



# Koori Mail

The Voice of Indigenous Australia

THE NATIONAL INDIGENOUS NEWSPAPER – 100% ABORIGINAL-OWNED 100% SELF-FUNDING

EDITION 623

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2016

PUBLISHED SINCE 1991

Phone: (02) 66 222 666

www.koorimail.com

Recommended price \$2.50 (GST-inclusive)

## Rangers making a difference



ABORIGINAL rangers, from left, Colin Hughes, Bill Maher, Bourbon Hodges and Terry Maynard with one less feral cat to create havoc with native animals on Truwana (Cape Barren Island) in Bass Strait. The island's ranger program, started last year, is providing many advantages for the isolated Tasmanian community of about 60 people. Get the full story on page 5. *Picture: Jillian Mundy*

# Wind it back

By RUDI MAXWELL



A parliamentary committee has recommended winding back many of the harsh conditions of the Stronger Futures legislation, including compulsory income management. But the Federal Government has refused to say

## Committee call for action on Stronger Futures

whether it will follow that advice.

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights, chaired by Liberal elder statesman Philip Ruddock and including members of all major parties, handed down its report into the

*Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Act 2012.*

Committee members' recommendations include scrapping blanket compulsory income management, a review of the alcohol restrictions on

Aboriginal land and redesigning the School Enrolment and Attendance through Welfare Reform Measure (SEAM), in which parents had their Centrelink payments reduced if their children didn't attend school. The timing of

the report is somewhat embarrassing for the Government, which launched a new 'trial' of income management in Ceduna, South Australia, in the same week.

● Report, page 3  
● Editorial, page 20

● The latest edition of *NACCHO Health News* is inside



## NT band plays with legends

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## Chef's wild about our native foods

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## Tjimarri beaten by a whisker

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## Doggett named our top cricketer

● Back page



**T**HIS picture of two of my sons, my sister Dolly Blair, and me was taken in Brisbane.

I am a dancer and an artist from Cherbourg in Queensland. I am a Waka Waka man.

I try to pass on my knowledge of traditional dance and artwork to my boys. I take them to many marches and other gatherings so they can see their culture.

That's the most important thing to me, passing my traditional knowledge to the younger ones. That's how it will continue, if we pass down our knowledge and our culture to our children.

I have four sons; the two in the picture (above) are my youngest.

Zion, who is on the left, is 7 and Amaru is 8. The two older boys are 11 and 12.

All my boys love sport and we play a lot together. Two of them play soccer and the other two do karate.

We are a close-knit group and we hang out together with the whole family a lot.

My sons are young but they know their culture, which is important.

I try to teach them about their culture and their heritage while being a role model for them.

I tell them you don't have to be mean or nasty.

We are a proud family – proud of who we are, and of being Aboriginal people.

## OUR CHILDREN



**CHILDREN** from Borroloola, NT, take selfies while on the bus travelling to Macquarie Park, Sydney, to watch the Sydney FC professional soccer team train at their facility. The children, from John Moriarty Football (JMF) program, were in Sydney for the launch of a fundraising initiative for the JMF. They also accompanied the Socceroos on to the field in their FIFA World Cup qualifier against Jordan at Allianz Stadium, Sydney, last Tuesday night. *Picture: David Maurice Smith/Oculi*

● See page 94 for more on the Borroloola children

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### Advertising Format

Page Size: 38cm deep x 26cm wide  
7 columns per page  
Single column size 35mm • 2.5mm space between columns

### Advertising Deadlines

Bookings 5pm on the Wednesday prior to publication.  
Material 5pm Thursday prior to publication.

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### INFOKOORI site address

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The *Koori Mail* is published by Budsoar Pty Ltd and printed by SpotPress, 26 Lillian Fowler Place, Marrickville NSW 2204.

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# Dan gets down with *Play School* mob

