I

see you with a beam with pride
My heart was filled with happiness of which I could not hide
There were times when I saw you in pain but you kept it inside.

Cars have their problems but they always got you through
And of course cars are much like humans as they get tired too
But distance never seemed to matter, nor did it ever bother you.

Over the majestic Clyde Mountain and down to the sea
The wind in your hair and you are happy with glee
Just a desire to be yourself and a yearning to be free.

In my wildest dreams I know you think

you should
Go on driving forever like I know you wished you could
On the asphalt, over the gravel, oh how I know you would.

It is up to you now and I hope with all my heart and might
Go on struggling, try your hardest and don't give up the fight
Back seated behind the wheel again I know you will be all right

Over dirt roads and bypasses, over culverts and byways
She travels the cool nights and rests through the hot days
And she is my sister - Dora ... Queen of the Highways.

RICHARD MURRAY, Moruya, NSW

“Opportunities are out there.
You just have to
know where to look.”



www.regionalaustralia.gov.au Freecall 1800 026 222

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TARSC8641/7

Strength of women

Almost a week before the fourth anniversary of the Sydney Harbour Reconciliation Bridge Walk, I was honoured to be invited to attend the Indigenous Women's Gathering in Alice Springs.

The gathering, the first of its kind, was organised by the Regional Women's Advisory Council (RWAC, which advises the Deputy Prime Minister) and the Indigenous Communities Co-ordination Taskforce. Women came from each of the eight trial sites, which are located in northern Tasmania, Cape York, Shepparton, north-western NSW, Wadeye, East Kimberley, the ACT and the Anangu-Pitjantjatjara (AP) Lands.

RWAC saw the meeting as an opportunity for influential women in the trial sites to share their experiences and to establish a powerful network that will enable women's voices to be heard. This is vital as governments and communities seek new ways of working that will benefit Indigenous communities.

The gathering was designed to encourage increased involvement by women in decision-making, to give feedback to government and RWAC on Indigenous issues generally, share information on community-driven solutions and learnings, and to increase awareness about Indigenous women and the role that

governments have in supporting communities. Moreover, by bringing critical groups of women together, the gathering would help release their creativity, energy and commitment - qualities that they can channel back into their work for the communities.

The COAG trials have been running for about 18 months. They are about learning and reporting back to government on what works and what doesn't; where the gaps are and if successes can be adapted to apply in other communities. Although one size never fits all, there are certainly bottom-line objectives for every community, including:

- Strong and healthy kids
- Strong families
- Food on the table
- Less grog and drugs, less violence

- Old people looked after
- Good, strong leadership.

Among the many common issues of concern identified by the women were:

- Violence and addiction
- Young people
- Health
- Identity and community issues

- Structural issues, for example, role of governments/communities.

The gathering demonstrated that the roles of Indigenous women are as clear and strong as



JACKIE HUGGINS

they have been for thousands and thousands of years. They continue to be the prime carers, nurturers, educators and providers for their families and communities despite the overwhelming obstacles they face.

Firmly intact, however, is a degree of personal autonomy, independence, prestige and authority which has existed since time immemorial.

The responsibilities of leadership for women in our communities are all-encompassing, incorporating

everything from dealing with family violence to sending the children to school. Simply identifying the extent of these responsibilities is exhausting. They differ for each community and situation and are certainly not homogenous.

Leadership means that you need to respect differences of views and start from where people are at - not where you want them to be or would like them to be. Women are often better equipped to achieve this.

A constant and real message from the heart of the gathering was: "We have to move everyone forward and by that we mean bring along our men. No one in the struggle gets left behind."

Participants agreed that family violence must be resourced properly, that community-based counsellors were a necessity and that women needed support in their communities through strong, legitimate leadership.

They made it clear to government that the manner in which mental health services were being delivered was inappropriate and ineffective. And they asserted the importance of young women being supported and included so that they might learn to be leaders and decision-makers themselves.

At the end of the day, the women remarked on the many aspects of community life that they had found they shared. This

offered them a strength in that they were not alone when so often they had felt this was the case. Many said the gathering felt 'just like the old days' when women sat around the campfire and discussed the maintenance of the clan group.

Personally, I am rejuvenated when I am in the company of such esteemed women. It's an indescribable feeling.

Aboriginal women are comfortable within our own circles - that is, within our own Aboriginal women's business. It is a powerful and liberating experience.

As always, they walked away from the gathering, heads held high, inspired and with an unshakeable determination, eagerness and generosity of spirit which will see them press on no matter how hard it is.

I could almost hear them muttering an old Indian saying:

Sober up the man - the wife wins

Sober up the wife - the child wins

Sober up the child - the family wins

Sober up the family - the community wins.

JACKIE HUGGINS
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit
University of Queensland
Co-chair, Reconciliation Australia

The history of Gamilaroi

Yaama everyone. I am inviting all those people who descend from the Gamilaroi (Kamilaroi) nation to lodge their family history within the Indigenous Unit at the Northern Regional Library in Moree.

We hold one of the largest collections of Aboriginal family history and have 8000 photographs.

We have published two books on the 'Moree Mob', book one Winanga-Li and book two Burrul Wallaay, which are for sale.

I especially invite all our brothers and sisters who are incarcerated to correspond with me in regards to their family history. We can also provide language tapes and literature should you desire to learn the Gamilaraay language.

You and yours are important and must be included because you are part of our Aboriginal history. Who cares? I care. I believe you have to know where you came from to know where you are going.

Remember, when you close your eyes at night and open them in the morning, the words of our brother Roger Knox, Keep your spirituality 'Goin on, Goin Strong'.

- 'I am what I am
- 'And I always will be
- 'I am what I am
- 'I am Aborigine.'

Aboriginal history not only enhances our local history, it benefits the history of our Aboriginal nation. So where ever you are, brothers and sisters, and all you other Murris, come on and get in touch with me at PO Box 360, Moree, NSW, 2400, or phone (02) 6757 3362. Let's make it much easier for our generations to come to gain access to their family history.

AUNTY NOELINE

It's all about assimilation

In reference to Koori Mail (Edition 329), Pages 3 and 26: The recommendations from the House of Representatives' Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs report, 'Many Ways Forward', say one word out loud to me and that word is 'assimilation'.

Why can't the whites leave us alone? They will do nothing unless they have total control and that is not good enough for us because we want to run our own lives and have self-determination.

For example, in Recommendation 10: "Continue to support research into

governance in Indigenous communities." If they cared to look, the whites would realise that all we want is our land and the 200 years' rent they owe us and that we already have the people with the required education to formulate our own lifestyle.

We don't need the whites. We don't want the whites, and as for reconciliation, we don't want or need that either. It should be the whites begging our forgiveness for their past sins.

I am 60 years old and my mother is a very old woman and she still remembers the massacres.

Maybe there are our people out there who want to forgive the whites and will accept assimilation, but I am afraid I never will and I know a lot of our people who think as I do.

One thing I will never be swayed from and that is our people never ceded sovereignty to our country. We know it and if the whites ever were inclined to challenge us, let it be done in an international forum, certainly not by an 'all-white' jury.

RONALD TERENCE GANNON
Lake Cathie, NSW

Absolute pettiness and bad faith

In another show of absolute pettiness and bad faith, the Howard Government has terminated the contracts of the remaining 36 ATSIC staff, leaving the commissioners with no support with which to continue their work of representing Indigenous people.

Many of these ATSIC staff members have families and will face considerable hardship without an income. This action is particularly mean-spirited. Each ATSIC commissioner has only two staff anyway, yet as a result of the Prime Minister's action, 36 jobs are to be abolished

across Australia. This is in spite of the fact that the legislation to abolish ATSIC has been referred to the Senate. It seems that this Government simply cannot abide Indigenous people having a say in their own future. They have trashed their own \$1.4 million review of ATSIC that found much to be retained in the current structure. Aboriginal Affairs Minister Amanda Vanstone's latest attack is to direct the ATSIC administrative arm (ATSIS) to no longer be bound by the requirement to conform to the policies and strategic priorities set and

promulgated by ATSIC'.

It completely eliminates ATSIC as the elected representative voice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This latest attack is contrary to what ATSIC's elected councils had been assured would happen. That is, that while ATSIC would no longer have control over individual contracts and grants, ATSIS would be duty-bound to follow ATSIC policy directions and the strategic regional plans made by the 35 ATSIC regional councils.

After all the progress of the past 30 years, Mr Howard has

managed to turn the clock all the way back to the early 1960s by not addressing Indigenous disadvantage.

However, we feel he will not succeed. Progress is like water and will find a way to flow no, matter what is put in its way to block its path. This latest move by the Prime Minister is not about the Government trying to save money. Rather, it is about trying to silence the voice of Indigenous peoples.

PETER LEWIS
Chairman, Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation, Victoria

Conference on racism, race

I am a postgraduate student at the University of New South Wales in the School of Philosophy.

My thesis is a reading of contemporary French philosophy related to the concepts of identity, race/racism and justice.

Together with two of my colleagues, Mark O'Neill and Joshua Mullan, who are engaged in similar research, I am convening a conference on race/racism, identity, justice and French philosophy.

The conference is to be held on July 31 and is titled 'Thinking Race and Identity'.

This conference is actively seeking participation from academics, lawyers, community leaders and activists to bring these issues into dialogue among a diverse range of people, rather than

academics talking among themselves.

The confirmed closing keynote speaker is philosopher and race theorist Professor Lewis Gordon.

Other confirmed speakers are Redfern community activist Shane Phillips, Professor Marcia Langton, Professor Paul Patton, UNSW, lawyer Dr Irene Watson of Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement and Flinders University, Associate Professor Ros Diprose, and Senator Aden Ridgeway.

Readers can contact me at the below addresses if they have any queries.

DANIELLE DAVIS
School of Philosophy
University of New South Wales, Sydney
email danieledavis@hotmail.com
Phone (02) 9665 9323

YOUTH MATTERS

Chris Bruinsma, 17, school captain, Bellingen High School (NSW north coast)

What school do you go to?
Bellingen High School.

Favourite subject?
Maths.

Least favourite subject?
English – there is never really a correct answer.

What do you do in your spare time?
I enjoy playing football, running and spending time with my girlfriend. I also have a part-time job.

Who would you most like to meet?
Patrick Johnson.

What do you aspire to?
To enjoy life and



achieve any goals I set.

Where will you be at the age of 30?
I would like to be a sports icon or a high school teacher in PD/H/PE.

What are you reading?

Matthew Flinders' *Cat* by Bryce Courtney.

What are you watching?
CSI, Merrick and Rosso and the Footy Show.

What is the biggest single issue facing Indigenous youth?

Family breakdown leading to less security for young people.

What do you hope to do to improve the lot of Indigenous people?

I would like to be a role model so that I can motivate and encourage others to complete their goals in life.

A club only for Aborigines?

Would it be possible for Aborigines to join their own club in Australia? We could have a club called the NSW Aborigines Club, for NSW people only.

I am not a racist – I would be no more a racist than our current Prime Minister – but I would prefer Aborigines only.

The non-Indigenous people have many clubs that do not have any Aborigines as members.

We could meet periodically, have outings together and exchange ideas. Anybody interested in forming such a club, could they write to me and I will start the ball rolling.

No joining fee, just your name, address and phone number.

If we are successful I will write a letter to the editor of the Koori Mail. My postal address is:

Brian Hutchings
PO Box 6028
Settlement City
Port Macquarie,
NSW, 2444

If anybody has a better idea for Indigenous people to meet and form a club, please give me your ideas.

BRIAN HUTCHINGS
Port Macquarie, NSW

Saving our legal services

The theme for NAIDOC Week 2004 was 'self-determination', meaning the ability to determine our own future.

Until the Howard Government bases its politics on truth, not political correctness, the state of Aboriginal affairs will continue to decline.

Tasmanian Aborigines (pakana people) raised the Aboriginal flag, a symbol of our survival and continuous struggle to achieve black rights and justice, across the State.

Howard's Aboriginal policy mirrors one of assimilation – a perfect example is Howard recalling all allocated NAIDOC funding for 2004.

Howard didn't pull

'The pakana people of Tasmania are telling Howard and his Government that we will stand strong'

allocated funding for Australia Day celebrations.

He is enforcing his authority of assimilation by closing down Aboriginal legal services, which will result in Aborigines being imprisoned at enormous rates – rates which we haven't seen since the 1970s.

We as a people have had to endure the

loss and rape of our land, our children being stolen, our rights denigrated and our language abused.

We have survived the ills of white sin, vice and corruption for the past 200 years and will do so for the next 200 years if governments of the day still deny us our rights.

The pakana people of Tasmania are telling Howard and his Government that we will stand strong and unite as one people to fight for what is rightfully ours.

We will fight tooth and nail to save our legal services, because there is no justice in taking away what is working so well.

TRUDY MALUGA
State secretary
Tasmanian
Aboriginal Centre

ADVERTISEMENT

Like Aboriginal Communities
in the Top End,
let's give our land a hand.



Australians everywhere are working to protect our great land.



Aboriginal communities are working to improve their local environment by protecting and restoring native vegetation, through a \$194,168 grant from the Australian Government.

Miriam Cleary, Aboriginal Landcare officer with Greening Australia, said communities are identifying local land management issues and developing projects to address them. These include revegetation with native plants to control erosion and suppress dust, and planting for shade, shelter and bushtucker.

The project includes training and working with local women and children, Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Rangers. Miriam says a junior ranger program has been established in two communities, Peppimenarti and Minjilang and

the children there have taken to the work with amazing enthusiasm. The result is healthier vegetation, well-trained landcarers and a sense of satisfaction within the communities.

This is just one example of the thousands of environmental restoration projects happening across the country with support from States, Territories and communities. You too can help in your local region. Together, let's give our land a hand.

Call 1800 552 008
or visit www.lendahand.gov.au



Australian Government

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From the war years



Catherine Murray, of Hamilton in New South Wales, sent Koori Mail this picture which she says she found when she and her mother were sorting through her grandfather, Jack Murray's, photo collection.

She says it was probably taken in the Northern Territory during World War II (1939-1945). Ms Murray wants the picture to go back to the families or family of those pictured. Contact Koori Mail if you can help her. - EDITOR

The Queensland Government is seeking comment on its proposed regulation for

OCCUPATIONAL DIVING

The Department of Industrial Relations invites industry and the community to comment on a regulatory impact statement available by:

Internet download/print: www.whs.qld.gov.au (under 'What's New')
Telephone request: 1300 369 915 or
Tollfree 1800 177 717 (outside Brisbane)
Email request: whspolicy@dir.qld.gov.au

Comments may be submitted by 20 August 2004 in writing to:
Occupational Diving Comments
Workplace Health and Safety Queensland
GPO Box 69
Brisbane QLD 4001
or email: whspolicy@dir.qld.gov.au



Queensland Government
Department of Industrial Relations

WHS 020277

Heritage Act, 1977

Notice of intention to consider listing on the State Heritage Register

The Heritage Council of NSW provides advice to the Minister Assisting the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning on all aspects of the State's heritage including Aboriginal, archaeological, built, movable and natural. The Heritage Council maintains the State Heritage Register which is a list of places and items of particular importance to the people of New South Wales.

The Heritage Council is currently considering whether or not to recommend listing of the following item on the State Heritage Register in acknowledgment of its heritage significance:

Brewarrina Aboriginal Mission

The Heritage Council is interested in receiving submissions either in writing, by telephone or in person from the Aboriginal community or Aboriginal organisations on matters relating to the cultural heritage values for the above item. Submissions can be forwarded to the Heritage Council of NSW at the address below until the 4th August 2004.

Further enquiries may be made by contacting Adell Hyslop, Aboriginal Heritage Officer on (02) 9873 8593.
Heritage Council of New South Wales, Locked Bag 5020, Parramatta NSW 2124.

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* Calls from mobile phones are charged at applicable rates

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The people in that picture



What is the real story behind this photograph? Taken on January 26, 1938, this famous 'still' captured a proud moment in Aboriginal history, the Day of Mourning protest. Held in defiance of the national sesquicentenary celebrations, the Day of Mourning is still a significant civil rights event in Australia.

In 1998, the site where the photograph was taken in Elizabeth Street, Sydney, was heritage listed and its register, based on its historical association with a unique event, made history again by becoming the first building to be recognised as an Aboriginal site.

Despite these achievements and recent popular growth of Aboriginal historical study, the woman to the right is often referred to as 'unknown, presumed to be Jack Patten's wife'. The City of Sydney's official website wrongly identifies the women as 'Helen Grosvenor and Selina Patten'. The children remain nameless.

There is no mistaking the men in the famous photograph. William Ferguson, Jack Kinchela and Jack Patten were all active campaigners and their names are synonymous with the early Aboriginal rights movement. But the women and children in this picture, who were to become instrumental in some of the most strident gains in Aboriginal affairs, have never been correctly identified.

Lately, this picture has become more widely known and it can be found reprinted as a potent symbol of Aboriginal resistance in the publications of many government bureaucracies, education institutions, newspapers, libraries and journals.

This now-famous photograph was in our family

photo album when I was growing up, next to mine and my brother's school class portraits and snaps of our favourite pets. The people in it played an enormous influence on my life and it's time to put their names on the public record.

They are (from left to right) William Ferguson, Jack Kinchela, Isaac Ingram, Doris Williams (Aunty Dorry), Esther Ingram (Aunty Esther), Arthur Williams jr (Uncle Nino), Phillip Ingram (Uncle Chocko), Louisa Agnes Ingram OAM (Nan) with daughter Olive Ingram (Aunty Ollie) and Jack Patten. Only the dark-haired person in the background to the right is unknown to me.

Of the women and children, only two are alive today. They are my aunts, Esther Carroll, 68, and Ollie Campbell, 66.

So what is the real story behind this photograph?

My Aunt Sylvia Scott, eldest child of the Ingram family, remembers January 26, 1938, as a typically hot summer day in Sydney.

"Mum needed my help with the littler kids, my younger brothers and sisters," recalls Sylvia, now 75. "But we were staying at La Perouse and I really wanted (Granny Lizzie to take me) to swim and play at the beach."

Which is how Sylvia ended up becoming the only Ingram child absent from the photo.

Aunty Esther recalls my grandfather, Lochie Ingram, coming to Sydney with the family in late 1937 to help his brother, Sousie, run his new business. Uncle Sousie (who would later become better known as Evonne Goolagong's grandfather) had lost his leg in an accident and bought a store in Redfern with the settlement proceeds.

1938 was not a fashionable year to protest the treatment of Aboriginal

people. In the era of the Aborigines Protection Board, rallying a few hundred Aborigines and their supporters in downtown Sydney risked attracting the wrong kind of attention.

The Ingram family's presence on that day stems back to Cummeragunja, on the NSW/Victorian border, the home of Jack Patten and the place where my grandfather was born. The Cummeragunja mob were no strangers to protesting harsh conditions for Aboriginal people.

Grandfather organised the tarpaulin muster at the Day of Mourning conference, Uncle Sousie hobbled around urging donations.

"Aunty Dorry (the lady to the left of the photograph) was with us - she was never far from her brothers," Esther says.

Aunty Dorry's mother, Melinda, died when Dotty was a baby and she was raised by her grandmother (my great-grandmother), Granny Lizzie.

She and Nan could usually be found together with the children and, with Sylvia at the beach, it was no surprise for her to be among them all at the Day of

Mourning protest.

The story behind this photograph has been told to me by the people who were there, people who battled against the harsh reality of their daily lives to effect extraordinary change in Australia.

For the Ingrams and our extended families, it was enough to know who the people in the photograph really are. But the names of this historic image have been disputed or are absent, their involvement in that inspiring moment concealed.

The ultimate irony is that the Day of Mourning was intended for Australia to rethink its history.

But in the clamour to fill the gaps in our Indigenous history, it seems there are still omissions.

As the chubby-faced little girl in the photograph who has waited over six decades for her name to be included in the records, my aunt Esther hopes this new age of information technology can try to get it right the first time.

SUZANNE INGRAM
Sydney, NSW



Esther Carroll and Ollie Campbell with a copy of the famous photograph.

Qld proud of Willie Tonga, too

I am writing about the 'He's a Peak Hill Koori' letter that was published in Koori Mail Edition 329, June 30. David Towney, of Peak Hill NSW, wrote a story about his successful cousin Willie Tonga, saying he is 'sorry for doing this my successful cousin, but it gets to you after a while' and how much they celebrate the story of Willie Tonga (pictured) coming from Cherbourg has got under your skin.



have no disrespect to the Cherbourg mob, because they want to share in your little cousin Willie Tonga's success.

I'm not from Cherbourg, I've never been there, but I do know some of the Cherbourg mob. I am Indigenous and I live in Ipswich. I find the story you

wrote about your successful little cousin Willie Tonga a bit disturbing.

Willie Tonga, born in Canberra, ACT, lived his young years at Peak Hill, NSW, and at one time in his teenage years Cherbourg, Queensland. There seems to be more NSW than Queensland but your successful little cousin wore the Maroons jersey, plus scored a try for Queensland.