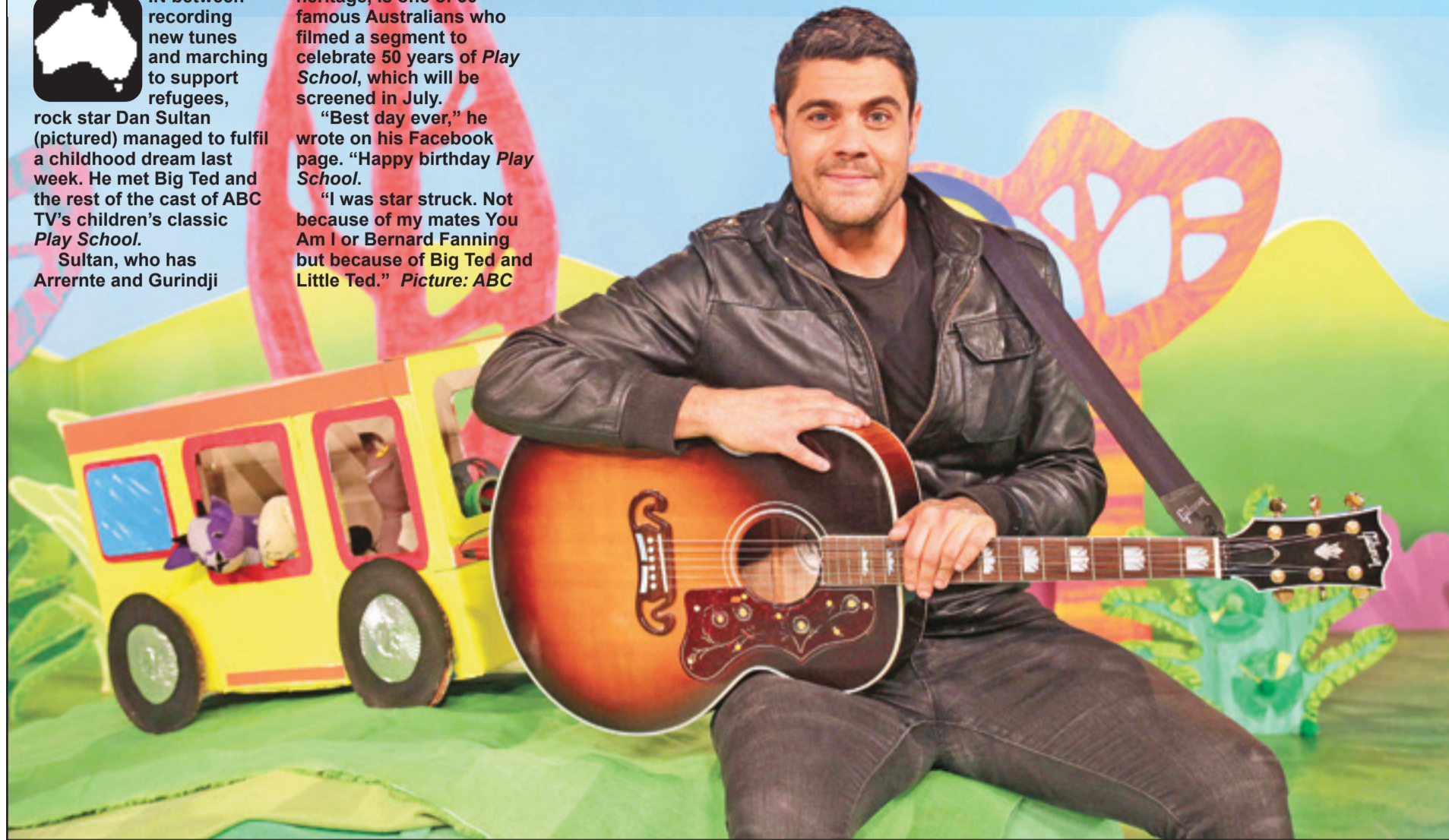


IN between recording new tunes and marching to support refugees, rock star Dan Sultan (pictured) managed to fulfil a childhood dream last week. He met Big Ted and the rest of the cast of ABC TV's children's classic *Play School*. Sultan, who has Arrernte and Gurindji

heritage, is one of 30 famous Australians who filmed a segment to celebrate 50 years of *Play School*, which will be screened in July.

"Best day ever," he wrote on his Facebook page. "Happy birthday *Play School*."

"I was star struck. Not because of my mates You Am I or Bernard Fanning but because of Big Ted and Little Ted." *Picture: ABC*



# Cloud over tough laws

By RUDI MAXWELL



A MULTI-PARTY parliamentary committee has recommended winding back many of the harsh conditions of the Stronger Futures legislation, including compulsory income management.

But the Coalition Federal Government has refused to say whether it will follow the recommendations, despite the committee being chaired by Liberal elder statesman Philip Ruddock.

Last month the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights, chaired by Mr Ruddock and including members of the Liberal, National, Labor and Greens parties, handed down its report into the *Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Act 2012*, widely regarded as an extension of the Northern Territory Intervention.

The committee made a series of recommendations including scrapping blanket compulsory income management, a review of the alcohol restrictions on Aboriginal land, and redesigning the School Enrolment and Attendance through Welfare Reform Measure (SEAM), in

which parents had their Centrelink payments reduced if their children didn't attend school.

The timing of the damning report is somewhat embarrassing for the Government, which just three days beforehand had launched the first trial of the 'Healthy Welfare' card, which is based on the same income management principle as the Stronger Futures' Basics card.

A spokesperson for Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion told the *Koori Mail* that the Government "remained committed to activities that support more children attending school, more adults into work and promote community safety".

"The Government is carefully considering the Joint Committee on Human Rights' Review of Stronger Futures Measures and will respond to the recommendations in due course," the spokesperson said.

The committee gave a tick to the aspects of the Stronger Futures legislation regarding food security and land reform but was scathing in its assessment of the sections on measures to address alcohol abuse, income management and SEAM.

"The income management measures engage and limit the right to equality and non-

discrimination, the right to social security and the right to privacy and family," the report found.

"Although the committee considers that under certain conditions income management is a legitimate and effective mechanism, evidence indicates that compulsory income management is not effective in achieving its stated objective of supporting vulnerable individuals and families.

"The committee considers that SEAM is not proportional to the objective of improving school enrolment and attendance. A human rights-compliant approach to this problem requires that any measures must be effective, flexible to take into account individual circumstances, calibrated carefully to protect vulnerable groups and targeted at dealing with the causes of unauthorised absences rather than punishing the symptoms."

Georgina Gartland of Concerned Australians, a group that opposes Stronger Futures, said the review didn't go far enough and was disappointing.

"The legislation should have been repealed and on food security there was no mention of freight subsidies for the delivery of food to remote communities, which would help make food more affordable," she said.



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# She's proud to be an Aboriginal Olympian



**AUSTRALIAN** beach volleyballer Taliqua Clancy is pictured at Sydney's Bondi Beach, where she is wearing the Australian Olympic team opening ceremony uniform for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

The opening ceremony in Brazil is on August 5.

Ms Clancy and other potential Australian athletes for Rio were at Bondi for the launch of the uniform.