You say Cherbourg mob wants to share in Will's success; I think all of Queensland wants to share in Will's success.

TANYA MASSO
Ipswich, Qld

An Ode to Reconciliation

When will you stop denying my people
Their human rights, democratic rights?
When will you let my people live free
From your racist and stereotypical views of us?
We have always been disadvantaged by your paternalistic values of us
Your controlling attitudes of us, of your
Always professing to know what is best for us
Then we do ourselves. Because of your dispossession of us
Our people have never been able to recover from
That dispossession ever because you the whiteman
Has all the control of our lives, our destinies
Our histories, and culture, because you still have the
Political power over us and our lives
And will never allow us a voice, to speak for ourselves
In 1967 when you had a referendum, you gave my people the rights
To vote and be counted in the census, because before that
You declared this land terra nullius meaning no one here!
And I don't think my people, big black people that they were
Were bloody invisible, such a big lie, but the Mabo decision
Threw that out for the lie it was
Your Commonwealth government that legislated and made the laws
To control my people, and they were racist laws because no one
Else in Australia was effected by them, only my people
And these racist laws are still enconced in that piece of paper
That white Australians value so much
The Australian Constitution
It was to hold my people back and stop our progress forward with dignity.
When will you let my people go
And have equality like everyone else that migrates here does?

RUBY LANGFORD GINIBI
Eagle Vale, NSW

TV negativity

This is a copy of a letter sent to the manager of TV station Channel 10 in Adelaide following a news report on an Aboriginal man having his jail sentence reduced because of his Aboriginality...

We would like to express our absolute disgrace about the manner in which your late night news on Thursday, June 17, portrayed the story about an Aboriginal man who had his home invasion sentence reduced.

During the newsbreaks it was stated: "Home invader sentence reduced, simply because the man is Aboriginal." However, during the actual late night news, it was acknowledged that race is not usually a factor when considering sentences, but that in this case it was fitting due to his background.

This type of headline is totally unacceptable as it contributes to the racism that is rampant among our Australian community. It plays on the ignorance and arrogance of those who already have a belief that all Aboriginal people are given everything by the government, such as money, houses and cars, just to mention a few. Your recent headline has now added to the uninformed and racist beliefs that all Aboriginal people who are facing sentencing will now receive a reduced or minimal sentence.

As a major media body you have a great deal of responsibility in influencing the thoughts, beliefs and behaviours of your audience.

Although people have the ability to make up their own minds and form their own opinions, the way in which you present information to them is biased and persuasive while appearing objective, therefore the public is very much influenced by the stories you portray.

For example, why do you find it so important to show the marital status of international celebrities Posh Spice and David Beckham, yet you cannot acknowledge the good work and healing that is expressed on National Sorry Day?

Other positive events and outcomes for Aboriginal people are also ignored, such as Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week (National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee week), the togetherness of the community when marching to oppose the abolition of ATSIC. The march took place in every State, and although camera crews were present, it seemed that the story did not appear worthy enough for the Australian public to be informed, as it was not shown on your evening news.

We would like to say that we do enjoy watching your news coverage and will continue watching. However, we sincerely believe that you need to be more aware of the impact your headlines and stories are having on the viewing public. Surely you are aware of your influence.

But perhaps not so aware of the damage you can cause when reporting on culturally sensitive issues.

We implore you not only to take more care and be more

understanding when it comes to the issues facing Indigenous people and communities, but also to share more of the positive stories to encourage reconciliation in the wider community, as well as self-determination for the younger Aboriginal people. Constant stories of negativity, coupled with direct racism (from school, footy teams, general public, police etc) do not provide an opportunity for young Indigenous people to build on their self-respect, pride, confidence, passion and belief in themselves.

For your information NAIDOC week begins on July 4 to Saturday 11. South Australian events to celebrate this week will be held at South Australian Museum, Port Adelaide Courts, Ceduna (community reunion for those who experience family separation and were raised at Koonibba Mission. Includes special guests Archie Roach, AFL footballers Che Cockatoo-Collins and Byron Pickett), Salisbury High School (NAIDOC Ball).

Other events will also be held across the State. We have enclosed some information about the background of Indigenous history since colonisation.

We look forward to a response to this letter, and also look forward to seeing more positive stories about Indigenous Australians on your news coverage.

ANGELA SWINDLE and LORELLE HUNTER
North Adelaide, SA

See the panels on Pages 2 and 20 for details on where to send your letters and poems.



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

RFT 164/0304

PROJECT TO EVALUATE THE SERVICE DEVELOPMENT AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK TRIAL

The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing is seeking tenders from capable and experienced individuals or organisations, or identified personnel within an organisation, to conduct an Evaluation of the *Service Development and Reporting Framework (SDRF) Trial*. The Trial is currently being undertaken nationally by 34 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) funded by the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH).

The SDRF is designed as the non-financial reporting mechanism to support ACCHS to better plan and report on their activities and to provide opportunities to identify quality improvement initiatives for their service.

Skills required include demonstrated evaluation experience, knowledge of primary health care in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sector and demonstrated capacity for culturally appropriate liaison with stakeholders.

Organisations/individuals tendering must address the evaluation criteria in the format outlined in the Request For Tender document which is available by registering on the Department's internet site at www.health.gov.au/tenders.htm or by contacting Karen Thompson on (03) 9665 8366 or Robyn James on (02) 6289 5939, or via email to: hpqi.oatsih@health.gov.au

Tenders will close at 2pm on Thursday, 22 July 2004, in Canberra.

ACTIVITY STATEMENTS NOW DUE 28 April 2004



Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office

Penalties may apply if you lodge late. If you need help to lodge and pay, don't wait until the deadline. Call us during business hours on 13 28 66 or visit www.ato.gov.au

Heiss wins arts fellowship



ANITA HEISS



Indigenous writer and academic Anita Heiss has won the NSW Indigenous Arts Fellowship.

Valued at \$15,000, the fellowship was set up in 1996 to help Indigenous artists develop their professional careers. It is co-funded by the NSW Ministry for the Arts and the City of Sydney.

Dr Heiss will use the fellowship to research and write a series of five children's books based on the character 'Yirra', an eight-year-old urban Koori girl living in Sydney.

Dr Heiss said she was inspired

by the success of other Australian children's book authors such as Libby Gleeson and noticed a need for diversity in children's book publishing in Australia.

"Through a series of illustrated children's books with a common character, I want young readers to look excitedly forward to the next adventure that Yirra will embark on, whether it is a trip to La Pa or returning to Wiradjuri country to hear the stories of her aunts," she said.

Dr Heiss has authored fiction, non-fiction, essays and poetry, and was short-listed in 2002 for the NSW Premier's History Award

for 'Who Am I? The Diary of Mary Talence, Sydney 1937' and received the 2002 NSW Premier's History Award for 'Barani: The Aboriginal History of the City of Sydney', linked to the City of Sydney website.

She is associate professor and writer-in-residence at Macquarie University, has undertaken writer residencies in many NSW regions and was a member of the Ministry's Literature and History Committee and Indigenous Arts Reference Group (2001-04). She has a doctorate in communications and media and an honours degree in history.

Major
auction
works
seen in
London



Leading works of Australian Aboriginal art due to go under

the hammer later this year in Australia have been on show in London, the first time the British capital has hosted such an exhibition.

The only known painting of Uluru, by one of the country's greatest painters, Rover Thomas, is the star attraction at galleries owned by Sotheby's auction house.

The painting, titled Uluru, is expected to fetch up to \$1.44 million when it goes to auction in Melbourne on July 26.

The 1987 work by Thomas, who died in 1998, is a striking view of the rock from above, its bright red-brown shapes surrounded by white dots against a black ochre background.

"Aboriginal art is of world interest," Sotheby's director Tim Klingender said.

"We thought it was time that Londoners, with their booming contemporary art scene, be given the opportunity to see exceptional Australian Indigenous art of a quality that has never been exhibited in the UK before."

The exhibition featured examples of the earliest Western Desert dot paintings, such as Charlie Tjungurrayi's 'A Trial', estimated to fetch up to \$130,000.

Another highlight of the annual exhibition, which has previously toured New York and Paris, is The Sam Barry Collection of Paintings from Balgo Hills.

Also on view were bark paintings, 19th century shields, Great Sandy Desert sculptures, 19th century drawings by William Barak and Tommy McRae, and major contemporary works by much sought-after desert painters.

"We are pleased to be able to give Londoners the opportunity to see some of the finest works ever produced by artists from the world's oldest continuing culture," Mr Klingender said. -AAP

Culture centre a step nearer



Details of the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures Centre to be developed at Queensland Museum South Bank have been released.

Planning for the new centre has already started, including consultation with Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander communities, and this is expected to continue until the facility opens in late 2005.

Queensland Arts Minister Anna Bligh said the centre would showcase the experiences and perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout Queensland and focus on three defining themes of land, language and lore.

"Exhibitions will provide a snapshot of Queensland and give communities the opportunity to share stories," she said.

Resource area

"As well as exhibition space, a public resource area will provide further access to the museum's collection and invaluable information and resources on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

"The museum already has a policy of ensuring people have access to its collection and this has resulted in more than 7500 behind-the-scenes visits and inquiries in the past five years.

"The new resource area will open the collection to many more people."

The Queensland Museum's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee will play an important advisory role in the development of the new centre. Chaired by Elder Robert Anderson, committee members assist the museum on all matters relating to Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders.

The Queensland Museum cares for an extensive collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural material. The collection includes more than 13,000 artefacts and 10,000 photographs.



Artwork snapped up



Students from Lismore TAFE in northern NSW have proudly displayed their work in an exhibition.

The Certificate II and IV in Aboriginal Art and Cultural Practices students showcased their artwork to the public. Just minutes after the official welcoming, many of the paintings were being snapped up.

Certificate IV student Nicole Sten,

24, was sponsored by Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care to do the course. She says that without their support she would not have been able to do the course.

Now that she has completed her course, Ms Sten hopes to travel around Australia painting in every port and then sell her artworks.

● Pictured: Certificate IV artists from left Gloria Kelly, Kath Richardson and Beatrice Griffin at the exhibition.

Myer Scholarship is on offer



Applications for the 2005 Myer One Year Indigenous Scholarship at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS) are open until September 7.

The 2005 Myer One Year Indigenous Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship, open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Applicants must demonstrate a developed

interest in producing, directing, screenwriting, documentary, editing, sound, design, composing, digital media or cinematography.

The 2005 Myer One Year Indigenous Scholarship supports a \$25,000 stipend over the course of the academic year. Closing date for applications is Tuesday, September 7. Inquiries via e-mail to sarahourez@bigpond.com. Application forms can be downloaded at www.aftrs.edu.au or can be posted by phoning (02) 9805 6444.

September opening for Desert Mob exhibition

NT

The 14th Desert Mob exhibition, at the Araluen Galleries in Alice Springs, is scheduled to open on September 5.

The exhibition will include works from Aboriginal art centres in the central Australian region, encompassing the

Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia.

Organisers say the annual exhibition has been a pivotal point of contact for Aboriginal artists in Central Australia.

"It has also played an important role in the development of individual styles and art practices across the region, assisting with the promotion and

economic development of the Indigenous arts industry in central Australia as a whole," they say.

"This exhibition provides a unique opportunity to view works from a broad range of communities all at one time, allowing visitors a unique overview of the range of art styles in Central Australia.

"The show also allows for the purchase of art works from both new and established artists, directly from their art centres."

A price and list exhibition catalogue will be available at the exhibition opening, otherwise the catalogue will be available for posting on the Monday following the opening.

Shocking stuff!

By SOLUA MIDDLETON

QLD

Brisbane-based multi-media artist Jodie Ranger shocked and silenced onlookers when she projected confronting videos of Indigenous Australians on the walls of buildings in South Brisbane.

The Queensland College of Arts student interviewed local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and turned their stories into an 18-minute film. She then screened it on the wall of a Griffith University College of Art building in South Brisbane.

The media piece, titled 'Black and Blue', was inspired by the stories Ms Ranger had heard first-hand from Aboriginal people.

The interviews feature former prisoners, a member of the Stolen Generations, Brisbane Elders, students, mothers and teenagers speaking on their experiences as Aboriginal people and their contact with racism, police brutality and harassment in a mainstream society.

"The whole idea of doing this project was to inform the wider community who don't have much



Mitzy, Kaisi and Karice, shown in this video screening on the wall, were interviewed in 'Black and Blue'. They talked about their recent experiences of racism, such as being kicked off trains and sworn at.

contact with Aboriginal people to hear these stories," Ms Ranger said.

"I was in shock when I first

heard these stories and I think other white Australians would also be disgusted by this sort of racial hatred and discrimination within

the police force both past and present.

"It had some power to it and speaking out is a way of saying we

are not going to put up with this sort of treatment any more."

Ms Ranger says that the media piece aims to challenge the power structures of mainstream media that fail to represent minority groups such as Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders.

She said there were many different reactions from the people who were walking past the screening.

"The reactions were mixed – most people appreciated it, some people were silent after it because they are shocking stories," she said.

"I didn't sensationalise the film. For this piece I preferred not to use the constructs of mainstream media that adds drama and hype to a story.

"I just wanted to tell it as it is. "But people were still shocked at the stories – sympathetic and shocked – and you get that with most people."

Ms Ranger said securing a wall to screen the video was a problem because of issues such as traffic distractions.

She said she hoped that the projections would be a way of empowering Indigenous people to get their stories heard by the wider public.

Listen up to

Are you tuned in to the best national weekly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander music program?

Deadly Sounds is broadcast throughout Australia to almost 200

community radio stations so now there's no reason for you to miss your favourite Indigenous music program.

Even if you're in a remote area you can still catch all your favourite Aboriginal



Rhoda Roberts



Brothablack

and Torres Strait Islander celebrities as Deadly Sounds is now transmitted to over 70 remote stations as well.

So stay switched on to Deadly Sounds for all the latest music, culture, dance, theatre

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To find out which radio station in your local area plays Deadly Sounds simply visit vibe.com.au and go to Deadly Sounds.

DEADLY



SOUNDS

Deadly Sounds is proudly brought to you by the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

Fred Marlowe and Elly Bradshaw after raising the flag and (right) students and some students of the future with NRL stars Preston Campbell and Amos Roberts.



History made at Alstonville



National Rugby League players Amos Roberts and Preston Campbell were the star attractions at an historic NAIDOC event at Alstonville Primary School in northern New South Wales. For the first time, NAIDOC

Week was celebrated at the school, with local Elder Fred Marlowe having the honour of raising the Aboriginal flag.

Roberts and Campbell, from the Penrith Panthers team, were mobbed by the young students throughout the event.

Karen Bradshaw, treasurer of the Alstonville Primary

ASSPA committee, praised the attendance by the NRL stars, who she said donated their time free of charge to attend.

Ms Bradshaw also paid tribute to Dianne Harrington for her efforts with the school's ASSPA committee, which has established a homework centre for the Alstonville students.

Corroboree kids!



ALL PICTURES: NAIDOC Week activities at Villawood in Sydney.



NAIDOC 'a chance to show support'



NAIDOC Week offered a chance for all who opposed to the Federal Government's divisive and destructive handling of Indigenous Affairs to show their support for Australia's Indigenous cultures, say the Australian Democrats.

Democrats Indigenous affairs spokesman Aden Ridgeway said the raising of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags at the beginning of each NAIDOC Week was an expression of inclusion and unity. Speaking at the City of Sydney NAIDOC Week flag-raising ceremony, he congratulated the council for recognising Indigenous cultures of the Sydney region.

By Sydney correspondent KHI-LI THORPE and LINDSAY WILLIAMS



The Villawood NAIDOC Gathering 2004 at Hillwa Park, Villawood, in

Sydney was named the Koori Kids Corroboree by the youth and it attracted more than 300 people.

Indigenous local community member and member of the Villawood NAIDOC gathering 2004 working party Norma Boon was proud of the achievements of everyone on the day. "This is a great event and will continue to grow even stronger over the coming years," she said.

The free day out included performances from Indigenous musicians The Donovans, Mirror Child, Torres Strait Islander Dancers and the deadly young stars Monkey Mark X 2 and Villawood's own Koori Kids Corroboree.

Members of Mirror Child reflected on the event. "It was wonderful - so many talented musicians - and it was great to see the younger people dancing, as well as the Torres Strait Islander dancers," they said. The event incorporated a

social service expo to showcase the services available. The day also included sports activities, arts and craft, bag making, airbrush tattooing, face painting, a jumping castle and a barbecue.

The Villawood NAIDOC Gathering 2004 involved working in collaboration and partnership with local Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and service providers. The aims of the project were celebrating Koori culture and breaking down the barriers that Indigenous Australians encounter when accessing mainstream social services.

Services to support the event included Fairfield Community Resource Centre, Woodville Community Services Inc, Department of Community Services, Cabramatta Community Centre, Chesterhill Neighbourhood Centre, Karitane, Gandangara Land Council, Bangarra Dance Theatre, Fairfield Liverpool Local Aboriginal Access Group, FLYHT, SWSAHS, Department of Fair Trading, The Corner Youth Health Service, ATSSIS, Café Ville (Local Business) and Fairfield City Council.

'There's no greater honour ...'

They're award winners

● **National Person of the Year Award:** Aden Ridgeway from Macksville, northern NSW. Senator Ridgeway has a long list of achievements but is best known for becoming Australia's second Indigenous person in the Commonwealth Parliament when he entered the Senate in 1999 (Neville Bonner was the first). He is the nation's first Indigenous politician to hold a leadership position, being Deputy Leader of the Australian Democrats from April 2001 until October 2002.

● **Elders of the Year:** Merlene Mead from Wagin in Western Australia and Stephen Mam, born on Moa Island in the Torres Strait at St Paul's Village.

● **Sportsperson of the Year:** Adam Goodes (Sydney Swans) won the Brownlow Medal in 2003 along with Nathan Buckley and Mark Ricciuto and is one of the hardest ruckmen to match up on in the AFL.

● **Youth of the Year:** Michael Hayden, 21, from Merredin, Western Australia, has already won the WA Government Young Person of the Year Award and Youth Leadership Award 2004.

● **Art Award:** Jirra Lulla Harvey, 21-year-old Yorta Yorta and Wiradjuri woman, won the art award for her painting on this year's NAIDOC theme.

● **Apprentice of the Year:** Neil Fournile jnr from Yarrabah in tropical north Queensland is the first qualified boilermaker from the Yarrabah Aboriginal community and is a role model for other apprentices and school students who gain valuable work experience in his workplace.

● **Scholar of the Year:** Kaye Price, originally from Tasmania, lives and studies in Canberra. At the age of 62, she is currently a PhD candidate with the Australian National University and holds a Master of Education degree from the University of South Australia.

● **Charles Perkins Awards:** Sealin Garlett, from the south-west of Western Australia, Sandra Armstrong, from the Northern Territory, and Bill Mallard, from Barrell Well community, Western Australia, have all been involved and committed to Indigenous affairs for many years.

NAIDOC Elders of the Year



Female National NAIDOC Elder of the Year is Merlene Mead, from Wagin, in Western Australia.



The Male National NAIDOC Elder of the Year is Stephen Mam, born on Moa Island in the Torres Strait at St Paul's Village.



There is no greater honour for an Indigenous person than to be acknowledged by your own people with an award like NAIDOC National Person of the Year, Democrats senator Aden Ridgeway says.

He was speaking in Perth after taking out the prestigious title.

"I want to thank and acknowledge ATSIC and all Indigenous people in this country. I don't want to downplay the significance of this award but it is not a separate moment in my life, it places me in a continuum of culture – in one of the oldest living cultures in the world," Senator Ridgeway said.

"Our culture has had its 'award-winners' before me and will have many more after me. We are not all going to get awards like this one; there just aren't enough to go around.

"But it is the combination of these big events and the small and unnoticed things that we all do every day, that keep our culture and people alive.

"All of these things represent our struggles and our joys; all of these moments define our lives.

"This award is a pure feeling of coming home for me. It is an award for my grandmother and my mother – for all of my family because I am the sum total of them."

Senator Ridgeway, from the Gumbayngirr people of northern New South Wales, believes these are desperate political times for black Australians.

"Indigenous Australians are being squeezed into a mono-cultural one-size-fits-all straight-jacket by a Federal Government which displays no vision and no imagination," he said.

"Events like NAIDOC Week give we Indigenous people space to be together; to dream together and to make a better future together.

"I invite all Australians to join us in celebrating our culture and survival."

Senator Ridgeway received his honour at last Friday night's NAIDOC Ball in Perth. He was joined by other national winners (see panel at right).

As Australia's only Indigenous Federal politician, Senator Ridgeway believes it will not be long until he's joined in Canberra by more Aboriginal politicians, including a prime minister.

Race relations were not in great shape, with the Federal Government pushing to abolish ATSIC and remove Aboriginal self-determination, he said.

But there was hope, and the only way to foster that hope was through getting young Indigenous people involved in politics and the political process.