Clancy and her playing partner Louise Bawden are

likely to be Australia's top female contenders at Rio's Copacabana Beach. They paired up in 2012.

Clancy said she would be proud to be an Olympian, but even prouder to be an Aboriginal Olympian.

She remembers watching Cathy Freeman win the 400m at Sydney's 2000 Olympics and that served as her inspiration.

She said she wanted to inspire other Aboriginal kids, Aboriginal athletes and Aboriginal people in general to "get out there and chase their dreams". *Picture: AAP*



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# Utopia people are starving, claims Elder



**ARRERENTE-** Alyawarra Elder Rosalie Kunoth-Monks says that Aboriginal people living in remote outstation Utopia in central Australia are starving.

However, Barkly Shire Council President Barb Shaw has dismissed the claim as grandstanding.

Ms Kunoth-Monks told the *Koori Mail* that many elderly people in the shire have opted to pay \$140 a fortnight to Barkly Shire for food hampers.

But, she says, the hampers are grossly inadequate and do not contain enough nutritious food.

"It's nothing new. It is not only at Utopia, it's throughout the Northern Territory as far as I can see – starvation is a strong word and not used for no reason. It's real," Ms Kunoth-Monks said.

"It's not meals that you can sit and eat at the table with vegetables and nutritional value, it is a hamper that's thrown at people on homelands at Utopia.

"Even my dogs live better than that."

Ms Kunoth-Monks said that over Easter, she had visited her cousin, who has Parkinson's Disease and is blind, and his wife. She checked what was in their food hamper. She said it contained a small package of long-life milk, some cheap meat and white bread.

"Over the Easter period this was expected to sustain a person for four days," Ms Kunoth-Monks said.

### "Low level"

"I don't think that is care – it is something to keep you at that low level, no quality, just a low level, keeping you just alive.

"I know of two old ladies, although they had the money for food deducted out of their pensions as a prior arrangement, who did not get anything, not a smell of a bone.

"What else needs to be done? Do people need to lie down and die so others can understand what's happening here is real?"

Barkly Shire Council delivers 30 care packages to the aged around Arparra community under a variety of grants and programs funded by the

Commonwealth, including hot meals for breakfast and lunch and weekly hampers, Cr Shaw said.

"Rosalie runs straight to the media. She's a grandstander. She tends to agitate more than activate," the shire president said. "It's absolutely mischief-making and I would ask the question: Is this a lead-up to whatever political aspirations she's planning with the elections coming up?"

Ms Shaw said Ms Kunoth-Monks' characterisation of conditions in remote communities was very damaging and skewed perceptions of life in those communities by wider Australia.

But Ms Kunoth-Monks said the whole community, including children and the elderly, go without food, often on a daily basis.

"We are black people who share and care whatever we've got – but for shires and others in the NT to use poverty as a commodity while actively pursuing a failed system is a crime of genocide," she said. – *With AAP*

# Caring for their country



Looking after their country and culture through the Truwana Rangers program, from left, Fiona Maher, Colin Hughes, Terry Maynard, Bourbon Hodges and Bill Maher.

By JILLIAN MUNDY



TRUWANA'S (Cape Barren Island) new Aboriginal ranger program is empowering locals to look after their own land and the stories it holds, and has the potential to keep families on the island.

Truwana Rangers supervisor Terry Maynard, who was born and raised on Cape Barren, said the program, started last year, employs five locals with a broad range of skills and knowledge, and has been needed for a long time.

"We're starting to get things done. We're taking it into our own hands, to empower our community to look after our land and our cultural heritage that we have got left," he said.

Mr Maynard is sick of seeing families move off the island in pursuit of work, including many of his own, and with them stories and traditions.

About 90% of Cape Barren Island was returned to the Aboriginal community in 2005. It is home to about 60 people.

"We need to take control of the land that's been handed back to us," Mr Maynard said.

"It's meaningful full-time work."

While the rangers monitor and protect the environmental health of the island during their working week – eradicating weeds and feral animals, managing fire and protecting native animals from illegal hunting, amongst other things – their work also has social and cultural benefit.

They are protecting wetlands on the east of the island, recognised as internationally important under the RAMSAR convention and home to migratory birds, some of them endangered.

"It makes us feel proud that we can do it," Mr Maynard said.

"We want to stop people bringing in loads of others to our wetlands and shooting whatever they see. There's heaps of

shotgun cartridges and boxes and empty beer cans all over the place."

The rangers are also ridding coastal areas, once used by women to collect shells for traditional shell necklace making, of invasive and toxic weeds.

Mr Maynard is looking forward to these areas being used again.

"The women can start taking the children back and those stories can start back again," he said. "We'll be able to collect eggs in the wetlands like the old fellas did."

"I got taken down there when I was a young fella. I'm going to feel so proud taking the young fellas back down there again, telling them the stories, keeping them going."

The rangers are also about to start up a junior program with school children.

For the youngest Truwana ranger, Bourbon Hodges, it is his first job and it came at a good time.

Like his work mates, he knows the island like the back of his hand, having spent his

youth exploring it on a trail bike.

He went straight from Cape Barren Island High School into the position and is grateful that he was not forced off his island home to attend college.

He said his family are happy, and he plans on sticking with a career in land management.

All the rangers are working toward nationally recognised qualifications in land management and conservation.

Truwana Rangers coordinator Fiona Maher says employing local Aboriginal people with local knowledge is essential to the program and cost-effective, and fulfilled community aspirations.

She hopes the program can be extended to include sea rangers, and like Indigenous ranger programs all around the country, they're hoping that the program will be secured long into the future.

The Truwana Rangers are currently funded for three years through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy.

# Thousands of artefacts found at light rail site

By RUDI MAXWELL



MORE than 20,000 Aboriginal artefacts have been found in excavation pits

around Sydney's new light rail line's proposed tram stable yard in Randwick, including items believed traded from the Lower Hunter Valley which have never been seen before in the area.

Transport for NSW recognised the significance of the find between late 2015 and January 2016, but did not say if it would stop work on the \$2.1 billion project.

"All work that has occurred on the site since the artefacts were found has been in consultation with all Aboriginal groups," a department spokesman said.

"The social value of the site to

the local Aboriginal community is very high and we are continuing to work with (the Aboriginal groups) to identify the artefacts and how they came to be found in Randwick."

There are four Registered Aboriginal Parties connected with the rail project, and while they all agree the find is exciting and highly significant, they have differing viewpoints on how to proceed.

La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council chief executive Chris Ingrey said they were going to "continue to work with the light rail project team and the NSW Government to come up with a solution that allows best outcomes for our objects and heritage".

"We're planning to organise a visit of people from La Per, so they can inspect the artefacts to determine their cultural significance," he said.

"The area that the site sits on, they've stopped work and we're satisfied with that. The artefacts were observed and they're being managed appropriately. We don't agree that the whole project has to stop, we just want the area where the site has been found not to progress.

"We're satisfied with the way forward. The land council will get a better understanding when our people visit."

But Tocomwall Aboriginal cultural heritage consultancy and some Darug and Bidjigal Elders want construction halted completely and spoke at a stop-work protest near the site, last Friday, which was supported by the NSW Greens, Labor and environment groups.

Tocomwall Aboriginal heritage manager Scott Franks, who has Wonnarua heritage from the Hunter

Valley, said while he'd seen artefacts like those found in Randwick in the Hunter Valley, he'd never seen them in Sydney.

"It clearly shows interaction between our mobs," he said.

"I'm interested in trying to understand the ethnographic and trading links. It's shocking that they haven't stopped work completely. It's one of the most important sites I've seen in my life, and I need to know how and why our mob took those materials there."

Darug Elder Gordon Workman said he suspected they would find a burial site.

"We've asked them for a long time to stop work but they just go ahead and destroy," he said.

"I'd like to see a hell of a lot more investigation done, and if we do find a burial site, along with what has come out, nearly 25,000

artefacts, we want work to stop and the place be named an Aboriginal place (a listing of significant site)."

On Friday, Greens MP David Shoebridge made an urgent request to Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt for a stop-work order on the site, naming Mr Workman, Mr Franks, Darug Elder Des Dyer and Bidjigal Elders Norma and Yvonne Simms.

"If this was the centre of Athens or Paris and a heritage find of this significance occurred, then there is no doubt the work would be stopped to see how the site could be saved," Mr Shoebridge said.

"This site should be protected and celebrated. The story it tells about the history of Aboriginal people and its evidence of trade routes and potential first contact makes it unique." – *With AAP*

# Exhibition a tribute to sister

By JILLIAN MUNDY



PAUL Mabb's first solo exhibition *Tears from Heaven* is a tribute to his late sister and a part of his healing journey.

The exhibition, which opened in Hobart last week, was mainly created in the middle of the night.

Early in 2015, Mr Mabb lost his younger sister, Anita, to suicide.

"She was my sister and my best mate. We used to have lots of fun together; she was energetic, always happy, helpful, caring, everybody loved her," said the Murri man born in Tasmania, whose mother is a Wakka Wakka woman from Cherbourg.

"It was a big shock.

"I shut down. My relationship with my partner broke down after five years, and I lost my motivation for work. It had a huge impact; at first I didn't feel anything, I felt numb."

Once reality hit that she was gone, sleepless nights grieving were passed sitting outside smoking and drinking.

Then Mr Mabb picked up a paint brush and started passing the hours creatively. He had dabbled with painting a couple of decades ago when he visited sisters in Cairns.

"I used to do a few here and there and sell them off to friends or give them away for presents," he said.

"Then I put a few on Facebook for people to see. I ended up going to a suicide support group and showed a few people there, and they said 'You should exhibit,' and my counsellor also said the same thing.

"I said 'I'm not that good'."

With their encouragement, Mr Mabb set himself a goal to have an exhibition and it became a main strategy in recovering from his grief.

"I'd just get up and paint. Out of that



Paul Mabb with the title piece to his exhibition *Tears from Heaven* – in memory of his sister Anita who lost her life to suicide last year. The painting features things that Anita liked or had an interest in.

this is what happened," he said, gesturing to a collection of colourful contemporary Aboriginal artworks hanging in the gallery, half of which were sold on opening night.

"It saved me from sitting outside smoking all night, and drinking a fair bit, and stressing. It's helped me with my (physical) health, too.

"I don't have to see my heart specialist

any more, I've lost 15kg, I don't have to inject insulin any more. I play tennis, I go to the gym, I have a personal trainer.

"I'm starting to feel alive again, I've got this done.

"(My sister) would want me to be happy.

"I'm normally happy, a bit like a jester. I've lost a bit of that, but it's coming back very slowly."

Mr Mabb dreams of retiring and

travelling Australia selling his paintings for petrol.

*Tears from Heaven* will be at the Stable Gallery at Cooleys Hotel, Moonah, until April 30.