"I think one day, who knows maybe sometime in the future ... there will be other Aboriginal people



Aden Ridgeway speaks in Perth after receiving his honour.

coming forward in politics," he said.

"I would expect that at some stage we will have an Aboriginal prime minister, we will have an Aboriginal governor-general, we will have an Aboriginal president of the new republic."

The abolition of ATSIC, which is currently the subject of a Senate inquiry, would not mean an end to NAIDOC celebrations, which were introduced in the 1950s to honour Aboriginal culture.

"Things aren't good at the moment (but) the decision to abolish ATSIC won't destroy the spirit of Indigenous people, we will continue to have these awards and we will continue to bestow them as we see fit," Senator Ridgeway said.

Reconciliation would be achieved when the 45 seconds of national elation felt when Cathy Freeman won gold at the Sydney Olympic Games could be bottled, he said.

"When everyone feels exactly the same about reconciliation, we'll know we've arrived at that destination," he said.

'This award ... is an award for my grandmother and my mother – for all of my family because I am the sum total of them' – Aden Ridgeway



ATSIAC acting chairman Lionel Quartermaine gives a wave.



Just one of the many groups who enjoyed the awards night.



MC for the event was Narelda Jacobs.

They had a ball!

The Koori Mail's Solua Middleton took these pictures at the National NAIDOC Ball held in the Burswood Resort, Perth



Award-winning singer Todd Williams provided entertainment.



Valerie Macauley, Naomi Chandler-Wilson, Noel Wallan, Marie Pryor, Shirley Harris and Jenny Maher.



WA ATSIAC commissioner Farley Garlett passes the NAIDOC message stick to commissioner Klynton Wanganeen, from Adelaide, the next NAIDOC host city.



The crowd enjoyed singing by Leah Purcell.



ABOVE: Shirley Vito, Jannahli Ronan, Lorraine Bellotti, Lauren Bellotti, Roxanne Collard, Adrienne Vito, Simone Ronan, Kezia Jacobs, Georgina Drayton and Tarita Collard were there.



LEFT: Barry McGuire, Bevan Thompson and Shawn Councillor enjoyed the awards activities.



A dancer from the Loza Torres Strait Islander group.



Gae Miniter, left, and Antoinette Councillor.



Meet our winners

This year's NAIDOC National Award recipients are, clockwise from top left, Sealin Garlett (Charles Perkins Award), Sandra Armstrong, right, pictured with ATSIAC commissioner Alison Anderson (Charles Perkins Award), Kaye Price (Scholar of the Year), Willie Mallard (Charles Perkins Award), Michael Hayden (Youth of the Year), Neil Fourmile (Apprentice of the Year) and Jilla Lulla Harvey (Art Award). AFL star and Sportsperson of the Year Adam Goodes could not attend.





● ABOVE: Sylvia Scott welcomed people to the flag-raising at Sydney Town Hall.
 ● A young lad checks out firefighting equipment at one of the NAIDOC displays.

Kids on the march



Helen Moran and Johnny Huckle (Shades of Brindle) got the kids rocking during NAIDOC Week in Sydney.



A children's march in Redfern from Redfern Park to Pemulway Park was one of the highlights of NAIDOC Week in Sydney.

"This is the second year of the march where the kids have their opportunity to stand proud and be counted," said Phyllis Patten of the Mack Silva Centre, which helped organise the march.

Once at 'The Block', a special flag-raising ceremony was held, where MC, Elder Lyall Munro, welcomed everyone and led a minute's silence for those people who have passed on.

A highlight of the morning was the performance by the Murawina Aboriginal pre-school dancers, who after already being part of the march, impressed the crowd with their dancing moves to the sounds of 'Red, Black and Yellow' and 'We're Koori Kids - We're From This Country and We're Proud of It' by Auntie Wendy's Mob.

The children also led the raising of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Children get involved in Sydney celebrations

Islander flags, with Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore in attendance.

As well as a barbecue being provided, performers Dr Greenthumb, Terry Olsen, and Marlene and Leroy Cummings were on hand to entertain the crowd.

● The flag-raising ceremony was held on steps of the Town Sydney Town Hall.

Elder Sylvia Scott welcomed everyone, saying: "I am so proud of our people and I think this is a wonderful event in recognition of NAIDOC Week."



● ABOVE: Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore and Elder Lyall Munro at the Sydney celebrations.
 ● RIGHT: Democrats Senator Aden Ridgeway speaks at the Sydney Town Hall flag-raising.



Fishing for good health

QLD The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) in conjunction with the Lockhart River community of northern Queensland conducted an event that brought together boys and men of the community to have some fun and to begin some talk about Indigenous men's mental health and well-being.

The event took the form of a local fishing competition, because organisers believe that fishing to men (and women) in communities serves many functions.

"In small groups, family members gather together usually out of necessity to catch food. As with non-Indigenous men, these opportunities are rarely seen as times where men can talk and connect as men," said Johnathan Link, community liaison and development officer at the RFDS's Cairns base.

"Fishing competitions as a group of men can create this opportunity for talk and connectedness. Fishing as an activity is also relaxing and fun and can enhance the general well-being of all involved by providing a break and 'time-out' from the normal routine, grind or stresses of life."

The event was co-ordinated and co-facilitated by members of the Lockhart River community and RFDS staff.

The RFDS (Queensland section), in addition to its aeromedical retrieval and transfer role, also provides primary health care services (general practice, child health, mental health, women's health and health promotion).

Mr Link said the mental health service provided psychology and community development to 12 locations across remote Cape York Peninsula and the outer western Tablelands.



Young Lockhart River residents and (below) the catch of the day.

He said that opportunities for men and young men in remote Indigenous communities to come together as a group were rare.

"Indigenous men in Australia can expect to die 20 years earlier than their non-Indigenous cousins," he said. "Aboriginal men have 1.4 times the rate of suicide than non-Indigenous men in Australia. Young Aboriginal men (15-19 years) have four times the suicide rate of non-Aboriginal youth.

"Alienation of youth in remote Indigenous communities is a growing problem. Mental health is a component of all people's general health and is influenced by many factors, including opportunities to address issues that affect one's health and well-being."

● Inquiries about the program: Johnathan Link (07) 4053 1952.



Bark tested for medicinal use



A bark traditionally used by Aborigines to manage pain is in the early stages of being turned into a new pain-killing drug.

Griffith University (Queensland) chemistry professor Ron Quinn started working on bark from freshwater mangroves after an Aboriginal group from north-western Australia told the university of its medicinal powers.

"What they were doing was chewing it around the mouth and then applying it to the wound," Prof Quinn said. "We don't know whether it was absorbed orally or whether it was working locally (as a poultice) - that we're still to determine."

Working in collaboration with the Aboriginal group, the scientists have isolated an active compound from the bark.

"We tested it in an animal model for pain and found the extract was active," Prof Quinn said. "We haven't tested all of the compounds, it's very preliminary, so we have to do more comprehensive testing."

Any profits from a resulting product would be shared 50/50 between the university and the Aboriginal group, Prof Quinn said. -AAP

Health summit being planned



Planning for the 2004 Koori Health Careers Residential Workshop at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, in western New South Wales, is well under way.

Designed to encourage and challenge rural Indigenous youth to understand the importance of health and education in their communities, the workshop aims to provide a culturally supportive atmosphere in which students are encouraged to seriously consider a career path in the health-care field.

This year's workshop is convened by the Greater Murray Area Health Service (GMAHS) in partnership with Charles Sturt University, Maldahangilanna Ngungilanna Indigenous Education Unit. Funding has again been received from NSW Health Nursing and Midwifery Office (NaMO) and the NSW Rural Doctors Network, with student travel assistance from the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST).

● The workshop will be held from September 13-17. More details on (02) 6923 5749.

Nurse aims to educate others



Sharon Dennis sparkles with enthusiasm when she speaks about her task as Indigenous higher education and health science officer at the University Department of Rural Health (UDRH), Tasmania.

"My role is to set up and help to deliver a bridging program for prospective Aboriginal university students. The program is designed to provide people with certain skills, together with an understanding of the university's requirements of its students."

Ms Dennis' commitment to the 'mission' of encouraging Indigenous Australians to study to become health professionals was shaped by her experiences before joining the UDRH.

"I started my nursing career as an enrolled nurse. The university offered the Bachelor of Nursing for Enrolled Nurses

in my region so I decided to take the opportunity and to upgrade," she said.

"I had a little boy in my first year and purchased a general store in my second year of study. I also worked with ATSIC on a very controversial issue relating to Aboriginal people and identification in Tasmania. It is the combination of all these experiences that influenced me to apply for this position."

The confidence that Ms Dennis had developed in herself and in her own identification as an Aborigine brought her to an awareness that she wanted to be a positive influence for Aboriginal education in the wider community. She recalls situations that gave her a special empathy with other Indigenous people who are confronted with barriers to education and personal growth.

"The main barriers I encountered in my study and professional practice have been silence and exclusion," she said.

"Whenever my identity as an Aboriginal was raised there would be a silence marked by an uncomfortable atmosphere, only broken when the other person would initiate a quick change of topic. Often it took a long time for that person to speak to me again and most of the time they would not even realise they were doing it."

Ms Dennis' professional experience is as multi-faceted as her background as a student, mother and shopkeeper. She started her training as an enrolled nurse at 17 after moving away from home. Her work at the North West Regional Hospital involved clinical stints at such remote areas in Tasmania as Rosebery and Queenstown.

She also volunteered for the local ambulance service, worked as an enrolled nurse in theatre and then on the wards as a registered nurse. Her experience was further broadened by a

secondment as nursing representative for a health union, where she experienced two Tasmania-wide strikes in one year. However, it is the times of shared joy and sadness that Ms Dennis remembers most vividly from her career as a clinician.

"I had so many intensely rewarding times. I have worked with some great people and I have looked after some great people. I have cried with laughter and sadness and shared some of the most intimate moments with people I often do not see again. I have experienced birth and death and seen many people go through life-changing experiences," she said.

Ms Dennis' appointment is a shared role, based at the North West Centre of the University of Tasmania in Burnie, between Riawunna, the Centre for Aboriginal Education and UDRH Tasmania.

Research wins national award

NT A GP registrar from the Northern Territory has won a national award for his pre-PhD

research into the health benefits of Indigenous land management.

Paul Burgess, a registrar with Northern Territory General Practice Education, was awarded the 2004 General Practice Education and Training Registrar Research Prize.

The national prize is awarded to a GP registrar, or GP not more than two years post-completion of training, for a research project in the field of general practice.

His PhD research, 'Healthy Land: Healthy People? Exploring the health benefits of Indigenous land management', was commended by the judges for its endeavour to address a challenging and difficult topic.

"Historically, European colonialists failed to understand the importance of country to Indigenous Australians. This misunderstanding is ongoing, reflected in Indigenous policy that has resulted in the depopulation of vast tracts of northern Australia in favour of serviceable centralised townships," Dr Burgess said. "This dislocation led to very stressful, unhealthy places for Indigenous people typified by intractable levels of poverty, unemployment, social dysfunction and ill health."

Healthy mums Casino's goal

By SOLUA MIDDLETON



When Casino health workers noticed a slump in Indigenous pregnant women visiting the doctor for ante-natal (pre-birth) check-ups, the community health workers acted fast and developed a program promoting healthy mums and babies in the northern rivers region of New South Wales.

The 'Safe Motherhood Program' meets fortnightly and brings Indigenous mothers and mums-to-be together to talk about issues surrounding pre-pregnancy through to post-pregnancy. Some of the information given includes information on pregnancy terms, giving birth and contraception.

Casino Community Health Aboriginal health worker Chris Williams says the program was started because some women from Casino weren't getting their ante-natal check-ups before they were due to give birth, which forced the hospital to send mothers straight to Lismore (half an hour away) because there was no patient history for the mother and child.

"They now have two delivering doctors in Casino. If the women don't see those doctors, the hospital won't deliver here in Casino because they don't have a medical record for them. If anything goes wrong with mother or baby, they just stick them in an ambulance and send them to Lismore," Ms Williams said.

"The women say they don't want to go, but we tell them 'if you don't see the doctor you're going to just automatically go to Lismore anyway'."

Ms Williams says the women needed to be encouraged to use the local facilities so that they could have their babies in Casino, and it was the efforts by Casino Aboriginal Medical Service and Casino Community Health that was turning this scenario around, with many more women opting to see doctors in Casino while pregnant after being involved in the 'Safe Motherhood' program. Ms Williams believes that some of the women didn't want to use the mainstream health system because Aboriginal women are shy about their bodies.

"The women are just 'preventing' being pregnant — they know they are and they will go to



Mums and bubs come to play and learn at the 'Safe Motherhood' group in Casino.

the doctor when they are ready to see the doctor. But as soon as they are (ready to see the doctor), they are ready to have the baby and that is the only time they will go to the doctor," she said.

Karen Day, a health worker from the Casino Aboriginal Medical Service, says the women have really opened up in this program and that it has strengthened in the past 12 months. Ms Day does follow-ups on the women who miss their appointments with the doctors and the 'Safe Motherhood' meetings.

"We want them to come for them — it is their program to benefit them," she said. "I work for the AMS, and if they are not there by a certain day then we get on to them and write them a letter saying that you need to come and see the doctors now." Ms Williams and Ms Day feel confident that they have eliminated the need for women in the 'Safe Motherhood' program to have their babies in Lismore, because the women are seeing doctors locally.

The 'Safe Motherhood' health workers said it was easier to get the women together at

somewhere they owned. "Initially it was very hard to get the women to come. We started in the Aboriginal Medical Service and we got pushed out because of the increase of staff, so we moved to the Bahbany Mujum (mother and child) playgroup," Ms Williams said.

"This their turf, their territory, and they own this. It is more successful this way and we are targeting more women and the kids are more settled here — it's been the best thing."

Melissa Torrens, 22, is pregnant with her first child and with three months to go she says she is feeling more confident about having the baby after the attending the program.

"I have learnt a lot about the baby growing. I feel better prepared," she said.

The program is not only for first-time mums — all mothers are welcome.

● The 'Safe Motherhood' team is health workers Karen Day and Chris Williams, early childhood nurse (midwife) Elaine Donaldson, childcare worker Irene Green and transport officer Kelly Torrens.

Darwin team is breaking the diabetes barriers

By Darwin correspondent
DELSEY TAMIANO



Working Through the Barriers' that Indigenous diabetics face has been the key objective of

a 12-month pilot program funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.

Diabetes educator Leonie Melbourne has been at the forefront of the Working Through the Barriers' project, working closely with Diabetes Australia Northern Territory (DANT) and key stakeholder, the Danila Dilba Aboriginal Health Service.

Ms Melbourne said: "When I first started the

project, I worked through Danila Dilba's Women's Clinic and found that transport and location were two of the most common barriers, so a lot of my work has been out in the field visiting clients in their homes and educating both them and their families on the best ways to deal with diabetes.

"We actually develop care plans which have a holistic approach to meeting the client's needs and often on a home visit, the kids want to get involved, so I explain what everything is for and they all get educated together."

Diabetes education is a crucial part of Ms Melbourne's role. "Diabetes is a disease that can be turned around with education. I had

one father who came into hospital with pancreatitis and there were a whole range of factors, including alcohol abuse that led to him developing Type 2 Diabetes," she said.

"He said to me that he probably couldn't make the changes needed to control his condition, like giving up alcohol and changing his eating habits, and now, 11 months down the track, he's given up drinking and his sugar levels have improved that much that he has actually gone from having to take insulin every day back to having tablets instead."

"It's changed his whole lifestyle and had a big impact on the whole family. He's back working and has set himself goals like getting his

driver's licence back. With the support of his family he was able to do it and to know that I had a part in that is very, very rewarding. I've also come across many people who were injecting their insulin the wrong way. I show them the right way but for some people the knowledge has come too late and they've already gone blind or lost a limb."

The cost of medication and supplies is also a huge disincentive to people monitoring and controlling their diabetes. "Before I came along, many of my clients would not use needles (to administer their insulin) but I made them aware of the National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS), DANT and Danila Dilba subsidy

programs which all aim to make the cost of needles, glucometers and other blood testing supplies much more affordable," Ms Melbourne said.

Ms Melbourne said that effective communication was crucial and that health professionals needed to make more of an effort to establish a relationship of trust with their clients.

Project officer Sharon Manhire also believes that the education and recognition of Aboriginal health workers as legitimate health care providers is vital to prevention or early intervention of diabetes in Indigenous communities. "All Aboriginal health workers should be trained in diabetes and once they've received that training,



LEONIE MELBOURNE

they need to be properly recognised as educators. Our health workers are working at the front line of health and in some of these communities, they're on call 24 hours a day. Unless they get more support, they'll leave, which puts our mob's health care at a higher risk," she said.

Kimberley hosts 'Our Way' health summit



Representatives from Nganampa Health Council and Dhauwurd-Wurrung Elderly Citizens, from left, 'Fingers', John Singer, Jacob McKenzie, Lloyd Inkamala, Leo Nelson, Booble King and David Willis.



The Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services team was there in force.

Appalling

By WA north-west correspondent
DESIREE BISSETT



More than 200 delegates and speakers shared their knowledge of program delivery,

intervention and prevention strategies when one of the largest area gatherings on Aboriginal health held in Australia – the 'Our Way' summit – was hosted by the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council (KAMSC).

KAMSC chief executive and former chairman of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), Henry Councillor, said Indigenous people's health should be 'on the table' for all political parties to realise the level of disadvantage suffered by Aboriginal Australians.

"In the lead-up to the next Federal election, Australians have to realise that the level of disadvantage suffered by Aboriginal Australians in such areas as health is appalling," Mr

That's the state of our health

Councillor said.

"People don't realise that Australia stands alone among comparable developed nations in failing to narrow the gap between the health of Aboriginal people and the general population. We need national commitment to actually do what the reports and inquiries keep on saying needs to be done."

Mr Councillor said the three-day summit covered many of the major issues that had an impact on Aboriginal Australians. Among the major themes were an exploration of effective regionalised Aboriginal community controlled health service structures; regional planning and partnerships;

regional health financing models including the Primary Health Care Access Program; the epidemic of chronic disease including diabetes and kidney failure; other health issues such as sexual health, suicide and family violence; the implementation of the Gordon inquiry recommendations; Aboriginal health research and health workforce.

Speakers at the forum included the Sue Ellery, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health; National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) chairman Tony McCartney; Perth magistrate Sue Gordon; Ian Wronski, dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Molecular Science at James Cook University; Ian Smith, the general manager of the Kimberley Health Region; Steve Larkin, chief executive of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS); Romanus Pakure, deputy director of Papua New Guinea's AIDS Council Secretariat.



Jeanie Dutchie, Chloe Nulgit, Katie Papertalk and Ina Shadforth.



Kimberley Population Health Unit's Jeanny Catlin, Health Insurance Commission's Rhonda Williams, Notre Dame University's Elizabeth Mortley and Yura Yungi's Mary Puertollano.

Gordon recommendations 'must be implemented'



Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council (KAMSC) chief executive officer Henry Councillor has urged the WA State Government to finally implement the Gordon inquiry recommendation to appoint a

Deputy Child Commissioner with specific responsibility for issues affecting Aboriginal children.

"Ms Gordon told the Kimberley Health Summit she was worried that this recommendation might be overlooked," Mr Councillor said.

"Given the seriousness in the Aboriginal

community in WA of the whole raft of issues raised by Ms Gordon, there is a huge need for such a position.

"I urge the State Government to keep faith with the Aboriginal people of WA by funding such a position. It could save lives – a significant number of lives."

Mr Councillor said the community had made a concerted effort to deal with such issues of child sexual abuse and violence.

"We readily acknowledge that the State Government has done much to help but it needs to take that next step. For example, in the Kimberley we have the Dampier Peninsular Women's Group making a

valiant effort to overcome child sexual abuse and violence in the face of community silence," he said.

"But they are shockingly under-resourced and because of the lack of resourcing, so much of what they do is ad hoc. That needs to cease and be dealt with strategically and properly.

"There has to be proper resourcing and genuine acceptance of the fact that it does cost more to deliver health services in locations such as the Kimberley.

"We need to be able to ensure a safe environment for our children and our communities."

Mr Councillor said the regional health summit had also been startled by the prediction of Ian Wronski, dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Molecular Science at James Cook University, that potentially there would be a huge shortfall of Aboriginal health professionals over the next decade.

"This needs to be addressed by the Commonwealth and the States. There must be a co-ordinated and effective whole-of-Government approach to Aboriginal health. And the time to act is now," Mr Councillor said.

"After all, as I said earlier, lives are at stake. It is that serious."

Partnership a boost for school

NSW Educational services for Sydney's inner-city Indigenous community are expected to be boosted thanks to a new collaborative partnership between the Alexandria Park Community School (APCS) and the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS).

The relationship between the school, which caters for a predominantly Indigenous student population, and the UTS Faculty of Education and Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning was formalised when NSW Minister for Education and Training Andrew Refshauge and UTS deputy vice-chancellor Peter Booth signed a memorandum of understanding.

UTS has already

established professional links with the staff of the school, and more recently the Telstra Foundation has funded a project to establish a learning centre within the campus.

The prime aim of the partnership is to foster a culture of learning among students, parents and the community to secure better long-term educational outcomes for students. The project brings together Indigenous and non-Indigenous academics at UTS, school staff, parents and Elders.

"The APCS system of schooling for Indigenous students and its partnership with Jumbunna and the Faculty of Education are quite unique in Australia," said Heidi Norman from the Jumbunna IHL.

"APCS is a pre-school to Year 12 school, but its



NSW Minister for Education Andrew Refshauge at Alexandria Park school.

reach is wider than the students - it also includes their families and community. The Telstra Foundation project will result in literacy, numeracy and other programs for parents and other adult members of the Indigenous community being offered through the school.

"The school is committed to providing education from an Indigenous perspective and to promoting life-long learning. Students learn an Indigenous language as part of their studies."

Ms Norman said academics from the Faculty of Education had

been working with APCS staff on the development of a "middle schooling" approach to the curriculum, which had been shown to produce better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. She said several other initiatives were already under way.

"APCS is one of three schools chosen to pilot a YWCA-funded project that aims to support parents in disadvantaged communities whose children are studying a new financial literacy program," Ms Norman said.

"Journalism staff from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences have established a program that will link UTS journalism students with APCS students.

"The APCS partnership also offers opportunities for

UTS student teachers, particularly Indigenous student teachers in both school and adult education, to undertake their practicum placement in the school.

"There's the potential for all the UTS faculties to develop initiatives and programs to work closely with the Redfern and inner-city communities to improve their educational and life opportunities."

Ms Norman said the partnership had emerged from efforts by Jennifer Newman and Jacquie Widin of the Faculty of Education to save the old Cleveland Street High School in Redfern. The vision for the Alexandria Park project had been developed over two years with the help of Jumbunna and a Faculty of Education team led by Ms Widin and Keiko Yasukawa.



Co-ordinator Vicki Pascoe (rear left) with students Ryan Doyle, David Rouse, Mahakylia Walsh and Linda Nagas.

NMIT goes 'fishing'

Students celebrate at CQU Bundaberg

QLD Indigenous students at Central Queensland University's Bundaberg campus celebrated the end of a successful semester of studies with a barbecue and gathering hosted by Nulloo Yumbah, the university's Centre for Indigenous Learning, Spirituality and Research.

CQU Bundaberg Nulloo Yumbah co-ordinator Vicki Pascoe says she is passionate about education, believing it is the vital key to the empowerment of Indigenous Australians and believes Nulloo Yumbah plays a key role.

"An important function of Nulloo Yumbah's role is to provide a program to facilitate university entry for Indigenous people and to offer academic advice and a tutoring program for Indigenous undergraduate students," Ms Pascoe said.

"A most successful way that this is happening here in Bundaberg is through the Tertiary Entry Program (TEP) for Indigenous people. This caters for mature-age students who have not completed high school as

well as for recent school leavers who wish to have a second chance at entering tertiary education.

"The program helps students to gain the skills necessary for entry into university and can be completed in one year in flexible mode or external mode from home. The program is Abstudy-approved and after successful completion, students are eligible to apply to enter any university in Australia."

Second semester studies for the TEP students will include courses such as academic communication, Australian Indigenous people and politics, computer skills, and communication and thought.

CQU Bundaberg has 21 continuing undergraduate Indigenous students, eight new undergraduate students and several students completing the TEP program.

Indigenous undergraduate students are currently studying in the areas of nursing, health promotion, education, arts, communication, business and IT. Four students have obtained cadetships and two have been awarded equity scholarships.



Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE (NMIT) is

the first Victorian TAFE to introduce a specialist, three-year degree in applied aquaculture, starting in 2005.

The new degree has undergone the same accreditation process as university degrees and has been approved by the Victorian Qualifications Authority.

The degree has been designed to fill a gap in an industry where professional qualifications with practical applications are needed.

Aquaculture is the farming of aquatic organisms including fish, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants and involves the design, construction and operation of freshwater and marine systems for breeding, hatching, growing, processing and packaging for marketing.

The degree includes the study of aquaculture sciences, aquaculture engineering, business management, marketing, applied research and innovations in the aquaculture industry.

Having played a significant

Aquaculture degree to be offered for the first time

role in assisting the development of the aquaculture industry since 1997 when it first offered courses in aquaculture, NMIT also has established major facilities at its Epping campus including a commercial scale Aquaculture Training and Applied Research Centre which incorporates both freshwater and marine systems.

The new degree has a number of distinctive features that set it apart from university courses in the same field. These include:

- It is an academic course with an increased practical component that ensures graduates are immediately employable in the industry

- Provides the study of science in aquaculture contexts in contrast to universities that

commonly provide generic science

- Integrates employment skills into teaching, learning and assessment

- Provides small classes and individual attention in a supportive environment; and

- Offers a combination of theory and its application in industry with commercial scale facilities supported by academic staff and industry practitioners.

NMIT chief executive officer Brian MacDonald said aquaculture was a dynamic growth industry worth \$678 million in 1999/00 with career opportunities in Australia.

Internationally, he said the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation had predicted that by 2030 aquaculture would dominate fish supplies and less than half of the fish consumed would come from the capture of fish.

The three-year degree will cost \$12,000 a year.

NMIT is developing a range of other degree programs in specialist fields as well as offering some degree programs and an MBA in association with the University of Southern Queensland.

Dedication pays off

Dalby park gets a makeover



Dalby's Myall Creek parkland is to be beautified by a horticultural course run for young Indigenous people by the Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE.

The Certificate II course will give teenagers on-the-job training.

Students will plant native flora to replace weeds and noxious plants that damage the environment, clean the creek, and learn how to use chemicals and machinery.

The building of a bush tucker garden will also teach participants about landscaping and care for plants.

Karen Farnham, Indigenous student support officer at the Dalby campus of the Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE, said the course would contribute to the town council's aims within its 2013 strategy.

Ms Farnham said: "I hope the course will encourage Dalby's young Indigenous people to remain in a learning environment."

"I'd also like to include some teenagers deemed at risk of disengagement from education, whether they be Indigenous or not, to do the course too."

"This will help the council with its stated aims to increase residents' post-secondary education, maximise the town's appearance and amenities and better integrate the town's growing Aboriginal population."

Travel subsidised



Students from regional Victoria who wish to attend Discovery Day at the University of Melbourne can take advantage of subsidised travel to get them to the Parkville campus on August 22.

The university is providing subsidised rail transport for students and their parents and offering to help out with the costs of bus hire if a number of schools choose to join together for a visit to Melbourne. Co-ordinator of the Discovery Day program Cressida Metcalf says that the subsidised travel arrangements will give Victorian country students the best opportunity to be a part of the annual open-day event.

She says the university has organised for V/Line tickets to be provided at a flat rate of \$7, available by pre-order from the student's school.

Schools not able to take advantage of the rail offer will be assisted in hiring a bus, provided they are willing to co-ordinate arrangements for a bus to transport passengers from other nearby secondary schools. The bus hire subsidy is available for 75 per cent of the cost, up to a limit of \$600.

● Students who wish to attend Discovery Day and take advantage of the subsidies should contact their school careers adviser.



A passion for improving the health of Indigenous people has led a Moreton Institute of TAFE graduate to being named the Queensland Training Awards Student of the Year for the Brisbane region. Belinda Bennett (pictured), who has graduated with a Diploma of Nursing, was named vocational Student of the Year at the Brisbane regional final of the 2004 Queensland Training Awards.

Ms Bennett, who is from Collarenebri, a community of 400 people in western New South Wales, was also named in the top 10 in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year section.

Ms Bennett said she chose to relocate to Brisbane to study at Moreton TAFE so she could receive qualifications which weren't offered in enrolled nurse courses in NSW, specifically the Moreton TAFE Diploma Course, includes medication endorsement, so Aboriginal health workers and nurses like Ms Bennett can administer immunisation and other medications, which are vital to promoting Aboriginal health in rural and remote areas.

"I worked as an Aboriginal health worker in community health, working in day clinics and doing home visits," Ms Bennett said.

"I couldn't give the medications which are needed because I had to be supervised by a registered nurse, and although there was one with us, the supervision slowed things down and affected the delivery of service. I couldn't effectively do my job."

Ms Bennett isn't a stranger to study; she has always been determined to gain all the qualifications she could to help Indigenous people.

"I always wanted to get into health and

nursing. I worked as an assistant in nursing at the local hospital after doing the training through distance education.

"I had grown up in Aboriginal communities and seen the issues of drugs, alcohol and diabetes.

"But it wasn't until I worked in the hospital that I saw the extent of the problems. I was exposed to it a lot more and wanted to do something.

"I then completed a Diploma in Community Health and Development by distance through Sydney University, so I could work as an Aboriginal health worker in the community.

"But I still didn't feel like I was doing enough."

Ms Bennett and her two children then moved to Brisbane, while her husband

remained in Collarenebri for work.

"It has been hard but this is what I want to do. I want more qualifications and to become a registered nurse and work with the World Health Organisation to address Indigenous health. I will return to my community and help local Aboriginal people but eventually I want to look at the bigger picture of Indigenous health around Australia," she said.

"The health of Aboriginal people is equal to that of people in a Third World country and that is disgraceful."

Moreton Institute of TAFE teacher Margaret Webb encouraged Ms Bennett to enter the awards because she recognised her burning desire to learn and help Indigenous people.

Learning to govern



Indigenous people are to be given the skills to run their community organisations

through a course being offered by the Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE.

The Community Governance program will teach participants how to form regulations that govern a body, run successful meetings, apply for government funds and be accountable for their spending, among other skills.

Eric Law, director of the Indigenous Studies Faculty at the Southern

Queensland Institute of TAFE, said the course would begin after July in St George and at the institute's Nurunderi campus in Cherbourg.

"With the abolishing of ATSIC this course has added importance and will give Indigenous people independence at a community level," he said.

"Indigenous people are now going to be expected to be able to run their own programs and organisations on a local basis.

"The community governance course we're offering aims to develop people's skills to a level where they can take full ownership of their

administration and programs. Indigenous people have needed this type of training for some time."

The course will run as a Certificate III and if successful at St George and the Nurunderi campus in Cherbourg it will roll out across south-west Queensland.

The institute is also negotiating with the University of Southern Queensland's Hervey Bay campus to run a Diploma of Community and Welfare and Development at the Nurunderi campus.

It is hoped the diploma will be able to be studied at Nurunderi from February next year.

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Chain letters: They're illegal

Chain letters always offer the guarantee of easy money. They ask for a small outlay and for you to send off a couple of hundred letters. Afterwards the promise is that you just need to sit back and wait for the money to start rolling in.

Unfortunately, when Australian Post seized more than 5000 letters with the incorrect postage stamps in Queensland recently, the dream of easy money quickly turned into a nightmare for some consumers.

Queensland Minister for Fair Trading Margaret Keech had the Office of Fair Trading investigate. It uncovered almost 5000 'David Rhodes' chain letters sent by consumers.

"Few Queenslanders who have participated in the scheme are aware chain letters are illegal," Mrs Keech said.

"We can't stop chain letters from getting around, but we can educate consumers about how not to be fooled into getting involved with them."

Here are some of the more common questions that consumers have concerning chain letters.

Q. Are chain letters against the law?

A. Yes. It is an offence to participate in one or even promote them. They are specifically prohibited under the Fair Trading Act 1989 and are also in breach of section 61 of the Trade Practices Act 1974. If you participate in a chain letter you face fines of up to \$40,000 for an individual and \$202,500 for companies. Even worse, you could face criminal charges.

Q. I'm not sure if I have come across a chain letter before. How does a chain letter work?

A. The 'David Rhodes' chain letter circulating around Queensland asks the recipient to send \$10 to the person named on top of the list. The recipient is told to delete the name at the top of the list and place their name at the bottom, before sending the letter to 200 or more people. 'David Rhodes' claims to have turned \$218 into \$78,185 within the first 60 days of operating the 'business plan' outlined in the letter.

Q. Are there other types of chain letters?



A. Consumers should be wary of all unsolicited mail, unrealistic promises, glowing witness statements (are not proof), be wary of letters that ask you to post money to names on a list, and remember: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Some common chain letters to keep an eye out for are:

- David Rhodes
- David Stein
- Jason Lee
- Steve Collins

Q. What should I do if I

receive a chain letter in the mail?

The best way to deal with a chain letter is to throw it in the bin. Don't be tempted to get involved. Already this year the Queensland Office of Fair Trading has received 214 written complaints about chain letters.

Q. I had received a letter containing a witness statement from a previous participant who had earned \$15,000. The letter looked very official. The person insisted it was a legitimate business. Is this true?

A. Many of these responses are simply made up to fool you into joining their scam. They are often printed on official-looking paper, make claims that sound real and have a supporting statement from someone who is supposed to have made money from participating. They claim that a simple outlaying fee can turn into thousands. This is not true.

Q. I received a business proposal through a business I have worked with. It stated it was not a chain letter and that I could make easy money in 20

to 90 days. If the proposal went through my business fax, wouldn't it be legitimate?

A. Chain letters are not always delivered through the mail. Some are hand-delivered, faxed or emailed. Chain letters are usually circulated through a list derived from a person's family, friends or the telephone book. If the company had your business contact details, it is easy to see why it was sent to your business. Being sent through your work fax does not make the letter more official. If they are asking you to send off money to a list of people, it is a chain letter.

QUESTIONS? If you want your consumer rights questions answered in this column, email fairgo@dtftwid.qld.gov.au

For more information on your consumer rights, get a free copy of the Fair Go guide from the Queensland Office of Fair Trading by calling 1300 658 030 or visiting www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au

This pocket-sized guide provides information and advice on a range of topics, including scams.

Traineeship a big help for grieving mum

By SOLUA MIDDLETON

NSW The Concord Hospital may be the set for the hospital television drama 'All Saints' but behind the walls there are the real people who work on the scenes with real-life stories.

One of these real people is Juleanna Szabo, who lost her 13-year-old son to a petrol bomb attack while he slept in a Sydney home in 1998. She said she found out just how difficult it was to pick herself up after such a tragedy.

She struggled to face each day, but the tables turned the day she started a traineeship at the hospital.

Finally there was something to look forward to each day. Ms Szabo now works as a grade two hospital assistant. She works in the production area of the linen service and although she is not a doctor, she takes great pride and joy in her work.

In 1999, only a year after losing her son, she realised that she needed to keep herself busy and approached Naamoro Koori Employment Service and 'begged them' to keep herself 'occupied'.

"I lost my son, I lost my world," Ms Szabo said. "The

traineeship helped me to come through it - it gave me something to look forward to each day."

At times the road was tough being a trainee, Ms Szabo said. "I was working four days on the job and going to TAFE one day and being paid a junior wage because I was a trainee," she said. "In the end it paid off, I'm glad I stuck to it."

Working in the production area is very physical, says Ms Szabo - "it can get hot in the laundry". But it hasn't slowed her down. "I'm like a chain reaction out there," she said.

The traineeship consisted of 14 modules over 12 months of on and off-the-job training, including first aid and occupational health and safety, and four years on from completing the traineeship she claims to be one of Naamoro's first success stories.

Ms Szabo wants her story to encourage others who might be going down the wrong track or those who have given up hope to realise the importance of getting an education and a job.

"I'd like to see the younger ones find a job that lasts a lifetime. They can be anything they want if they put their minds to it," Ms Szabo said.

Billiluna in celebration

By WA north-west correspondent
DESIREE BISSETT



A mosaic has been made by Billiluna community members to celebrate the 25th anniversary of their Kururrungku Catholic Education Centre.

Twenty-three mosaics now grace the grounds outside the library and community resource centre, with additional benches and tables decorated by adults and children for people to rest upon.

These artistic mosaic foundations have laid the groundwork for the second stage of the anniversary commemoration to begin, with plans for a native bush medicine and food garden to be planted.

As for the mosaics, culture and environmental pictures dominate the area and the efforts of the whole community have been praised by Kururrungku principal Pat Holden.

"Everybody is to be thanked for their efforts. The community is located about 180km south of Halls Creek and 60 students attend the Kururrungku, with classes spanning kindy/pre-primary and finishing up at Year 10," she said.

"We had a meeting, and talked about what we could do and we decided on a community project



Billiluna artists John and Justin at work on a mosaic.

and everyone decided they wanted to pitch in.

"We had no idea we'd wind up with so many mosaics. It was just amazing to see all of the people get involved and the project went for almost two-and-a-half weeks.

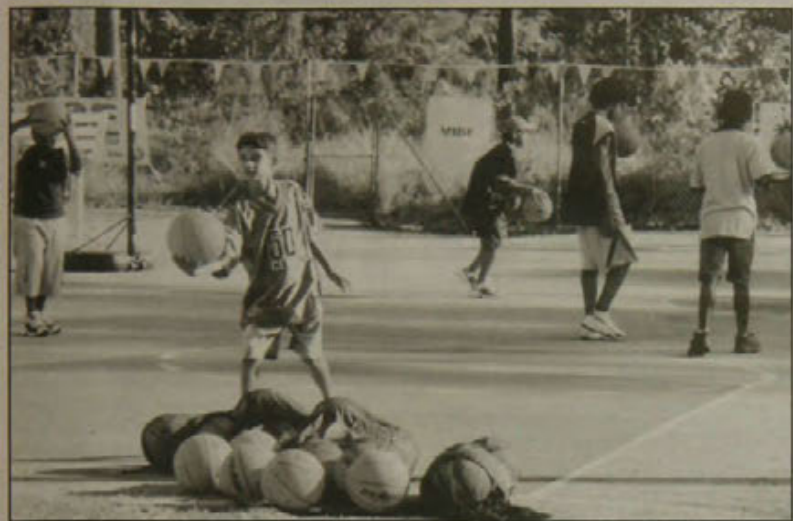
"We'd like to thank the whole community who joined in and artists Maureen Spencer and Phillip Green for their time.

"The mosaics are wonderful. We

had two visiting artists who showed us what to do and now if the community wanted to, they could do it anywhere themselves.

"It's a good skill to learn. We also have benches and a boomerang seat with the anniversary information and the school logo. At the end of the two-week project we had a big sausage sizzle and we were so proud. Next step is putting in the native garden."

3on3 bounces into north Queensland



One of the young locals tests out the basketballs.



The Break Off competition winners in Weipa.

Weipa rises to Challenge

QLD The sunny mining town of Weipa was digging a lot more than bauxite when the Vibe 3on3 came calling. Soon the whole town was grooving to the bounce, beats and breaks of Vibe's 3on3 basketball and hip hop challenge.

This was the second time the 3on3 came to Weipa, and the local community banded together to make sure that this year's event would be as unforgettable as it was in 2003.

"Weipa has always been a special event," said 3on3 coordinator and Black Diamond Claude Williams.

"This is thanks to the great support of the local committee, as well as assistance from the business community and Comalco.

"We look forward to coming to Weipa - it's great to get out in the

North Queensland sun and watch the kids have fun. The great scenic setting is a perfect backdrop, too."

The event also marked the introduction of the new Health Expo, which was created to introduce the community to local health services

'The (event) was once again an outstanding success, with representation from communities right across the Western Cape region'

and encourage discussion on health issues. Teams also participated in question and answer games that were designed to raise awareness of matters surrounding drug and alcohol abuse, as well as general health and well-being.

Touch football champion Bo De La Cruz and popular Indigenous hip-hop artist Brothablack were also on hand to offer support and encouragement. Brothablack held special rap workshops, where contestants learnt song-writing and performance skills.

Break-dancing whizz-kid Isaac Parson amazed the crowd with his gravity-defying moves, while some of Weipa's talented dancers took the opportunity to show off their own moves at the break-off event.

"The Vibe 3on3 was once again an outstanding success, with representation from communities right across the Western Cape region," said 3on3 executive producer Gavin Jones.

"Vibe looks forward to maintaining a close relationship with the Weipa community and with its young people."



Competition entrants are encouraged to express themselves through words and pictures.



A group of young rappers display their work.



Entrants were of all ages and came from all over the Western Cape region.



Contestants warm up before the games begin in Rockhampton.



One of the contestants gets into the break-dancing action.



A section of the crowd.



The Puggy Hunter award winner was Brendan Prizeman.



The winning team in the boys' break-off.

Rocking in Rocky



Rockhampton welcomed back an old friend as the Vibe 3on3 basketball and hip-hop challenge returned for the

third consecutive year.

It was a case of third time lucky, as this year's event was the biggest and best yet. Hundreds of young people turned up to the Central Queensland University Community Sports Centre, where the event was held, and the talent on show had heads turning all weekend.

With a backing track of non-stop hip-hop provided by DJ Free, more than 50 teams participated in the 3on3 basketball competition, which took place on 14 basketball

'They were the most talented and well-behaved group of young people I have ever seen at a 3on3'

courts inside and outside the venue.