● **If you or anyone you know is in crisis and needs to talk, contact Lifeline on 13 11 14 or [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au) Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467 [www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au](http://www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au)**

# Inquiry looks at youth suicides



A PARLIAMENTARY inquiry will examine Aboriginal youth suicides in Western Australia after a 10-year-old girl took her own life in the Kimberley region.

State coroner Ros Fogliani has announced she will hold an inquest into several suspected suicides in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions, while suicide prevention researcher Gerry Georgatos has called for a royal commission.

The Education and Health Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly has announced it will conduct a parliamentary inquiry following a motion by Kimberley MP Josie Farrer.

In a statement, the committee said it would report in November on what could be done to halt the worrying number of suicides among Aboriginal youths, particularly in remote communities.

It will also determine what resources have been set aside to tackle the issue.

Director of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project (ATSISPEP) Professor Pat Dudgeon, of the Bardi people of the Kimberley, said suicide could not be examined in isolation.

"There needs to be a holistic approach, absolutely," she said.

"Read our reports, we've already started

presenting some findings on our website.

"About mid-year we'll be providing a report. We've been evaluating suicide prevention programs, working on culturally-appropriate suicide prevention tools, holding community round tables, so we can get as much community input as possible.

"We recognise that solutions need to be holistic, because everything is interconnected. The history of colonisation is very important, as is recognising social-determinant oriented factors."

As one of its many arms of research, the ATSISPEP recently released a paper regarding Indigenous Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ) people.

## "Vulnerable groups"

"Within our group there are vulnerable groups as well," Prof Dudgeon said.

"I hope that our big thrust is that there needs to be leadership on all Indigenous issues, from a national to regional level. What I'd like to see – and we have one – is the first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide prevention strategy to be implemented and communities to be resourced so they can address suicide themselves.

"There are two major issues. The first is recognising that this is culturally different, and

the second is to work in partnerships with community and our organisations."

Ms Farrer told the *Koori Mail* that government needed to work with community, rather than dictating.

"We're still living with suicides," she said.

"More needs to be done, we've talked about ideas and programs to help nurture the minds of our people, help them to grow. It's not all about money.

"We need to work strongly and together to overcome a lot of these things – and it has to be by community. We are the people who are affected by reforms." – *With AAP*

● Readers seeking support and information about suicide prevention can contact Lifeline on 13 11 14, the Suicide Call Back Service on 1300 659 467 or Kids Helpline (young people aged 5-25) on 1800 55 1800 78.

● Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander support services can be found at [www.naccho.org.au](http://www.naccho.org.au) or [www.sewbmh.org.au](http://www.sewbmh.org.au) or [www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au](http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au)

● **Correction:** In the previous edition of the *Koori Mail*, March 23, under the headline 'Call for overhaul', on page 7, we incorrectly stated that Adele Cox and Gerry Georgatos had been in a remote community in Western Australia's Kimberley region. They had not. The *Koori Mail* apologises for the error.

## Funding for CNS



THE Federal Government says it will continue funding the NSW Aboriginal Legal

Service (ALS) Custody Notification Service (CNS) until June 2019 to ensure Aboriginal people who are taken into police cell custody in NSW and the ACT are provided with legal advice and a welfare check.

The CNS has been funded by the Federal Government since 2007 through one-off grants, but a disagreement between the federal and state governments over who should fund the service has meant the CNS has had funding concerns for some three years.

Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) chief executive Gary Oliver said Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion has remained a strong supporter of the CNS during this period.

"Often a person is not okay. With CNS, they talk to the lawyer, and the person in custody is made safe," Mr Oliver said.

"We understand the Federal Government had been trying to gain a funding commitment for the CNS from the NSW Government.

"We also asked for assistance from the NSW Attorney-General Gabrielle Upton, but were rejected. We hope the Government's commitment to our service will extend to other states and territories."

# Exhibition in former lock-up

By RUDI MAXWELL



WHEN Dhungatti artist Blak Douglas was invited to exhibit in the Lock-Up, an art gallery in Newcastle that used to be a police station and watch house, he decided to go "all out".

The result is a hard-hitting exhibition, *The Most Gaoled Race on Earth*, presented with Adam Geczy, which speaks directly to racism and the cultural repression and misrepresentation of Indigenous Australians.

"The title of this exhibition is not a gratuitous provocation, it is a fact: per capita the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia are the most gaoled race on Earth. The works in this exhibition are prompted not by the spirit of 'reconciliation', or of conciliation, or of proselytisation. They are prompted by anger," the artists wrote.

Through site-specific installations, mediated sculptural objects and graphic works, Douglas and Geczy engage with the continuing racism of the wider Australian public, many of whom are ignorant of Aboriginal history, rights and the ongoing problems that exist.

"With the opportunity to stage this exhibition in an old jail, which was pretty much built right in the crust of the most atrocious times, why wouldn't you go to town?" Blak Douglas told the *Koori Mail*.

"The anger doesn't dissipate. Every time you hear comments on the news about the government wants to keep 'Australia safe for Australian people', I think 'How long do I have to listen this stuff?'"

"What chance do blackfellas have for sovereignty in our lifetime, when politicians continue to direct Australia's attention somewhere else?"

Over the exhibition's opening weekend, attendance records for the gallery were smashed.

"We like nothing better than shock in this social media era – and there's no better way of promoting that shock than by having this exhibition where it is," Douglas said.

"Part of the reason why I created the entry banner, which features a hangman game with the word 'Aboriginal' and is pretty poignant, is that I wanted to make it like a quasi-amusement park – a bemusement park – experience. It's like coming into a festival or a staged event, but it so happens we're talking about the incarceration of Aboriginal people like an expo.

"It's really got a Coney Island feel about it – like a real ghost train, with nooks and crannies. Because of its history the place gives you the heebie jeebies anyway, then when you see the site-specific installations, they knock you for six."

*The Most Gaoled Race on Earth* is at the Lock-Up, 90 Hunter Street, Newcastle, until April 24.



*Unfair Game*, one of the artworks by Blak Douglas and Adam Geczy, on display in the exhibition *The Most Gaoled Race on Earth* now on show in Newcastle, NSW.

# Concern over jail inmates



SINCE Darwin prisoners were moved from a city jail to one in a rural area, the number of visitors has dropped by up to a third, which is hurting inmates and their families, a lawyer says.

The Darwin Correctional Centre in Holtze opened in November 2014, replacing the Berrimah jail. It has no public transport service and the number of visitors for prisoners has been declining, Department of Corrections figures show.

From July 2015 to January this year the number of family and personal visitors to prisoners declined by an average of 25%, compared with the same period in 2013-14, reaching a 33.6% drop in November.

About 85% of prisoners are Aboriginal.

Criminal lawyer John Lawrence says the cost of travelling to the new prison by taxi, which is 30km from Darwin and costs about \$70 one way, is too expensive for many family members, who already often have to travel to Darwin from remote or regional communities at great cost.

He is campaigning for the Government to start a bus service to the prison, which was promised by

the former Labor government.

"Every writing on this subject tells us ... that crucial to the rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners in society and not committing further crimes is regular family visits," Mr Lawrence said.

"It's deliberately further punishing the prisoner himself and, for good measure, family members as well."

Mr Lawrence said there had been an increasing number of Aboriginal prisoners despite the findings of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody 25 years ago, and "what we're noticing is the prisoners themselves are being treated with far less dignity, human rights and decency, and the decision to deliberately deprive them of family visits is a classic example of that".

## \$80,000 a year

But Corrections Minister John Elferink says the Country Liberal Government will not subsidise a bus, which he estimated would cost about \$80,000 a year.

"The whole argument around this thing is that the recidivism rate would change, but there's no indication that the recidivist rate of prisoners at Holtze are any different to what they were at Berrimah," he said.

The minister said national or

international studies may show that family visits result in lower reoffending rates, but it did not seem to be having a similar effect in the Northern Territory.

Mr Elferink said between the two jails, the rate of reoffending has hovered at about 55% of prisoners within two years of release, but those engaged in the Sentenced To A Job program had a recidivism rate of about 20%.

About 100 people, or 6% of the prison population, are engaged in the full-time paid work program, he said, with up to 70 prisoners in training in preparation for work.

"If I'm going to be providing a bus service, it will be getting prisoners from their prison cell into full-time employment," he said.

Mr Lawrence said the refusal to instate a bus service is racist.

"There is no way they would treat prisoners like this, for instance depriving their families of being able to get a bus out to visit them, if those prisoners were non-Aboriginal," he said. "They're doing it because they're Aboriginal and they can get away with it."

The Labor Opposition has said it would subsidise a bus from Darwin to the prison if it wins the August election. – AAP

# Dhu footage not released



THE Western Australian coroner has refused to publicly release footage of a dying Aboriginal woman in custody despite her family supporting the idea.

Julieka Dhu died two days after being locked up at South Hedland Police Station in August 2014 for unpaid fines totalling \$3622.

She died during her third visit in as many days to the Hedland Health Campus from staphylococcal septicaemia and pneumonia, following an infection in her fractured ribs that spread to her lungs.

A four-week inquest has been held in Perth in two parts, and last week the court heard the final lot of evidence.

Ms Dhu's family initially opposed media requests to obtain the security footage from the lock-up, which was repeatedly played in court, but their representatives said the family had reconsidered its position and believed it was in the public interest.

For family spokesperson Shaun Harris, Ms Dhu's uncle, it's another barb, after an incredibly difficult time, hearing and watching harrowing testimony about his niece's last days.

"Am so hurt, shocked, angry, frustrated... amongst so many other emotions it's seriously unbelievable," he said on Facebook. "Am very proud my niece's name is now global."

The family believes the more people who see how police treated Ms Dhu, the less likely it will happen to another Aboriginal person. They are asking people to support their social media campaigns

#ReleaseTheCCTV and #JusticeForJulieka and #BuildCommunities NotPrisons.

But coroner Ros Fogliani dismissed the application.

Lawyers for relevant parties in the inquest, including Ms Dhu's family and the police and medical staff who had contact with her, will now provide written submissions to the coroner.

Ms Fogliani is expected to deliver her findings later this year. – AAP



Rodney Kelly and other Gweagle clan members want the shield of their ancestor Cooma returned by the British Museum. The Gweagle shield was taken by Captain Cook's crew.

## Gweagle people demand artefacts



THE Gweagle clan of Sydney's Dharawal tribe has reclaimed artefacts that were taken from their

ancestors during Captain James Cook's first landing in Botany Bay. The Gweagle Shield, on display at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra, was taken from the clan's warriors when they made contact with Cook's crew.

The bark shield was held by the warrior Cooma, who warned off the ship's crew, which subsequently fired musket shots at the warriors.

The artefacts taken from the warriors are in the possession of the British Museum despite Gweagle clan efforts to have them repatriated.

Rodney Kelly, a descendent of Cooma, said the shield, which was in Canberra as part of the National Museum's *Encounters* exhibition, was stolen from his ancestor.