The break-off event, where contestants show-off their break-dancing moves, was the most exciting in the event's six

year history.

"The quality of beat-boxing and breaking was as good as we have seen since the inception of this event," says Black Diamond Claude Williams, Vibe 3on3 co-ordinator.

Champion swimmer Ashley Anderson and touch-football star Bo De La Cruz were role models at the event. Both were on hand all weekend to encourage the contestants and hand out prizes.

"They were the most talented and well-behaved group of young people I have ever seen at a 3on3," said 3on3 veteran De La Cruz.

"We were all blown away by the community's commitment and their overwhelming support."



Black and White, an under-18 3on3 team.

Employment

Indigenous Job Opportunities

Welding a future

SEVENTEEN Northern Territory Indigenous students have been awarded for their welding and engineering studies undertaken through a new training program delivered at Charles Darwin University.

They have already attracted the interest of local employers.

"Local industry and proponents of major construction projects have shown interest in this new program and it is anticipated that many of the participants who successfully completed the program will be offered jobs," Territory Construction Association general manager Jon Baker said.

All 17 students will receive a statement of attainment to recognise their specific areas of achievement. In addition, nine students have gained welder qualification to the structural steel welding standard AS2980 that confirms their ability to weld on large steel structures.

Seven of the students are currently eligible to take part in the university's October graduation ceremony to receive a Certificate II in Engineering (production).

The event is the result of collaborative efforts between the Territory Construction Association (TCA) and the Northern Land Council (NLC) who, in consultation with the Welding Technology Institute of Australia, approached the NT and Commonwealth governments late in 2003 with a proposal to fund a Pre-apprenticeship Welding Program for Indigenous people.

"This program expands on the NLC/TCA strategic approach that has so far placed multiple Indigenous trainees and graduates in various employment opportunities across the Top End," NLC chief executive officer Norman Fry said.

With Indigenous people accounting for 27 per cent of the University's VET students, vice-chancellor Professor Helen Garnett said "the partnership approach for the program worked with the University's efforts toward



Welding lecturer David Cook, left, NT Minister Syd Stirling and program participants Ben McCoy, William McCoy and Alan Angus.

delivering a flexible, responsive approach to community and business training needs'.

The Pre-apprenticeship Welding Program was made possible through the NT Department of Education, Employment and Training and the Commonwealth Department of Employment and Workplace Relations who provided financial support

totalling \$136,000 to the 15-week program that started in February.

The Program involved 11 weeks' training conducted at the university and four weeks' work placement training with local businesses.

"The Territory has skill shortages in a number of areas, including welding. This

program is a great example of how we can address those shortages by working together to grow our own workforce and giving young Territorians the skills they need to take advantage of the many job opportunities opening up here," NT Employment, Education and Training Minister Syd Stirling said.

'This program expands on the NLC/TCA strategic approach that has so far placed multiple Indigenous trainees and graduates in various employment opportunities across the Top End' – NLC CEO Norman Fry

Student of the year title goes to Brisbane youth



ANTHONY TJEBA

BRISBANE-BASED Anthony Tjeba took home the highest accolades when he was named the Wesley United Employment Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year at the recent Wide Bay-Sunshine Coast regional final of the 2004 Queensland Training Awards.

State Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Minister Tom Barton said Anthony deserved the highest recognition for his outstanding achievements in training.

"The exceptional quality of nominees in this region indicates that the Wide Bay Sunshine Coast

region plays a key role in boosting the State's economy by skilling Queenslanders," Mr Barton said.

"I congratulate the winners and finalists for their training accomplishments and wish them every success in the future."

Winners were announced at the Wide Bay-Sunshine Coast regional final presentation dinner held at the Kingaroy Town Hall and attended by more than 280 people.

The awards recognise Queensland's top apprentices, trainees, vocational students, employers, schools, training providers and others dedicated to training.

Your guide to jobs

WELCOME to the Koori Mail's Indigenous Job Opportunities showcase. Every fortnight we publish this guide, featuring pages and pages of employment and related opportunities from around Australia. Our research shows that many Indigenous people look to the Koori Mail to find out what jobs are available. This showcase is designed to make the job search more user-friendly for our readers and to give our advertisers the ideal vehicle to highlight their vacancies.

Indigenous Job Opportunities – don't miss it every fortnight, in your Koori Mail.

It's easy to advertise in our Indigenous Job Opportunities showcase. Simply call Tricia Howard, Stuart Corlett or Naomi Moran on (02) 66 222 666, fax (02) 66 222 600 or email advertising@koorimail.com
Our deadline is six days before the date of publication.

POSITION VACANT

Aboriginal Multi-Service Co-ordinator

Funded by Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care Cessnock, Maitland & Dungog areas. SACS Award, Grade 4. We are seeking to employ a Co-ordinator to co-ordinate the service delivery of our multi-service project in the above areas. This position is 24hrs p.w. Essential Criteria: Driver's Licence; experience and demonstrated competence in working with Aboriginal Elders and younger people with disabilities; working in a team, use of QIARR, MDS, report writing, data entry and collection. Co-ordinate the project as per funding guidelines; knowledge of indigenous culture, HACC program, Neighbour Aid functions, OH&S; develop and co-ordinate volunteer training, centre programs; demonstrated ability to as part of a team. Applicants must be of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background. Aboriginality is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised by S14(d) of the Anti-discrimination Act, 1977. Phone (02) 4937 1094 for job description. Applications close 19/07/04. Apply in writing to: Barkuma, Executive Program Manager, 76 Lang Street, Kurri Kurri NSW 2327.



Finance & Administration Manager

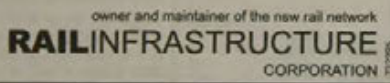
Salary - \$45,000pa Purpose of Position: To manage the finance and administrative functions and to provide advice and support to all Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council functional areas. The position is based at the Liverpool Office of the Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council. Applications from Aboriginal people are encouraged. Applicants must address the selection criteria for their application to be considered. All enquiries regarding this position should be directed to Len Malone, Chief Executive Officer, and Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council on (02) 9602 5280 or by email to lennie@glalc.org.au. For a copy of the position description, and selection criteria please contact Natalie on (02) 9602 5280. Please send your applications to: The CEO, Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council, PO Box 1038, Liverpool BC NSW 1871. Applications close on Friday, 23rd July 2004. (No late applications will be considered).

Northern Sydney Health

better health: from the Harbour to the Hawkesbury Visit our website www.nsh.nsw.gov.au Written applications, including the names, addresses and telephone numbers of three (3) referees, and quoting position number, should be sent to Manager, Recruitment Services, Locked Bag 2235, North Ryde BC 1678. Applications will not be acknowledged. To confirm receipt call (02) 9887 5448. Eligibility Lists may be created for all positions. Cleaners x 2 - P/T Position No: NSH 0735 \$15.36 ph Located at Mona Vale Hospital, Environmental Services Department. Enquiries: Phillip Morgan (02) 9998 0746. Closing: 22 July 2004. Security Officers x 2 - F/T Position No: NSH 0747 \$617.90 pw Located at various sites within NSAHS, Security & Fleet Services Unit. Enquiries: Kevin Hadley (02) 9926 7350. Closing: 21 July 2004. Master Licence No: 407462071 Salary and conditions are in accordance with relevant award/enterprise agreements. An Equal Opportunity Employer providing a smoke-free environment. Successful applicants will be expected to abide by the Code of Conduct and be committed to ethical practices. Relevant criminal record checks will be conducted on applicants recommended for employment appointment to positions within the NSW Health System.

APPRENTICE INTAKE 2004

Rail Infrastructure Corporation (RIC) a statutory state owned corporation, owns and maintains the NSW rail network on behalf of the NSW state government and provides access to passenger and freight operators. We are seeking people interested in pursuing a career in the rail industry. Apprenticeships are currently available in the Sydney Metropolitan area for Rail Traction Workers, Electrical Mechanic Distribution and Substations; Electrical Mechanic Fitters; Cable Jointers and Plant Mechanics with a potential salary of approximately \$40,000 upwards at the completion of the apprenticeship. Apprenticeships are available to anyone who has reached an equivalent standard of education to the completion of Year 10 (school certificate) secondary level in NSW by December 2003. We encourage applications from mature age candidates and successful applicants will be paid at an adult apprentice rate. Applicants should include a cover letter, your resume and work experience together with a short statement about the following: • Why you are interested in the apprenticeship • Any knowledge you have of the apprenticeship • Your willingness to undertake studies and training to become proficient in this trade • Your willingness to undertake training and work experience in various work locations • In order, your preference(s) for apprenticeship (1 = most favourable) Applications can be directed by mail to the RIC Apprenticeship Program, P.O. Box 257, Belmore, NSW 2192 or facsimile 02 9563 7478. Please quote reference number APP002/04. Closing date of applications is Friday 23rd July 2004. Enquiries by phone to 02 9563 7481. Applicants must be Australian Citizens or already have been granted Permanent Resident Status. RIC is an equal opportunity employer.



**Australian Government
Department of Employment and
Workplace Relations**

help us support
DEWR
strong employment growth
and a productive Australia

**SENIOR PROJECT OFFICER/
PROJECT OFFICER -
EXPECTED VACANCIES**

**APS Level 6/5 (Several Positions) -
Identified Positions**
Salary from APS6 - \$60,200/APS5 - \$55,300
(including superannuation)
Indigenous Employment Programme Branch
ACT - Canberra

The Indigenous Employment Programme Branch is seeking energetic and motivated people to join small teams working on a range of programme, policy and resource management matters associated with the administration of the Australian Government's Indigenous Employment Policy (IEP).

For more information
APPLICANTS MUST QUOTE Job Reference: APS Level 5 No. K511327
APS Level 6 No. K511331

Contact: APS Level 6 - Ms Elizabeth Camp, (02) 6121 6526,
elizabeth.camp@dewr.gov.au
APS Level 5 - Mr John Gibbs, (02) 6121 7429,
john.gibbs@dewr.gov.au

Selection Documentation: See 'General Advice for Applicants' below
Applications close on: 05/08/04

General advice for applicants

Australian citizenship is required for employment in DEWR. Successful applicants will be offered an Australian Workplace Agreement (AWA) with an attractive remuneration package, including potential for a performance bonus. There are selection criteria for each vacancy. Please address each criterion in your application. Links to full selection documentation and helpful tips for applicants are at www.dewr.gov.au/workingindewr/. Include your résumé and the names and telephone numbers of two work referees with your application. Selections may be based only on applications and referee comments. DEWR reserves the right to refuse late applications. The department encourages workplace diversity and welcomes applications from Indigenous Australians, people of non-English speaking background, and people with a disability. If you have individual requirements that need to be accommodated in order to participate in an interview, please indicate this in your application. The department prefers online lodgement of applications using www.dewr.gov.au/workingindewr/howtoapply/. Where this is not possible, email your application to recruitment@dewr.gov.au or post it to:

The Recruitment Officer
DEWR
GPO Box 9879
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Applications close on 05 August 2004.



www.dewr.gov.au/workingindewr/



**Australian Government
Aboriginal Hostels Limited**

**Join our team
in Dubbo**

Aboriginal Hostels Limited is a company owned and financed by the Australian Government. Through our central office located in Canberra, and eight Regional Offices, we operate and fund hostel accommodation throughout Australia. We have a policy of offering employment and training opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Applicants for the advertised position will need to demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander societies.

Warrina Hostel

Relief Houseparent

APS Level 2

(Part-time 27 hours per week)
\$32,519 - \$34,509 (pro-rata) pa,
plus superannuation and 6 weeks annual leave

The successful applicant will be responsible for the 24 hour operation of the hostel whilst on duty and ensuring that appropriate recreational, educational and other support facilities are available to the students.

A security assessment prior to gaining employment with AHL is required. The successful applicant may be required to undergo a medical assessment during the six month probation period.

Further inquiries: Greg Hazel, telephone (02) 9310 2777.

Selection documentation: Greg Hazel, telephone (02) 9310 2777 or from our website at: www.ahl.gov.au

Written applications addressing the selection criteria close Friday 30 July 2004 and should be sent to:

**Regional Manager
Aboriginal Hostels Limited
GPO Box 783
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012**

Aboriginal Hostels Limited is committed to Australian Public Service values, merit principles and Workplace Diversity. Conditions of employment are contained in the Aboriginal Hostels Limited Certified Agreement 2003-2006.

This is an identified position.

www.ahl.gov.au





Maternal & Child Health Nurse

The Victorian Aboriginal Health Service is a community controlled organisation that provides primary and preventative health care, including physical, emotional and social support to the Aboriginal community.

Over the last ten years the VAHS has increased immunisation of infants within the local Aboriginal Community. Due to the retirement of the Maternal and Child Health Nurse we are looking for someone to continue the good work.

The role is responsible for maintaining and improving the health and welfare of children seen at the VAHS and their parents in a culturally sensitive manner.

The successful applicant will possess the following:

- Registered Nurse with additional qualifications in midwifery and maternal and child health
- Accredited vaccinator or willingness to undertake appropriate training
- Experience in providing an outreach maternal and child health service and vaccinations
- Ability to provide flexible responses to client needs
- Good knowledge, understanding and practical application on a range of child rearing practices and values

Our Maternal and Child Health Nurse works closely with Aboriginal Health Workers and provides holistic approach to patient care.

The Victorian Aboriginal Health Service is located close to the CBD, public transport, and in between Brunswick Street and Lygon Street restaurants and cafes.

Salary Packaging Available

Closing Date: by COB Friday 30th July 2004
For selection criteria please contact Lesley Day on 9419 5000.

Applicants should address the selection criteria, state full qualifications and experience including referees to: Ms Marjorie Thorpe, Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Aboriginal Health Service
186 Nicholson Street
Fitzroy Vic 3065.

5/04/04 07/03/04



Shire of Broome workers Peter Clifton and Leanne Cooper.



Where career and lifestyle meet ... HUNTER HEALTH

Allied Health

Aboriginal Health Education Officers

Diabetes and Vascular Health
1 x Permanent Part Time, 1 x Temporary Part Time
Hunter Area Diabetes Service - 04/612
You will act as a liaison person between the community, Awabakal Aboriginal Medical Service and the diabetes service, on issues of access, screening of patients for vascular health risk factors and participation in the provision of culturally specific education programs.
Enquiries: Alan Baird 4923 6734 or Leanne Pead 4969 2474.

Nursing

Perioperative Nurse Educator

Program Coordinator
Operating Suite, Division of Surgery
John Hunter Hospital - 04/631
You will be responsible for the coordination of the Perioperative Nursing Postgraduate Program, in conjunction with the University of Newcastle, and individualised clinical teaching and supervision of the postgraduate program students. The position also includes clinical teaching within the clinical setting of all levels of staff.
Enquiries: Debbie Bradley 4921 4305.

Closing Date for both positions: 30 July 2004.

For important information on Hunter Health positions and how to apply, please refer to www.hunter.health.nsw.gov.au

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES SOUTH WEST REGION

All applicants will be expected to demonstrate an understanding and commitment to the principles of Equal Employment Opportunity, Occupational Health and Safety, and knowledge of Ethnic Affairs policies and programs. Applications from people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background, and women are encouraged. Recommended applicants may be the subject of criminal record and probity checks. The Department is a non-smoking workplace. However, staff and inmates are permitted to smoke in designated areas.

TEACHER, LITERACY & NUMERACY (ABORIGINAL)

Bathurst Correctional Complex, Temporary Full-Time, Position Number 04/W028. Total remuneration package valued to: \$62,591 p.a. (\$50,598-\$56,720) Total remuneration package includes salary, employer's contribution to superannuation and leave loading.

Selection Criteria: Aboriginality. Degree, diploma or certificate in Adult Literacy & Numeracy. Degree or diploma in education. Experience teaching adults. Understanding of recent national developments in adult education. Ability to adopt flexible approach to program delivery. Commitment to Area Management and Case Management. Ability to undertake administrative duties. Well developed communication skills. Common selection criteria also apply.

Notes: This is a re-advertised position. In this position an applicant's race is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised by Section 14 of the Anti-Discrimination Act, 1977. This is a temporary appointment under Section 24 or temporary employment under Section 27 of the Public Sector Employment & Management Act 2002 for a period of up to 12 months.

Inquiries: Raj Sanggaran (02) 6338 3282.
Information Packages: Raj Sanggaran, Senior Correctional Education Officer, Bathurst Correctional Complex, telephone (02) 6338 3282.

Applications Marked 'Confidential' To: Human Resource Services, South West, Department of Corrective Services, PO Box 952, GULBURN NSW 2580.
Closing Date: Friday 30 July 2004.

04/07/04

Greater Murray Area Health Service
www.gmahs.nsw.gov.au/jobs

Aboriginal Child & Family Development Worker

Narrandera Community Health - Position No. 2287
Aboriginal Health Education Officer: \$32,227-\$62,406
Applications for the above position are invited from interested and suitably qualified persons of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. An applicant's race is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised by Section 14 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977, New South Wales.
This position is open to persons who may or may not hold a relevant qualification. The Greater Murray Area Health Service will provide the training and education relevant to this position if required.
For information/application kits please contact Chris Tracy - Program Manager, Sexual Assault/Child Protection on 02 6023 7116, email: chris.tracy@sesahs.nsw.gov.au
Closing Date: 23/07/2004

We are committed to EEO, OHS&R, cultural diversity and ethical practices. Appointment is subject to a satisfactory criminal record check and child protection checks conducted for all positions. A provision prohibited by the Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998 is not eligible to apply for child related employment. Eligibility lists will be maintained for selected positions.

BIRRANG ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD

Birrang Enterprise Development Company Ltd Field Officer (\$55,000 incl. Super)

The Birrang Enterprise Development Company Ltd is a newly created company that will have responsibility for the coordination and management of projects operating under the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) within the Binalua Billa Region of NSW.

The Field Officer will be responsible for travelling throughout the region monitoring, reporting, mentoring and assisting the participants in Work Placements and participants in Activity Centres.

The successful applicant will be based in Griffith NSW and applicants will be expected to commence as soon as practicable.

The successful applicant must also be able to demonstrate a high standard of verbal and written communication, numeracy and interpersonal skills and hold a current NSW driver's licence.

Applicants of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin are encouraged to apply.

A full Duty Statement, Information Package and Selection Criteria can be obtained by contacting Courtney King on 02 6962 5211, or by email info@birrang.com.au. Contact officer for job requirements is General Manager, Lesley Houston on 0427 300 604.

Applications close: 5.00pm Wednesday 21st July 2004.
Please note: Applicants who do not address the Duty Statement may not be offered an interview.

04/07/04

Job assistance pays off for Peter



Peter Clifton, a young disadvantaged Indigenous job-seeker from Broome in Western Australia, is now undertaking a horticulture

traineeship with the Shire of Broome thanks in large part to the assistance he received from Nirrumbuk IEC.

Nirrumbuk says it used a combination of many tools to assist Mr Clifton into ongoing employment.

Mr Clifton left school in 1994 and until 2001 he worked on a Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) activity on an outstation near Beagle Bay Aboriginal Community.

Although a beautiful spot, it is about 200km from Broome and as such is very isolated from any formal training or full-time employment opportunities.

In his efforts to get ongoing employment outside the CDEP, Mr Clifton moved to Broome in 2001 and started his CDEP activity working with Kullarri Pre-cast. There he learnt all aspects of concreting, paving, drilling and welding.

He became a participant in the Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation IEC in September 2002 while he

continued to develop skills at Kullarri Pre-Cast. Then Mr Clifton saw a job advertised for 'Traineeships in Horticulture' and he applied straight away. With help from the IEC he put together a resume and letter of application. Leanne Cooper, the parks and gardens supervisor for the Shire of Broome, said that the quality of Mr Clifton's application and his excellent reference from Kullarri Pre-Cast were the main factors in him gaining an interview.

Course

In order to help him get the position, the Nirrumbuk IEC used the training account to send Mr Clifton on a training course to secure his Front End Loader Certificate II.

He was ultimately selected for the position and started with the Shire of Broome in November last year.

The IEC also assisted the Shire of Broome in accessing Indigenous wage assistance for Mr Clifton's position.

Mr Clifton is now happily undertaking his horticulture traineeship, attends TAFE every Thursday and is enjoying learning new skills. He is doing so well that the council has already given him a pay rise.

from facing page

achievements and contributions of Indigenous people to the global community.

August 10-12: Croc Festival in Derby (WA). For further information please call Andrew Douglas on 1300 725 287

August 10-14: The Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts in association with Kooemba Jdarra and Brisbane Powerhouse present the graduation performance, titled 'Which Way'. More details from Catherine Carroll on (07) 3358 8600

August 24-26: Croc Festival in Kalgoorlie. For further information please call Andrew Douglas on 1300 725 287. <http://www.crocfestivals.org.au>

August 28: 'Many Voices', a presentation by the Australian Labor Party of its policies for Indigenous

We welcome items for our national Calendar of Events. Please make them to the point and include daytime contact details. Items should be sent to any of the addresses in the panel on Page 2.

people, to be held at the Aborigines' Advancement League, 2 Watt Street, Thornbury, Melbourne.
Contact Jenne Perlstein: jennep@labyrinth.net.au or Harvey Stern: harvey_stern@hotmail.com

August 31- September 2: Croc Festival in Port Augusta. For further information call Andrew Douglas on 1300 725 287. <http://www.crocfestivals.org.au>

September 5 - October 17: Desert Mob. Recent works from Aboriginal art centres in Central Australia. To be held at the Araluen Galleries, Alice Springs Cultural Precinct. More information is available on (08) 8951 1120 or email: culturalprecinct.dam@nt.gov.au

September 16-19: 'Gulpilil' a one-man show performed by David Gulpilil about his life. Venue QUT Gardens Theatre, Brisbane, as part of the Brisbane Festival. For tickets call QTIX 136 246 or Garden Tix (07) 3864 4455 or go to www.brisbanefestival.com.au

September 14-16: Croc Festival in Port Augusta. For further information call Andrew Douglas on 1300 725 287. <http://www.crocfestivals.org.au>

September 21-21: Croc Festival in Moree. For further information call Andrew Douglas on 1300 725 287 <http://www.crocfestivals.org.au>

September 22-26: 'Page 8' a one-man show performed by David Page

about his life. Venue: QUT Gardens Theatre, Brisbane, for part of the Brisbane Festival. For tickets call QTIX 136 246 or Garden Tix (07) 3864 4455 or go to www.brisbanefestival.com.au

October 21-21: Meeting Place-Regional Arts Australia national conference held in Horsham. Part conference, part festival. For more information contact (02) 9247 8577.

November 14-19: National Aboriginal Golf Championships at the Vines Resort in the Swan Valley, Perth. Registration and \$100 deposit required by August 30. Contact Clem Rodney on 0418 927 542, Dorothy Rodney on 0422 641 488, Nicky Abraham on (02) 9453 9176 or Julian Garlett on 0404 271 559 for details and costs.

November 25: Tweed Shire 'City of the Arts' project 'Homegrown Filmworks' short film screening at Murwillumbah Regent Cinema, northern NSW.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION LICENCES

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Northern Territory Minister for Mines and Energy, C/- Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development, GPO Box 3000 DARWIN, NT 0801, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Commonwealth) of his intent to do an act, namely to grant the following exploration licence(s) in accordance with the application(s) made therefor.

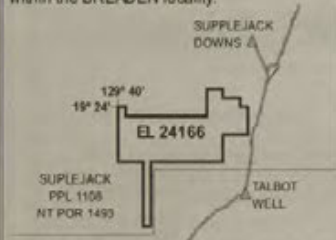
Application(s) to which this notice applies:

Exploration Licence 24147 sought by **SOFTWOOD PLANTATIONS PTY LTD**, ACN 050 120 315 over an area of 49 blocks (162 sq km) depicted below, within the **BYNOE** locality.



Not To Scale AUSLIG Map Sheet No: 5072

Exploration Licence 24166 sought by **NORMAN SYDNEY MCCLEARY**, over an area of 90 blocks (292 sq km) depicted below, within the **BREADEN** locality.



Not To Scale AUSLIG Map Sheet No: 4859

Exploration Licence 24178 sought by **NORMAN SYDNEY MCCLEARY**, over an area of 63 blocks (204 sq km) depicted below, within the **BREADEN** locality.



Not To Scale AUSLIG Map Sheet No: 4859

Exploration Licence 24194 sought by **MITHRIL RESOURCES LTD**, ACN 099 883 922 over an area of 257 blocks (811 sq km) depicted below, within the **BRAMMA** locality.



Not To Scale AUSLIG Map Sheet No: 6051

Exploration Licence 24240 sought by **MITHRIL RESOURCES LTD**, ACN 099 883 922 over an area of 50 blocks (154 sq km) depicted below, within the **SENTINEL BORE** locality.



Not To Scale AUSLIG Map Sheet No: 5346

Exploration Licence 24279 sought by **A.C.N. 099 477 915 PTY LTD**, ACN 099 477 915 over an area of 42 blocks (139 sq km) depicted below, within the **WILLEROO** locality.



Not To Scale AUSLIG Map Sheet No: 5267

Exploration Licence 24281 sought by **A.C.N. 099 477 915 PTY LTD**, ACN 099 477 915 over an area of 63 blocks (199 sq km) depicted below, within the **NARWIETOOMA** locality.



Not To Scale AUSLIG Map Sheet No: 5451

Exploration Licence 24285 sought by **GRAVITY CAPITAL LIMITED**, ACN 009 178 689 over an area of 158 blocks (513 sq km) depicted below, within the **MALLAPUNYAH** locality.



Not To Scale AUSLIG Map Sheet No: 6064

Exploration Licence 24286 sought by **GRAVITY CAPITAL LIMITED**, ACN 009 178 689 over an area of 108 blocks (338 sq km) depicted below, within the **MALLAPUNYAH** locality.



Not To Scale AUSLIG Map Sheet No: 6064

Exploration Licence 24287 sought by **IMPERIAL GRANITE AND MINERALS PTY LTD**, ACN 080 314 012 over an area of 500 blocks (1582 sq km) depicted below, within the **AILERON** locality.



Not To Scale AUSLIG Map Sheet No: 5552

Exploration Licence 24312 sought by **TYSON RESOURCES PTY LTD**, ACN 008 739 080 over an area of 306 blocks (954 sq km) depicted below, within the **PELLINORE** locality.



Not To Scale AUSLIG Map Sheet No: 5849

Exploration Licence 24339 sought by **SOUTHSTAR DIAMONDS LIMITED**, ACN 078 831 599 over an area of 161 blocks (532 sq km) depicted below, within the **TAWALLAH RANGE** locality.



Not To Scale AUSLIG Map Sheet No: 6066

Nature of act(s): Grant of an exploration licence under the Mining Act authorises the holder to explore for minerals for a term not exceeding 6 years and to seek renewal(s). The term sought for, and the term for which it is intended to grant, the exploration licence(s) referred to in this notice is 6 years from the date of grant. Further information about the act may be obtained from the Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development, GPO Box 3000, Darwin NT 0801 or Centrepoint Towers 48-50 Smith St, Darwin, telephone (08) 89 995213.

Native Title Parties: Any person who is, or becomes a "native title party" within the meaning of the Native Title Act is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2, Division 3.

Subdivision P of the Native Title Act: Under section 30 of the Native Title Act, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries concerning becoming a native title party should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street Darwin NT 0800 or GPO Box 9973, Darwin NT 0801, telephone (08) 89 361600.

Expedited Procedure: The Northern Territory Government considers that the act(s) is an act(s) attracting the expedited procedure as defined in section 237 of the Native Title Act. The exploration licence(s) referred to in this notice may be granted unless an objection is made by a native title party to the statement that the act is one which attracts the expedited procedure. Such an objection must be made to the National Native Title Tribunal within 4 months of the notification day.

Notification Day: 14 July 2004



NATIONAL NATIVE TITLE TRIBUNAL

Notice of an application for determination of native title in the state of NSW

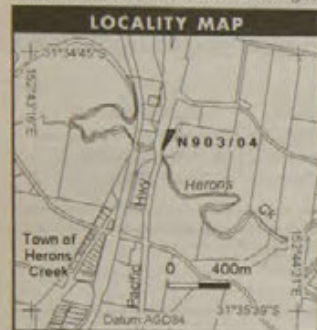
Notification day: 28 July 2004

This application is a 'Non-Claimant Application', ie an application made by a person who is not claiming native title themselves. The applicant has an interest (which is not a native title interest) in the application described below. They want the Federal Court to determine whether anyone has a native title interest in the same area.

Under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth) (the Act) there can be only one determination of native title for a particular area. Becoming a party to the application may be the only opportunity for people who claim native title rights and interests in the area to have their rights and interests recognised in the Federal Court's determination.

A person who wants to become a party to this application must write to the Registrar of the Federal Court, Level 16, Law Courts Building, Queen Square, Sydney NSW 2000, on or before 27 October 2004. After 27 October 2004 the Federal Court's permission to become a party is required.

Unless there is a 'relevant native title claim' (as defined in section 24FE of the Act) over the area on or before 27 October 2004, the area may be subject to section 24FA protection and acts may be done which extinguish or otherwise affect native title. The Registrar may be able to assist people wishing to make a relevant native title claim.



Applicant's name: Anthony Bernard Kelly MLC Minister assisting the Minister for Natural Resources (Lands) for the State of NSW as the State Minister under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)

Non-native title interest: Minister responsible for administering the Crown Lands Act 1989 (NSW)

Federal Court File No: N903/04

Location: The area subject to this application is located approximately 1km north-north-east of the town of Herons Creek, covers approximately 2988m² of land and comprises Lot 58 in Deposited Plan 48119.

The application area falls within the Parish of Burrawan, County of Macquarie, Land District of Port Macquarie and Hastings Local Government Area.

Data statement: non-claimant application boundary data sourced from and used with permission of the Department of Lands, Land and Property Information Division, NSW.

FOR ASSISTANCE OR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THIS APPLICATION, CALL THE NATIONAL NATIVE TITLE TRIBUNAL ON FREECALL 1800 640 501.

Rainforest talks end in success



Negotiators have reached agreement for the Aboriginal management of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area with the conclusion of a three-year negotiation process in Cairns, Far North Queensland.

Through the Interim Negotiation Forum, Rainforest Aboriginal and government negotiators have completed the 'Wet Tropics World Heritage Area Regional Agreement' that will improve rainforest Aboriginal involvement in co-operative management of the area.

Key outcomes include improved recognition of the contribution that Aboriginal people can make to the management of the World Heritage Area, an increased role in decision-making, and a number of protocols to guide how Aboriginal people and government will work together.

Aboriginal negotiating team official Allison Halliday said: "The regional agreement is a fantastic achievement. We are overjoyed that our hard work has finally paid off."

"This will be a new beginning for our mob. At last Rainforest Aboriginal people will have a meaningful role in management of our country."

"The 18 Rainforest Aboriginal tribal groups whose country is in the World Heritage Area are 100 per cent behind this historic regional agreement. It will advantage about 20,000 Rainforest Aboriginal people, who feel that we have been disenfranchised by World Heritage management arrangements."

"It means a lot to us to have both State and Commonwealth government agencies recognising Rainforest Aboriginal people and wanting to work more closely with us."

Notice of Proposed Grant of Exploration Permits

Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) Section 29

The Current Applicant named below hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) of the proposed grant of each of the Exploration Permits shown below under the Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld).

Exploration Permit Number	Location of Exploration Permit (Refer to Diagram)	Description of Area of Application*	Current Applicant
EPM14204	Approx. 23 km N of Cracow Centred at Lat:25°06'30"S Long. 150°22'30"E. Local Authority (Shire) within the area: Eidsvold and Banana	Area: 366 km ² Block Identification Map: Brisbane Number of Sub-blocks: 118 (each 1'lat x 1'long.) Block Number Sub-blocks 866 a, b, c, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z 869 f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z 870 f, l, q, v 940 a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, t, u 941 a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u 942 a, b, c, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z 1014 h, i, d, e, j, k, l, m, n, o, p	Newcrest Operations Limited 009 221 505

Exploration Permits to which this notice applies:

* Exploration Permits are described by the name of the Block Identification Map and the number of the Blocks (the Block Numbers) the application covers. The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy creates Block Identification Maps. These maps use a linear grid to cover the whole of Queensland. The basic unit of that linear grid is a Block. Each Block is approximately 5 minutes of latitude and 5 minutes of longitude. The approximate area of a Block is 80 square kilometres. 3456 Blocks, which are individually numbered from 1 to 3456, make up an area that is shown on a Block Identification Map. Each Block Identification Map has a different name. The Block Identification Map is usually named after a geographical feature shown on the Block Identification Map. Block Identification Maps are at a scale of 1:1 000 000.

Each Block is sub-divided into 25 Sub-Blocks, identified alphabetically by code 'a' to 'z' omitting 'j'. Each Sub-Block is approx. 1 minute of latitude and 1 minute of longitude. The approximate area of a Sub-Block is 3 square kilometres. A unique description of each Sub-Block is achieved by combining the name of the Block Identification Map with the number of the Block (from 1 to 3456) and the Sub-Block (from a to z) ie, MAP NAME, BLOCK NUMBER, Sub-Block code eg. CHARLEVILLE 1645 d.

Nature of the acts: Grant of an Exploration Permit under the Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld) authorises the holder to explore for minerals specified for a period not exceeding five (5) years and to seek renewals for a term not exceeding five (5) years. It is proposed to grant Exploration Permits subject to the Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld) and also subject to the General Conditions Version 1, 1st October, 2003 and Native Title Protection Conditions Version 1.1(a), 22nd August, 2003.

Name and address of person doing acts: The Exploration Permits will be granted under the Mineral Resources Act 1989 (Qld) by the Queensland Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy or his delegate, PO Box 1475, COORPAROO, QLD 4151.

Further information: Further information about the proposed grant of the Exploration Permits, including Block Identification Maps, may be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Landcentre, Corner of Vulture and Main Streets, Woolloongabba, Queensland 4102, Telephone: (07) 3896 3216.

Native Title Parties: Under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) any person who is a 'native title party' is entitled to certain rights in relation to the proposed grant of the Exploration Permits. Under section 20 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) persons have until three (3) months after the Notification Day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice.

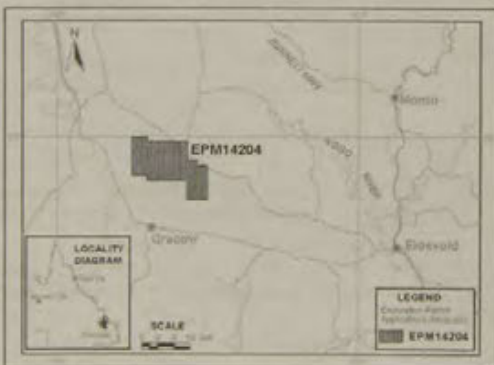
Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application may be directed to the Federal Court, Brisbane Registry, Level 6, Commonwealth Law Courts, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland 4000, Telephone: (07) 3248 1100 or Email: qldreg@fedcourt.gov.au.

Enquiries in relation to the registration of a native title determination application may be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Brisbane Registry, Level 30, MLC Building, Corner George & Adelaide Streets, Brisbane, Queensland 4000, Telephone: (07) 3226 8200 or 1800 640 501.

Expedited Procedure: The State of Queensland considers the grant of each Exploration Permit to which this notice applies is an act attracting the Expedited Procedure.

Each individual Exploration Permit may be granted unless, within a period of four (4) months after the Notification Day, a native title party lodges an objection in respect of the individual Exploration Permit with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of that Exploration Permit is a future act attracting the Expedited Procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 30, 229 George Street, Brisbane, Queensland 4000, Telephone: (07) 3226 8200 or 1800 640 501.

Notification Day: Friday, 30 July 2004



Queensland Government
Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

A place to master speaking



Indigenous people have been invited to join the Koori Toastmasters.

Internationally, the Toastmasters organisation is designed to improve

public speaking, motivation and confidence skills.

Officials from Koori Toastmasters in Sydney say their group encourages the same goals in a comfortable and relaxed environment with other Aboriginal people.

"You will learn how to run meetings, motivate others, think on your feet, speak in front of a crowd, stagecraft techniques, body language awareness and giving constructive feedback to others," they say.

"At Toastmasters, members learn by speaking to groups and working with others in a supportive environment.

"A typical toastmasters club is made up of 20 to 30 people who meet on fortnightly basis for about one to two hours.

"Each meeting gives everyone an opportunity to practice.

"Public speaking and leadership cannot be learned in a day, it takes practice.

"At Koori Toastmasters members learn to speak in front of others by simply getting up and having a go, as well as building leadership skills by organising and conducting meetings and motivating others to help them."

For more information, contact Vicki Ashton - rredfern@bigpond.net.au or (02) 9318 1496, Julie Welsh - julie.welsh@worldvision.com.au or (02) 9550 9964, or Wayne Blacklock - kooritoast@yahoo.com.au

Church leader speaks out on 'racist tendencies'



Australia has racist tendencies and should abandon its mandatory detention of asylum seekers, the general secretary of the World Council of Churches says.

Reverend Sam Kobia called for the closure of the Baxter detention centre in South Australia, likening the facility to the US base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

After touring the Baxter detention centre, Dr Kobia said he had seen nothing like it anywhere else in the world.

the pictures I have seen of Guantanamo Bay ... but of course without the chains and the uniforms.

psychological and emotional torture because there they are, day in, day out, sitting there, not knowing what tomorrow will bring.



Taking a break during activities for Disability Awareness Day were student Wayne Campbell, lecturer Christine Jacques, student Maurice Nicholson and, sitting from left, students Joyce Agius and Ronnie Parker and lecturer Peter Barnes.

Tauondi hosts big day

Information, ideas and support services that make challenges just a little easier for people with physical and intellectual disabilities brought several hundred people to Tauondi Aboriginal Community College, Adelaide, for their first disability awareness day.

The day was designed to complement the work being done as part of the college's Certificate I in Employment Skills course.

Acting co-ordinator Rebecca Bear-Wingfield said students in the Certificate I in Employment Skills had a range of physical and mental challenges, and included Elders who wanted to learn about the needs of people with disabilities.

The course is delivered with a focus on individual needs, aspirations and abilities and holistic learning and practical skills which includes learning computers, about the internet, writing resumes and letters.

"The course is a six-month program where students can learn in a safe environment and where they can learn skills that might lead to employment," Ms Bear-Wingfield said.

"Our students are really socially aware and have a high level of commitment to social justice and through this learning we support them to do that."



Participants in some of the activities during the disability awareness day held at Tauondi Aboriginal Community College, Adelaide.



NATIONAL NATIVE TITLE TRIBUNAL

Notice of an application to register a Body Corporate Agreement on the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements

Larapinta ILUA - DI2004/005
Northern Territory of Australia



Description of the agreement area:

The Agreement Area is located approximately 5.5km east of the centre of Alice Springs and comprises Lot 9386 (Survey Plan S2003/018) and Lot 8053 (Survey Plan S90/046) at Larapinta.

The Agreement Area is within the Alice Springs Town Council local government area and covers approximately 0.323km².

Parties to the agreement and their contact address:

Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation
PO Box 5186
Alice Springs NT 0871

Northern Territory of Australia
Department of Infrastructure
Planning & Environment
PO Box 2130
Alice Springs NT 0871

The agreement contains the following statements:

- 4.1 The parties agree that Phase 1 of Larapinta Stage 4 will be developed in two areas, each area yielding a minimum of 30 developed residential lots.
- 4.3 Prior to or promptly after the execution of this ILUA by the parties, Lhere Artepe will nominate in writing to the Territory which of the two areas it wishes to develop (the "Preferred Area") and which area the Territory may subsequently release for development by public processes (the "Second Area").
- 5.1 Immediately following the execution of the ILUA by the parties and following both the Territory's receipt of the nomination of Lhere Artepe's Preferred Area and Lhere Artepe's written request specifying the grantee, the Territory will grant to Lhere Artepe or its nominee, at no cost, a Crown Lease and associated development agreement for the Preferred Area.
- 6.1 The parties agree that the Territory may commence the process of developing the Second Area once Lhere Artepe or its nominee has completed the development of the Preferred Area.
- 6.3 The parties agree that if the developer does not, in the opinion of the delegate of the Minister, substantively comply with the terms of the Crown Lease over the Preferred Area, including timeframes for development, the Territory may commence development of the Second Area.
- 6.4 Notwithstanding the preceding paragraphs, if Lhere Artepe or its nominee has not executed the Crown lease and the development agreement within 3 months of the execution of this ILUA the Territory may commence development of the Second Area.
- 7.2 The parties agree that the provisions of s.24KA of the Act will apply in respect of the public works which link to but are outside the Development Area, the approximate size and dimensions of which are shown on the maps attached as Annexure 1.
- 8.1 The parties agree that native title will be surrendered to the Territory and extinguished in respect of each individual residential lot on the Preferred Area and on the Second Area at the time the Registrar-General issues an estate in fee simple for each individual residential lot in these areas.
- 8.2 The parties agree that native title will be surrendered to the Territory and extinguished in respect of the road reserves as shown on the maps attached as Annexure 1 within the Preferred Area at the time the Registrar-General issues an estate in fee simple for the first residential lot in the Preferred Area, and in the Second Area at the time the Registrar-General issues an estate in fee simple for the first residential lot in the Second Area.
- 8.3 The parties confirm that the surrender of native title referred to in the preceding two paragraphs is intended to extinguish the native title rights and interests on the lots and road reserves within the Preferred Area and the Second Area.
- 9.1 The parties consent to the doing of all the future acts agreed to in the preceding paragraphs, subject to the conditions contained in this ILUA. Specifically those future acts are:
 - (a) The grant of the crown lease for the Preferred Area referred to in clause 5.1;
 - (b) The grant of the crown lease for the Second Area pursuant to article 6;
 - (c) The grant of freehold titles in the Preferred and Second Areas referred to in clause 8.1;
 - (d) The creation of the road reserves referred to in clause 8.2;
 - (e) The construction, operation, use, maintenance and repair of the public works referred to in clause 7.2.
- 9.2 The parties also consent to the doing of any future acts agreed to in this ILUA, subject to the conditions contained in this ILUA, being undertaken at any time following the execution of this ILUA.