"We, the living bloodline descendents of the Gweagle clan of the Dharawal tribe, are at law the rightful owners of all artefacts produced or in possession of our ancestors or found on Gweagle territory and we do claim all artefacts belonging to us and mandate that they be returned to our possession," he said.

Mr Kelly, among other descendents of Cooma, has demanded all artefacts taken from the Gweagle clan be returned within 90 days.

# Tasmanian people angry at conservation area appeal

By JILLIAN MUNDY



THE Tasmanian Government is appealing February's Federal Court decision which

prevented the reopening of three controversial tracks in the Aboriginal heritage-rich Arthur Pieman Conservation Area on the state's west coast.

The appeal is on technical arguments.

The National Heritage-listed area is documented as one of the most densely occupied areas of Aboriginal heritage in Tasmania.

On March 22, the Tasmanian Government filed a notice of appeal claiming that Justice Debbie Mortimer erred in: finding that the series of activities required to open the tracks was a 'controlled action'; finding that the declaration of the tracks was not a 'governmental authorisation' (and, therefore, not an 'action'); and her interpretation of the scope of values protected by the National Heritage listing.

Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) state secretary Trudy Maluga said the decision to appeal has angered Tasmania's Aboriginal community.

"The Government has already incurred legal costs in the order of five or six figures at the expense of the Tasmanian



A midden in Tasmania's Arthur Pieman Conservation Area. Picture: Grant Dixon

taxpayer in a highly reasoned Federal Court decision," she said.

"It is irrelevant that some sections of the Tasmanian community may not like the decision.

"The case was decided on matters of evidence and of law."

Ms Maluga said the Aboriginal community would "not roll over on this one".

Mining Minister Adam Brooks labelled the court decision as very frustrating.

He said the Government would not give up, assuring the people of the coast that they

are "in their corner".

Calen Pedder, an Aboriginal heritage officer of 26 years who knows the area intimately, said the tracks in question run straight through at least 124 officially documented Aboriginal heritage sites.

### "So big"

"There are some middens you just cannot get around, they are so big. There are quite a few that you cannot go further south without driving over them," he said.

"There's nowhere else in Tasmania that has middens that

big and in such a small area. It's amazing.

"The Government is clearly not interested in protecting Aboriginal heritage. If the place had a few brick walls, they would be all over it, they would list it as World Heritage. Maybe if we said it was 200 years old and convicts made it then we might get it protected and listed."

If the appeal is successful, the TAC may be ordered to pay the State Government costs as well as their own.

It is expected that the appeal process will take up to a year.

# Praise for govt violence pledge



ABORIGINAL organisations have welcomed the Victorian Government's promise to implement all 277 recommendations by

the Royal Commission into Family Violence report.

The report urges a focus on children, appropriate cultural responses, changes to federal and state laws and systems, and more money from both tiers of government.

Premier Daniel Andrews did not give a figure on how much implementing the recommendations will cost, saying fixing Victoria's broken family violence system was not about saving money.

"This is about saving lives," he said. "This is not a cost, it's a profound investment."

Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service Victoria chief executive Antoinette Braybrook welcomed the recommendations and said she thought they could have broader implications.

"It's really encouraging to see Aboriginal women's experiences are front and centre, because too often Aboriginal women are silenced and invisible to policy makers," she said.

"I think it would be really good if the Federal Government comes on board, as well as other state and territory governments, especially in relation to the Family Violence Prevention Legal Services across Australia, where we're restricted to rural

and remote areas.

"And we need Commonwealth, state and territory governments to come together to support our organisations to have national coverage so that Aboriginal women, regardless of their geographic location, can have access to culturally safe legal services."

Royal Commissioner Marcia Neave believes Victorians will support investments in protecting children and preventing victims from ongoing abuse.

"We recommend a focus on children, the silent victims of family violence," she said.

"We haven't done enough to prevent family violence, to intervene early, or stop it escalating."

### Recommendations

The recommendations include culturally appropriate legal and family services for Aboriginal people. They call for whole-of-community activities and early-intervention programs and reinstating the Koori Family Violence and Victims Support Program.

They also include more funding for family violence services, and new measures to streamline cooperation between police and government agencies.

Victoria Police has been urged to change the way it manages and reports family violence.

The royal commission wants Victoria to ask the Commonwealth for help.

Medicare should be expanded to include

domestic violence health services, and Victoria should ask COAG to expand its funding of family law legal services.

COAG should develop a single database so family violence reports, child protection and family law orders can be shared across states, territories and the Commonwealth.

Mr Andrews raised these recommendations at the COAG meeting last Friday.

In the last Victorian Budget, the Government set aside \$80 million for measures to counter family violence.

Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency chief executive Muriel Bamblett told SBS that Victoria was leading the way on "real solutions to addressing family and domestic violence".

"It does require us as Aboriginal people to be vigilant, to make sure that, in all of the recommendations, that there's an Aboriginal voice," she said.

"The challenge for us will be to actually make sure that we bring about change, that we aren't just talking (about) it.

"And the challenge will be up to us, because we've got a Government now that's committed. They're saying they're going to put more into Aboriginal communities.

"So if they're going to do that for Aboriginal (people), for people of non-English speaking backgrounds, for people from all diverse backgrounds, then we've got to really make this work." — *With AAP*



# He's come a long way



AFTER releasing his debut solo album *We've Come a Long Way, Darling*, Luke Daniel Peacock (pictured) has been awarded the 2016 Billy Thorpe Scholarship by the Queensland Music Awards. And to top it off he's also taken out the Indigenous category for the single *Fruits Of Our Labour*.