Definitions and Interpretation

"Development Area" means those parts of Lots 9386 and 8053 in Alice Springs that are shown on the maps attached as Annexure 1 as having been agreed by the parties as being suitable for the residential development known as Phase 1 of Larapinta Stage 4.

Registration:

The Registrar of the National Native Title Tribunal will proceed to register the agreement unless:

- a party to the agreement advises the Registrar, within one month after the Registrar gives notice of the Agreement under s. 24BH, that the party does not wish the agreement to be registered on the Register; OR
- if none of the representative Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander bodies for any of the area covered by the agreement is a party to the agreement and any one of those representative bodies advises the Registrar, within one month after the Registrar gives notice of the Agreement under s. 24BH, that the requirements of s. 24BD(4)(a) of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth) were not complied with in relation to the agreement and the Registrar is satisfied that the requirements of s. 24BD(4)(a) were not complied with.

The contact address for this notice is the Registrar of the National Native Title Tribunal, GPO Box 9973, Darwin NT 0801.

Data statement: agreement area boundary data compiled by the NNTT based on spatial reference data sourced from the Department of Infrastructure Planning & Environment NT.

Details of the terms of the agreement are not available from the National Native Title Tribunal.

FOR ASSISTANCE AND FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THIS APPLICATION, CALL THE NATIONAL NATIVE TITLE TRIBUNAL ON FREECALL 1800 640 501.

Search and photocopy fees may apply.

ABC in a celebration of Faith



An ABC-TV Message Stick special will celebrate the life of the first

Indigenous woman to play any sport for Australia.

Faith Thomas is also the only Aboriginal woman to play international cricket for Australia. Ms Thomas was born at the Nepabunna Aboriginal mission in South

Australia in 1933. Her mother, Ivy, was a traditional Adnyamathana woman from the Flinders Rangers, her father a German migrant.

Deciding this wasn't the place for her baby, Ivy placed baby Faith in the hands of two missionaries at the Colebrook Children's Home at Quorn (SA). It was the other children at Colebrook who gave Faith her name and, contrary to

the views of some, she always considered that hers was not the 'stolen generation', but rather the 'chosen generation'.

During her nursing training at Royal Adelaide Hospital, Ms Thomas played squash, cricket and hockey. She was a natural, moving quickly to the top level of sport as her enormous talents were recognised.

Ms Thomas was the first

Indigenous person to be selected to play cricket for her country, the first Indigenous woman to be selected to play any sport for Australia and is the only Aboriginal woman to play international cricket for Australia.

● ABC-TV's Message Stick airs on Fridays, 6pm (repeated Sundays, 1.30pm). The Faith Thomas profile will air on Friday, July 30.



FAITH THOMAS

Hockey in the Gulf

By Cairns correspondent
ANDREW ALOIA



Traditionally, rugby league and Australian Rules football have commanded the greatest sporting interest of young athletes in the Gulf region of northern Queensland.

This trend, however, is recently being challenged, with a 12-member junior hockey side, predominantly made up of Indigenous girls, making history as the region's first representative hockey team to compete at State level.

Results on paper did not indicate that the Under-13 girls team will set the hockey world on fire, but their presence has added another dimension to Australia's pool of talent.

"There are a lot of naturally gifted kids up there. If you give them a hockey stick or a football or any sporting equipment for that matter, they will be more than happy to get out and use it," regional development officer of the remote areas program and Under-13 girls coach Wes Ferns said.

"There is great potential out there, with the possibility that with the right development great players will come from the region."

Regional development officer Mick Evans agrees with the potential of hockey in the region, but admits that the possibility of representative success is much further downfield, with greater participation levels the primary focus.

"They are accustomed to ball sports



Coach Wes Ferns (far left) with the Gulf under-13 squad: Skirrah Turpin, Charlene Owens, Ashleigh Jesse, Hayley Brennan, Robin Gambil, Kate Alexander, Jamie Cameron, Tarni Bruce, Cassie Deal, Renita Casey, Gabby Stevenson, Sara Alexander.

such as league and Aussie Rules; when you give them a hockey stick and ball it's a lot different to what they know," he said.

"For them the success has been that they have been able to pick up a new sport, one that they didn't play or know at school or play generally."

The success of the sport has been two-fold as it provides another sporting

option for kids in the area but also provides another avenue to develop and nurture young athletic talent.

"For us the success has been that we are getting more and more people exposed to the sport," Evans said.

The initiative to set hockey up in the region stemmed from an expression of interest from sporting fraternities in the

area. But it was the drive from Hockey Queensland to set up a regional and remote development program that has delivered.

The task of developing hockey in the Gulf comes under the umbrella of Cairns Hockey which appointed Ferns as its inaugural development manager for the region.

Evans cites the Under-13s State title and the establishment of a hockey association in the region as definable moments in the organisation of hockey in the area.

"Hockey Queensland is very, very pleased with us and then some," he said. "They expected us to take five years before we first set up our own hockey association but that has been done within two years."

With the Gulf Development Hockey Association up and running, attention now turns towards future competition and development opportunities.

"Unfortunately, because of distance and expenses, it is hard to get representative teams to all State competitions so we have to focus on them attending development camps in Cairns and Townsville and, in turn, develop a bit of culture and history," Evans said.

"If they can get a bit of history going and people continue to take interest in the sport, it will keep fostering and developing itself more and more."

Hockey in the Gulf will get another boost when the Under-13 boys venture to Cairns to watch international hockey and attend coaching clinics with the Australian men's team.



NAIDOC netball

Netball was just one of the many activities on offer in Perth during NAIDOC Week, with hundreds of players competing in a carnival. Pictured are Cockburn (Perth) youth team (left) and the All Sorts, made up of Yamaji and Nyoongar women.

● Pictures: SOLUA MIDDLETON



Boxers wanted to join troupe

Report and picture by
ALF WILSON



An SOS for Indigenous boxers has been sent out by Australia's oldest travelling boxing troupe.

The Roy Bell Outback Boxing Troupe hopes to hear from Indigenous boxers who want to travel Australia under the big tent.

Roy Bell started the troupe more than 80 years ago and it is now run by his grandson Michael Karaitana.

"We travel all around the country and I particularly would like to hear from Indigenous boxers who live in NSW," Karaitana said.

The Koori Mail caught up with the troupe when it was at the Townsville Show in early July, its first visit in 15 years.

More than 100,000 people attended the Townsville Show over three days and nights. Troupe boxers stood on the platform at the front of the big tent as challengers were invited to compete.

Aboriginal and Islander boxers played a big part in the boxing troupe, which had travelled up the east coast and appeared at shows in Bundaberg, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Ayr and Townsville before heading off to Cairns and Mossman.

Cloncurry boxer Aaron McIvor, 32, fought Townsville challenger Fozzy Hooper and lost on points in a close contest.



The three Micks shape up ... Michael Jenkins from Moree, NSW, and Michael Karaitana and Mick Mahoney from Boulia, Queensland.

"I have had five fights for the Roy Bell troupe and won three," McIvor said.

The first bout was between a local challenger named Michael from Magnetic Island and the Bell fighter named Stretch, who won on points.

Palm Island boxer Stephen

Grannigan fought local bull-rider and boxer Joel Herlihy, who won on points.

Other Bell boxers who fought in later bouts included Moree's Michael Jenkins, 28, and female boxer Cassie Moore, 21.

The oldest bell boxer was 44-year-old Mick 'Cassius Clay'

Mahoney, from Boulia.

"I have been fighting for the troupe for 25 years and have lots of experience," Mahoney said.

A few years back Mahoney fought as a challenger against boxers of the travelling Fred Brophy Boxing Troupe at his home town of Boulia.

Power puncher set to fight for title



Quality Indigenous boxer Arama Tabuai will face Peter Rolph for

the Queensland professional middleweight title at the Broncos Leagues Club on July 30.

Tabuai, who hails from Gordonvale, has a professional record of 10 wins from 18 bouts and is renowned as a power puncher. He is trained by Bob Burows.

The 32-year-old, a former Oceania Middleweight champion (2002), is known as the 'Warrior' because of his power punching.

Tabuai's stablemate Baiden Oui will fight on the same card against Michael Peachey in the super heavyweight division.

Oui has won one of his two professional bouts and Burows is confident both will win before a big crowd.

"They have both been training very well," Burows said.

Burows said that in the past, Tabuai had accepted fights at short notice from down south when he had little time to prepare. — Alf Wilson

More AIB recipients named



Allan Day, of AIB Insurance, congratulates award recipient Kayla Beezley.



The latest AIB Insurance Sports Awards have just been named. Recipients are:

- Kylie and Melissa Brennan (Batemans Bay, NSW). Both girls were selected for the Australian Indigenous Schoolgirls Netball team, the Budgies;

- Cassie Little and Joshua Higgins (Coffs Harbour, NSW). Both are keen BMX racers;

- Adam Slade (Hillston, NSW). Adam is a member of the Lloyd McDermott Rugby Development Team. He has been a football player in all codes and has a strong commitment to school studies;

- Luke Menhinnitt, Robert Cleivins and Jason Boney (Toowoomba, Qld) to assist in their participation in rugby league trials;

- Jabillarri Social Golf Club (Brisbane, Qld) as a contribution towards their NAIDOC golf day activities;

- Ramone Close and Tahj Minniecon

(Brisbane, Qld) are both active participants in under-16s soccer;

- Rebecca Whitfield (Cherbourg, Qld).

Rebecca is a successful rodeo entrant and will represent Queensland at the national finals in October;

- Travis Wilson (Mount Isa, Qld).

Travis is a committed participant in athletics, among a host of other sports. He has represented north-west Queensland several times at State schoolboys titles in Brisbane. His track-and-field efforts have attracted great interest;

- Dalby South State School (Dalby, Qld) were provided with an award to assist the school to run a successful NAIDOC Day program, the feature being the playing of Koolchee, Kolap, Kee'an and Goori. Goori is played widely across the country as a sport and cultural activity by Aboriginal men and boys;

- Melanie Cochrane (Wynnum, Qld). Melanie is a keen indoor netball player and has been selected to play in the 18-

and-under Queensland team;

- Kayla Beezley (Nambour, Qld) is a long-time participant in sports, particularly basketball. Kayla will be representing her college in a basketball tour of NZ this month.

This latest round has been heavily in Queensland's favour for no reason other than that is where the majority of nominations have come from this last quarter.

AIB Insurance Brokers national general manager Allan Day urged Indigenous organisations and sporting bodies across the country to get involved with the awards.

"AIB has a commitment both to its national Indigenous client base and specifically to Indigenous youth to assist where possible in their sporting aspirations and achievements, big or small," he said.

● For nomination details, call the number in the AIB advertisement on the back page of this edition.

Funding a bright idea for Kimberley sport

WA Physical activity in Fitzroy Crossing and Derby in the Kimberley region of Western Australia is set to rise thanks to a State Government grant which has helped to install floodlighting at each town's main oval. Under the Western Australian Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF), \$240,000 was given to the Shire of Derby-West

Kimberley in order to assist the realisation of the \$550,000 project. Local MP Carol Martin said the grant was very timely, as adequate night sporting facilities were greatly needed by both towns. "Floodlighting is absolutely central to the development of sport in this region where the heat restricts a lot of activity during the day," Mrs Martin said. "The new lighting now offers local

sports greater flexibility in which to schedule events, which means more people will have the opportunity to play sport. "This will especially benefit youth in the region, where boredom often leads to anti-social behaviour. "This is an example of how the CSRFF increases participation in sport and physical activities through quality infrastructure." Mrs Martin also said that both

towns now had the facilities to attract elite-level sporting events. "This will give great impetus to local sport," she said. "Overall, this project is an example of how a community-based approach to funding infrastructure provides relevant solutions to developing sport." Mrs Martin said she also would like to acknowledge the contribution of the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley in the realisation of the project.

I won't be a target - Tallis

He's tops at touch

AU Brisbane Broncos skipper Gordon Tallis does not believe he will be targeted by head-hunters after being cleared to resume playing in the National Rugby League following another neck injury.

Tallis was passed fit to resume playing after missing three Broncos games. His neck was hurt in a tackle when the Broncos lost narrowly to St George-illawarra at Suncorp Stadium in late May.

The 30-year-old former Test second-rower has been wary of spinal damage since suffering a career-threatening neck injury in 2001.

Still undecided about his future beyond this year, Tallis was given the thumbs up by Brisbane spinal surgeon Geoff Askin to finish off Brisbane's 2004 campaign.

Tallis said he did not think any rival players would aim their tackles high against him after his history of neck problems.

"There's no one in our game who would do that," Tallis said.

The Broncos captain said his playing future with his team beyond this season was in Dr Askin's hands, with a neck scan at season's end likely.

"He's a professional and I have to take his advice," Tallis said.

"He said if I keep on getting hit the symptoms are going to keep on getting worse and worse.

"(But) he likes rugby league, he likes the Broncos so I think he wants to see me running round again."

Tallis, who soon turns 31 and recently became a first-time father, said if he played on he would no longer be captain of the Broncos and may make limited NRL appearances.

He said he was almost ready now to hand over the Brisbane captaincy to Darren Lockyer, who is considering a new long-term contract to stay with the Broncos.

"If I do choose to play next year and I do get the clearance, well Darren would be captain because I'd like to step down from that," Tallis said.

"There's a fair bit of pressure leading the Broncos as they've got a great history and a great tradition." - AAP



Brendan Andrews ... determination has paid off.

QLD Brendan Andrews has proved that his move to Brisbane has been worthwhile in more ways than one. Originally from Mt Isa and Quilpie, Brendan enrolled at Glenala State High School in Inala, Brisbane, determined to improve his academic results and sporting achievements.

And it has paid off. Through the school-based Touch Program, Brendan earned selection in the Regional Metropolitan West Under-15 boys touch team. Previously, he represented North West (Mt Isa region) at a number of State touch championships.

Metropolitan West competed at the Queensland Secondary Schools Under-15 Touch Championships at Ipswich. Despite winning through to the grand final, Metropolitan East defeated Brendan's side 6-5 in extra time. The final came down to a three-on-three drop-off that lasted for several minutes, which entertained the crowd with a demonstration of touch skill and fitness.

Determination

Brendan's positive attitude, determination, ability and level of commitment to an intensive training schedule saw him reap the rewards through his selection in the Queensland State team.

He will now train with this Queensland side in preparation for the Australian Schools Touch Championships in October. Brendan was one of six Aboriginal boys named in the State team.

Brendan was also named on the same weekend in the Brisbane City Cobras Under-18 boys touch squad. If selected in the team, he will compete at his second Australian Touch Championships during 2004.

The youngster continues a proud family tradition of successful touch players, with both his Auntie Di and Uncle Glen having played for State and Australian teams, and his older brother Casey having also been named in the Queensland Indigenous mixed touch team.



GORDEN TALLIS

Teen surfer is riding high after wins

NSW Young surfer Jarwin Carey will compete at State level after taking out the North Coast Regional surfing titles Under-14 division at Crescent Head, just south of Kempsey on the NSW north coast. Jarwin, who lives at

Coffs Harbour, has been surfing competitively for the past 18 months. In that time he has had some outstanding results in competitions, including first place at the Pippie Beach Classic and the Byron Bay Easter Classic, second place at the Gold Coast Rip Curl Gromsearch and the South Coast Foam and

Fibreglass Challenge, and third place at the Maddog Challenge. The 13-year-old also reached the finals at many other competitions.

He said it was great to surf with other Aboriginal people from around Australia. Jarwin hopes to travel the world surfing on the professional tour when he gets older.



JARWIN CAREY

The next Kouta?

In The Back Pocket

The Koori Mail's Australian Rules football column with
SCOTT MCCARTNEY

Carlton's Anthony Koutifides is an amazing athlete and, standing at around 193cm and weighing 90-odd kilos, he is a solid lad, too.

Athletes with this size who have the ability to play midfield are rare as hen's teeth. Since the dominance of 'Kouta' in his prime in the mid 1990s, recruiting scouts have searched the country far and wide to find the next Koutifides.

Last week in Melbourne, the 2004 National AFL Under-18 Championships showcased some of the best talent from around the country in front of club recruiting managers from the AFL, VFL, SANFL and WAFL.

Amongst the many players in that carnival, there is one young bloke from WA who stands at 193cm and weighs 88kg who can play in the midfield, in key positions and has great leadership qualities for one so young. His name Lance 'Buddy' Franklin, brother of fellow Koori Mail columnist Bianca Franklin.

Young Lance, like his sister, has an amazing aerobic capacity but more

important has an uncanny hand-eye co-ordination, perfect for footy.

Everyone who reads my columns would know what I believe is the difference between a good player and an exceptional player. There are attributes a footballer must possess to be a true champion. One is the ability to play well in the big games. The other is to improve constantly over time. Wayne Carey (Kangaroos, Crows) had these attributes, Jason Akermanis (Brisbane), too, and so does Andrew McLeod (Crows).

All these players have proven that, on the biggest stage in football – grand finals at the MCG – they have the ability to be match-winners in their own right.

Lance Franklin is already proving to be a big-game player. Only last week in the biggest game in his short career, Lance was playing for WA against Victoria Metro, the most admired and successful team in Under-18 history. This, however, did not faze him, as he rose to the challenge. With 10 seconds left on the clock, Lance grabbed the ball from centre half-forward, ran 15m and kicked the goal that won WA the game.

In the wash-up, how did this affect him? Well, I will tell you that he had all the local and national media outlets standing around firing questions at him. He remained poised and he did not cower at any of the questions. He said: "It was a big game and in the end it was a good team effort."

Lance's football season is spread

between commitments at school footy and playing in the WAFL for the Perth Demons. Touted as a top-three draft pick in 2004, the ears of all AFL clubs, especially home town clubs West Coast and Fremantle, are pricked.

The fact is, the Eagles, like many other clubs, are chasing quality key position players, so it is no secret that the Eagles are chasing Lance, but a lot will depend on where they finish season 2004. (At the end of each season, the bottom three AFL clubs have the first five choices of the best talent in the country in the October National Draft.)

Great demand

There will be great demand for Lance. With the other budding top-three draft picks not possessing his size, there is every chance that Lance may well be the number-one draft pick.

Fremantle recruiting manager Phil Smart said they, too, had been watching his progress over the past few years.

"I remember seeing him play State 16s about three years ago," Smart recalls. "He was 182cm with some pace and a good leap. Now, 18 months later, he is a 193cm key-position midfielder."

Smart added that a player with Lance's ability will be a godsend to any club and quickly compared him as a Chris Tarrant-type of footballer, if he is played in a key forward role, or having the ability to mix it in the midfield like a Koutifides.

Lance is a Melbourne (Demons) supporter but would like to stay home and play for the Eagles or Dockers.

"Every kid dreams of playing AFL, so I would play anywhere," Lance told the Koori Mail.

The thing about the level-headed teenager is that he is available for this year's draft as a 17-year-old and, as such, could easily miss this year's draft and get picked up next year.

"Yeah, I know, but I just want to get out there and achieve my dream, playing in the AFL," he said.

Here are some other young Aboriginal players making an impact:

Harry O'Brien (WA): Was named vice-captain of the WA side and played a key role in setting up winning positions. Playing down back, Harry is a hard-running defender who plays tall and small. He is a very good chance of being drafted, probably a third-round pick for one of the WA clubs.

Richard Tambling (NT): Had an exceptional championships. Utilising his explosive pace and silky skills, Tambling tore apart opposition midfields. Tambling is a little light at just 68kg (he stands at 180cm), however he would be a chance for a first-round pick.

Eddie Betts (Vic): Possess all the football ability to play at AFL level. Is a bit on the small side at 170cm but his pace and endurance will surely see him get drafted.



Fremantle Docker Des Hedland, Les Hayden, Clive Hayden, Lydia Hayden, Kristen Anderson, Ray Anderson, Mervin Hayden and Roger Hayden were there.

Recognition for top WA players

Western Australian Indigenous Australian Rules football players have been recognised in a special ceremony at Perth's Government House. The ceremony honoured the 175th anniversary of their contribution to WA football.

Commemorative certificates were presented to WAFL and AFL clubs by Premier Geoff Gallop and Governor John Sanderson.

Indigenous Hall of Fame players were also recognised at the ceremony.



WA Governor John Sanderson and Premier Geoff Gallop present Claremont Football Club's Douglas Robert with a commemorative certificate marking the 175th Anniversary of Western Australia.



Troy Cook from the Fremantle Dockers with parents Allan and Gloria Cook.



Bill Dempsey with WA Premier Geoff Gallop.

NT Titans win league thriller



Celebrating their win are NT Titans, back from left, Andrew Savage, Michael McLean, Sam Asera and Kane Bonson and, front, Moses Wigness, Daniel Keelan and Jason Criddle.

By Darwin correspondent
DELSEY TAMIANO



Sporting a strong contingent of Indigenous players, the Northern Territory Titans rugby league team have been declared the 2004 Affiliated States Rugby League Champions after a thrilling finale.

The league championships were held at Darwin's Richardson Park where teams from Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory battled over three days in matches that produced some interesting results.

The opening match between the NT and WA was a 'clash of the titans' and was a precursor to the championship's final outcome. Last year's champions, WA, came into the tournament as the hot favourites and soon showed why they were considered as such, but the NT was always going to be difficult to beat on their own turf and, led by captain Kane Bonson, took the game up to their opponents and forced the match into an unexpected draw.

Titans captain Bonson was quietly

confident that his team would put up a good performance.

"We knew we had a good chance with the home ground advantage and our preparation was really good so we went in confident knowing we could do it," Bonson said.

WA and NT blitzed their interstate counterparts in the lead-up matches, both finishing the tournament undefeated. The final result came down to a countback – for and against – giving the title win to the Titans.

The resultant Australian Affiliated States squad was packed with players from both camps.

Selected into the squad from the NT were Kane Bonson, Marty Ramage, Jamie Peters, Mark Russell and Michael McLean.

Coach Brad Tesson will lead the Australian Affiliated States side to Melbourne in July to take on the Cook Islands at Olympic Park.

The match will be a curtain-raiser to the round 21 NRL match between the Storm and the Roosters.

● Tournament results: NT 18 v WA 18, VIC 58 d SA 18, NT 42 d SA 6, WA 40 d VIC 22, NT 36 d VIC 12, WA 68 d SA 12.

A fairytale finish

By Koori Mail Rugby League
writer DAVID LIDDIARD

IN ONE of the most intense physical contests in the history of State of Origin football, the NSW Blues farewell their retiring captain Brad Fittler and enigmatic coach Phil Gould with a dominant 36-14 victory at Telstra Stadium before a massive crowd of 82,487 screaming fans.

In the previous encounter at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane, Melbourne Storm's dynamic fullback Billy Slater had performed the role of story-book hero but, like a lot of movie stars, lived to find that the sequel is not always as successful as the original.

In fact the first tackle on Slater in the second minute of the game established the tone for the rest of the evening when he was picked up by Nathan Hindmarsh and Craig Fitzgibbon and pile-driven into the ground.

Many at the ground – and I am certain Greg Bird from the Sharks – wondered how the tackle was not ruled illegal, with Slater's legs clearly being lifted above the horizontal.

Referee Simpkins made his first controversial decision of the game and the pattern of NSW's physical and territorial dominance started from that point in time.

The Blues missed a couple of clear scoring opportunities and when Cameron Smith kicked a penalty goal at the end of

Queensland's first foray into NSW territory it appeared as if the Maroons had weathered the early storm.

However, on the back of the continued go-forward of the NSW forwards it was the Blues who were the first to cross the try line when the maestro Fittler utilised Hindmarsh as a decoy runner and put Gasnier into space to score his first try on debut.

This stung Queensland into action and they appeared certain to score when Matt Sing attempted to swoop on a Queensland kick into the in-goal only to be taken out of play by Blue's fullback Anthony Minichiello.

The Maroons received a clear penalty as a result of the indiscretion, with Maroons supporters calling for a penalty try. This would be difficult to support, but Simpkins could have quite rightly sent Minichiello to the sin-bin for a professional foul and once again Queensland were denied an opportunity to gain an advantage.

Queensland nevertheless took advantage of the rare opportunity and Willie Tonga showed deft skills to provide Slater with a clear passage to the line to regain some confidence and, with Cameron Smith's conversion, put the Maroons back in front with an 8-6 scoreline.

This was to be the last period of joy for the northerners in the



Matt Sing in action.

first half as NSW's rapid movement of the ball began to have its desired effect with the Maroons' forwards beginning to tire.

The ever-threatening Trent Barrett sensed his opportunity and when he sliced through to score the Blues were once again in the ascendancy.

Everybody in the crowd sensed that Queensland needed to hang on until half-time to have a chance to get back in the game and it was in this critical phase of the game that Fittler's true brilliance and experience stamped its authority on the game.

With minutes remaining to the break NSW were relentlessly pounding the line with the famous Queensland last-ditch defence holding on.

NSW looked certain to spread the ball wide when Fittler took control on a short side and sent one of his 'specials' to Gasnier, who scored in the corner to take the Blues to a commanding 18-8

lead in the break.

In the second half, Queensland had their opportunities, with a Tonga run almost leading to a Rhys Wesser try and a Billy Slater break resulting in him trying to repeat his Brisbane heroics with a chip kick when he perhaps should have looked to looming support runners.

The brutality of NSW's physical defence began to take its toll, with Dane Carlaw, Brent Tate, Michael Crocker and the unfortunate Matt Sing all suffering injuries.

NSW then proceeded to pile on the points, with the emotional highlight for the parochial crowd being a 'Freddie' Fittler charge-down leading to him scoring under the posts to a tumultuous roar.

Queensland scored a consolation try to North Queensland's Matt Bowen but a 70m run by the giant Willie Mason seemed to be symbolic of NSW's dominance on the night.

Queensland halfback Scott Prince – one of the success stories of the series – summed up the physical nature of the contest. "I've got a couple of corks, a rib cartilage, a sternum injury. I feel like I've been hit by a freight train," Prince said.

Prince paid tribute to the power of the NSW pack, saying their forwards provided a perfect platform for Barrett and Fittler to create scoring opportunities.

He was nevertheless full of

praise for his own teammates and the traditional pride they showed in their Maroon jersey.

For many followers of the career of Prince, the series was a just reward for his perseverance in overcoming an horrendous run with injuries from the time he left north Queensland where he established himself as a rising star in the game. The former Mt Isa junior was typically modest when questioned about his form.

"I had to do a job for Queensland and I hope I did it," he said.

"My goal before I was picked was not to let anyone down if I got the opportunity and I was very privileged and honoured and I hope that came across.

"When you put that jersey on you feel like you put history on, with 'Alfie' and the other guys who've worn the No 7 jumper.

"It really means something to me and I just want to play well for Queensland and myself."

Prince certainly did that and he is certain to have more representative honours in the future.

In the adjoining dressing room one of the true greats of the game was also in a reflective mood.

Brad Fittler had returned to the State of Origin stage for a final encore performance.

He left the arena as he had entered it as a modest 18-year-old – as a winner and a champion both on and off the field.

'My goal before I was picked was not to let anyone down if I got the opportunity and I was very privileged and honoured and I hope that came across' – Scott Prince

Promoting women in sport is important



Sisters Talk

With BIANCA FRANKLIN

THE profile and promotion of women in sport has never been very good. For much of the time, when women are portrayed in the media it is in a negative context or a very short article on the third last page of the newspaper or at the end of the sports news.

Because of this it is no surprise that our Indigenous sisters have previously not had the opportunity to promote their achievements.

In recent years Cathy Freeman and Nova Peris have assisted in raising the profile of not just Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander women in sport but women in sport generally. Our sisters were able to raise their profiles through their amazing athletic talent and not just through their good looks.

Thanks to these amazing women, Indigenous women's achievements in sport are starting to get recognised, which is great because it will encourage more young female athletes like me to get out there and promote what I do for my sport.

The Koori Mail has recognised there is a need for promoting the achievements of Indigenous women, which is why they have given me the opportunity to have my say through this column.

Other Indigenous media are also recognising this, with Deadly Vibe's latest magazine (June 2004) highlighting some great up-and-coming Indigenous women and their achievements.

Thanks for the promotion Koori Mail and Deadly Vibe. We all appreciate it!

If you're an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander woman out there who wants to lift your profile, why not drop me a line (see my email address below) and let me know about your achievements. I'll be more than happy to promote you and what you do in sport through my column.

Achievements

To get things started I thought I'd relate my most recent experience with my selection in the Australian Under-21 netball team where we played against England in three Test matches.

We played the Test series at the Australian Institute of Sport on July 1-4 where we defeated England in all three games.

In the First Test we beat them by 29 goals and in the Second we came out and thrashed the Poms by 54 goals. Luckily, in the final Test the game was a much closer match but we still beat them, this time by 25 goals.

With 10 of the Canberra Darters in the Aussie team we had the advantage of having a pretty good insight into how we all play together. There were only two introductions to the team, and they were Julie Prendergast from Melbourne Phoenix and the youngest player in our team, Nikala Smith, from my old team the Perth Orioles. Both girls provided great netball ability and blended in well with everyone.

It was a great experience to get out there on the court to represent your country in the green and gold and show what you are made of. The highlight for me was singing the national anthem, which brought goosebumps all over my body.

And I hope one day that I get to feel that again if I make it into the Open Australian team.

bianca.franklin@ausport.gov.au

Gillespie takes 200



That's 200-up! ... Jason Gillespie celebrates with teammate his 200th Test wicket in Darwin.



Australian fast bowler Jason Gillespie has joined an exclusive club in world cricket after taking his 200th Test wicket on the first day of the First Test against Sri

Lanka in Darwin.

Gillespie had Sri Lankan captain Kumar Sangakkara trapped LBW to join the club occupied by past and current greats of the game, including teammates Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath, and Dennis

Lillee (355), Craig McDermott (291) and Richie Benaud (248).

Gillespie – the only current Indigenous Test cricketer – finished the First Test, won by Australia, with match figures of 2/55 from 26 overs (four maidens).

Prizemoney boost for the Knockout



Teams competing in this year's 34th NSW Annual Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival in Sydney will face an increased entry fee but will get greater rewards if they finish in the top four teams, said organisers.

The team which finishes second could win as much as \$30,000, with third and fourth picking up as much as \$16,000 each.

Ricky Lyons, a member of the organising committee, said a meeting in Sydney this month approved an increase in entry fee to \$2000 per team, which would mean that the winning team could win up to \$64,000.

The prizemoney figures are based on 64 teams entering the Knockout, paying a \$2000 entry fee.

Organisers stipulated that those prizemoney figures were based on 64

teams entering, saying that if, for example, only 40 teams nominated, then first prizemoney would be \$40,000 and minor prizemoney adjusted accordingly.

Lyons said the 'first' \$1000 of all entry fees would go to the winning team. The 'second' \$1000 will be split between the second, third and fourth-placed teams.

He said it was planned that the increase in prizemoney would have a three-fold effect: It would allow for better rewards for the teams finishing second, third and fourth; it would reduce the number of no-shows on the Saturday of the knockout; and it would decrease the number of double nominations by a club, leading to a stronger competition.

Lyons said about 45 delegates from across the State attended the recent meeting and gave approval to the increased nomination fee.

He said the nomination fee had been the same for about 10 years.

The daily gate entry fees will be the same as over the past five years.

Lyons said the women's competition would have an entry fee of \$500 per team.

Last year more than 50 teams competed at the Knockout, which was the first unified event since 1999, following a split in 2000.

A team representing the Cec Patten-Ron Merritt Memorial Redfern All Blacks won the final last year to gain the right to host this year's Knockout.

● Teams wanting to nominate this year should contact Ricky Lyons on 0415 665 400. Entries will close at 5pm on September 17. Entry fees must accompany nominations. The draw will be made at South Sydney Leagues Club from 7.30pm on Wednesday, September 29. There is an admission fee of \$5 and entertainment will be provided. The Knockout is held on the October long weekend (October 1-4).

A question of identity

(From the outset, I'd like for readers not to be offended by some of the terminology I use here. These are language and words my community uses all the time. If it's not 'PC' where you come from, I can't help that.)



SPORTSTER

WITH DARREN MONCRIEFF

Doubts about one's Aboriginality would have to be one of the more uncomfortable experiences that fair-skinned blackfellas would, ultimately, one way or another, end up confronting in their lives, especially if those doubts were raised in a public forum. In the past few years, I have seen this issue raised in sport – mainly at regional and local level.

I write this, however, as one not having faced this issue myself.

Issues of identity are, largely, at the core of our mob's existence. We mostly understand where we're from, who's who in our tribe and who we're related to.

This essentially is what forms our identity. But for some, that privilege is one of life's great unknowns, due to the tragic child removal policies of past Australian governments, and/or adoption.

Then there's the flip side of acknowledging our other bloodlines, for example the European, (North or South) American, Asian and/or African heritage of some of us, however remote that may be.

The questions of 'what does it mean to be Aboriginal?' is an existentialist one which, I freely admit, leaves me out of my depth here.

Identity is what you feel your reality is, not what others dictate to you. And whether your Aboriginal identity is via the thinnest of bloodlines, there is no denying that we have the blood of this land's first peoples running through our veins, and might be proud of that we should be.

NRL stars pay a visit

Amos Roberts and Preston Campbell visited the north coast of NSW recently. The Panthers pair visited the town of Alstonville and were literally mobbed by several hundred children at the local school.

So how did the NRL stars cope with being asked for autographs for hours on end? Very well. They did not deny one child an autograph and they were genuinely happy to be there.

It was a special occasion, with the school holding its first-ever NAIDOC flag-raising ceremony, performed by local Elder Fred Marlowe (see page 30).

The school could not have had two better guests for their very special day.

Given all the dramas surrounding off-field behaviour of footballers this year, Presto and Amos did themselves, their club, their sport, and, most importantly,

their people, proud.

Mid-season signings

As a sports fan, I am still finding it hard to comprehend the mid-season signing of players to rival clubs, as happens within the NRL. Even some life-long league fans



Emerging league star Amos Roberts

find it a little too much sometimes.

To those not aware, the NRL allows all 15 clubs to basically recruit established players from each other from June 30 onwards, with those players 'honouring' their current club contract until the end of the season. You then sometimes have the situation where Player A has agreed to terms and signed to play with Team B for the next season but then his current side – Team A – goes on to win a premiership.

Last year it happened with a Penrith player signing to play 2004 with Wests Tigers. That player, Scott Sattler, is remembered for his crucial try-saving, game-turning tackle in the grand final against the Roosters.

As it is, two high-profile Indigenous players – Shannon Hegarty (Roosters to Souths) and Amos Roberts (Penrith to Roosters) – have already signed to other clubs for next season.

Of course, it's not entirely the player's at fault here. League's administration has had this rule in place for the past 20-odd years in the old NSWRL and QRL days.

(There was an NRL/ARL draft of sorts in place a few years ago but there was a legal challenge to that from a player and the NRL/ARL lost that case in court.)

While ingrained as a part of league's operations, these mid-season signings must surely test the fans' patience and have the potential to send ripples of resentment among the player group. That can't be all that healthy for team harmony.

Call me old-fashioned, but a season's commitment to your club's cause is the name of the game. If there's another side to this issue, I'd like to hear it.

Sports King

Last week, ABC-TV's George Negus Tonight program (6.30pm weeknights) celebrated NAIDOC Week with a series of shows focusing on Indigenous issues.

In one show, Negus featured legendary ABC Radio (Darwin) sports presenter Charlie King.

King would have to be one of the more knowledgeable sportscasters in the country – and a good bloke, too.

If it's Territory sport, he's got it covered.

King's one dream was to call a cricket Test match and he got to live that during the inaugural Darwin Test between Australia and Bangladesh last year. I imagine he would also have called a session or two in the recent Australia-Sri Lanka Test as well, plus the one-dayers. He has also called events at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester.

King is widely respected. Recently he was named Darwin 'Citizen of the Year' for his tireless work with family and youth organisations.

For a big sports fix, Darwin-ites and visitors can tune into ABC Radio's 105.7FM. Saturday mornings are your best bet.

'Dizzy' joins the 200 club

Australian Test cricketer Jason 'Dizzy' Gillespie joined the select 200 Test wicket club on the first day of the First Test between Australia and Sri Lanka in Darwin (see page opposite).

It's a fantastic effort by the mullet-wearing speedster.

Dizzy, this country's only current, and most capped, Indigenous Test cricketer, is beginning to string together consecutive Tests after an injury-riddled start to his career.

Who could forget that sickening clash between him and Steve Waugh on the sub-continent a few years ago? Dizzy ended up with a broken leg and Waugh a smashed nose.

'Good to see ya doing well, Dizzy.'

sport@koorimail.com

Sports Talkin'



PRESTON CAMPBELL

Penrith Panthers
NRL star

Favourite sport?
Football.

Greatest sporting moment?
Cathy Freeman's 400m Olympic gold medal win.

Greatest personal sporting moment?
Winning the 2003 NRL grand final with the Penrith Panthers.

Favourite sportsperson?
All Indigenous NRL and AFL players.

Sporting goal?
Definitely another premiership with the Penrith Panthers.

What drives you to succeed?
The fact that I know I make people proud. I'm playing not for myself, but for my culture.

Which three sportspeople would you most like to meet?
Michael Jordan, Rhuben Carter and Muhammad Ali.

Who or what inspires you?
Blokes like Amos Roberts (his Penrith teammate who is having his best season in the NRL), all the Aboriginal NRL and AFL players, and Aboriginal sports people in general.

What are you watching on TV?
Las Vegas.

What is your ultimate goal in life?
To make sure my kids grow up confident and for them to not have to struggle like I did.

Favourite sporting venue?
Suncorp Stadium (in Brisbane) – I like the atmosphere there – and Penrith Park.

What sports event do you want to see live?
The World Cup soccer.



Ross' dream run

By **DARREN MONCRIEFF**



Track star Joshua Ross has taken over the mantle of

Australian track athletics' supremo by qualifying fastest for the 100m for next month's Athens Olympic Games, edging out incumbent, and fellow Aborigine, Patrick Johnson.

The Bundjalung man clocked a personal best 10.24 seconds – in to a minus-one second headwind – at the recent Olympic team selection trials.

Ross' place in the Olympic team is pending upon final ratification by the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC).

Understandably, the 23-year-old is excited.

"I'm on a high, I can't believe it," Ross told the Koori Mail. "It hasn't sunk in yet and I don't think it will until a few days.

"To make the Australian (Olympic) team for the 100m in my first season of amateur athletics ... it will be a dream come true."

Ross, a Stawell Gift and national 100m champion, will



On your marks ... Joshua Ross during a recent training session.

also anchor the 4x100m relay team at Athens provided the Australian team maintains its place in the top 16 in the world by July 21. IAAF qualifying times for this event worldwide will then be complete. The relay team's time of 38.66 seconds is the

best by an Australian 4x100m relay team on home soil.

At time of press, Australia was 13th in world rankings.

Patrick Johnson's Olympic hopes, meanwhile, are pinned to the six-man 4x100m relay team squad. Johnson, the world's

fastest man last year, failed in his bid to qualify for the 100m, clocking a time of 10.42 seconds at the selection trials, well outside the B-qualifying time.

Dogged by injury, Johnson has failed to recapture the form that saw him clock last year's

fastest time of 9.93 seconds in Japan.

Ross is realistic of his chances. There are four stages in the Olympic 100m event – the heats, the quarter-finals, the semi-finals and the final – with the top four of each race moving on to the next stage.

"I'm not going to make any predictions but I am confident of my ability. There is no pressure on me at all," he said.

The 100m is, of course, the blue-ribbon event at the Olympics and commands centre-stage.

"I can't wait to line up against some of the world's best in Maurice Greene and Ato Boldon. And I'm not intimidated by that at all," Ross said.

"I don't really get intimidated to tell you the truth. I am where I am today because of that. I have a very strong mind which all us blackfellas have. The more experience I get, the faster I run. A lot of this will be about learning, too."

Athletics Australia releases its final nominations for the Games to the AOC which then ratifies those selections.

'I don't really get intimidated to tell you the truth. I am where I am today because of that. I have a very strong mind which all us blackfellas have. The more experience I get, the faster I run. A lot of this will be about learning, too.'

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Rugby's test of strength



The strength of north Australian Indigenous junior rugby will be tested in Darwin this month when

the North Queensland and Northern Territory under-16 sides clash at Marrara's Optus Oval.

The match will also provide selectors with wider scope in selecting the National Under-16 Indigenous team to participate at the Australian Rugby Union's

(ARU) National Under-16 Rugby Championships and the Australian Schools Under-18 Championships, both in Sydney.

These annual championships serves as the first opportunity for talent identification into State and national rugby development academies.

The North Queensland side for the Darwin match was named following a two-day Indigenous rugby carnival in Townsville. Teams from Mackay, Rockhampton, Cairns and

Townsville competed at the carnival, which saw Mackay emerge as winners with Townsville runners-up.

The NT initial squad of 40 was selected from the Territory-wide High School competition with teams from Alice Springs, Gove, Katherine and Darwin. The NT squad will be culled once organisers determine the availability of key players.

The match will be played on July 24.

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