Between playing keyboards with Brisbane rock outfit Halfway and uniting a who's who of Australian music to produce the album *The Painted Ladies Play Selections From The Loner*, celebrating the genius of Vic Simms, Peacock doesn't seem like he should have the time to put together his debut solo album.

His efforts as the creative leader behind *The Painted Ladies* in 2014

saw him work with Rusty Hopkinson (*You Am I*), The Medics, Paul Kelly, Ed Kuepper (*The Saints*), Ian Haug (*Powderfinger/The Church*), John Wilsteed (*The Go-Betweens*), Bunna Lawrie (*Coloured Stone*), Phil Noy and Eugene Ball (*The Bamboos*) and more, inspiring him to record and become a songwriter in his own right.

*We've Come a Long Way, Darling* is a collection of Peacock's solo works, the culmination of more than a decade of musical exploration.

"It actually came together very quickly," he said.

"Myself and some good friends (Rohin Power, Jhindu Lawrie, and Greg Cathcart) had a window of free time, so over a few days we got access to a studio, picked 10 of my songs, and jammed them out.

"It was quick, spontaneous, and all in-house."



# Alice camp takes action

By KEIRA JENKINS



LARAPINTA Valley town camp in Alice Springs is following the lead of two other central Australian communities, pursuing legal action to repair houses. About 160 repairs are required in the town camp.

Community spokesperson Mervyn Rubuntja said that repairs – when they are even done – are never done properly.

"Whenever they come to fix things it never works. The last time they came to do a proper fix-

up was last year," he told the *Koori Mail*.

"My problem is the electricity in my house. It doesn't work and I tried it yesterday and I tried it the day before, it goes on and off and still doesn't work."

Mr Rubuntja said the community is sick of waiting so long for repairs.

"They only do what they want and when they want to. We just want to do something about it," he said.

Another Larapinta Valley resident, Sheridan McMasters, said she reported a crack in her ceiling more than a year ago.

She says it was repaired, but is

leaking again. "It seems to me that when I report housing problems nothing ever happens. They often come out and inspect but nothing happens," she said.

Aboriginal Housing NT co-chair Barbara Shaw said the Northern Territory and Federal governments need to start a conversation with Indigenous people to improve the state of housing.

## "Opportunity"

"This is an exciting opportunity to harness community concerns and achieve real change," she said.

"The conditions of our houses are getting worse. We

still live under the impact of the Intervention and Stronger Futures and limited funding is injected into our houses."

Many of the repairs required in Larapinta Valley are urgent, and the residents will have the right to apply for compensation through the Northern Territory Civil Administrative Tribunal (NTCAT).

Residents of Santa Teresa and Papunya have recently undertaken a similar process. Almost a third of residents there have lodged claims for compensation, complaining of serious delays in repairs on their houses.

In February, 70 residents of

Santa Teresa applied to NTCAT, seeking compensation for more than 600 outstanding repair issues.

Australian Lawyers for Remote Aboriginal Rights (ALRAR) director Daniel Kelly is acting on behalf of the Santa Teresa tenants. "These are not isolated cases. This is every remote community and every town camp in the Territory," he said.

"These problems come from systemic issues, and there needs to be a solution. What this action by the town camp residents shows is that pressure is starting to build on the Territory Government."



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Torres Strait Islander dance troupe and choir Malu Kiai Mura Buai performs at the Boomerang Festival, which was staged as part of the Byron Bay Bluesfest.

## Indigenous cultures on display at Boomerang



ABORIGINAL and Torres Strait Islander musicians, dancers, artists, thinkers and craftspeople provided plenty of opportunities for people to have a glimpse of Indigenous cultures at the Boomerang Festival over the Easter long weekend.

Staged as part of the Byron Bay Bluesfest, at the Ti Tree Farm in Tyagarah on the NSW far north coast, Boomerang

attracted thousands of visitors from around the world.

Festival director Rhoda Roberts, a Bundjalung woman, said Boomerang had been a special event and she had even bigger plans for next year.

"We need to support cultural events otherwise if we don't, we, as Aboriginal people, will find ourselves in a dire situation," she said.

● Full report and pictures, pages 61-64

# Minister firm on language



ABORIGINAL politicians must be allowed to freely speak their own languages in Parliament if they are to truly

participate in democracy, a Northern Territory MP says.

The CLP Government is considering Minister Bess Nungarrayi Price's motion to change standing orders so that members may speak any language as long as they then immediately translate their comments to English.

This follows an incident in December in which she interjected during a debate in Warlpiri, and was then denied permission by the Speaker in February to freely use the language.

"If Aboriginal Territorians are not allowed to express ourselves in our first language, the one we think in, the one that gives us our sense of identity and pride in who we are, then we are not achieving the parity we're looking for," Mrs Price said.

But Speaker Kezia Purick said Ms Price had been "mischievous and malcontent" in raising the matter two months after it occurred, while simultaneously notifying the media.

"Implying that we don't let

people in this Parliament speak in another language (is) not correct," she said.

Many MPs have spoken other languages in Parliament, Ms Purick said, noting that six MPs, or quarter of the Parliament, are Aboriginal.

Changing standing orders is not a problem, but all interjections in any language will always be ruled as out of order, she said.

Aboriginal CLP backbencher Francis Xavier Kurruwu criticised the Labor Opposition for its approach to Ms Price.

"She's often attacked for reading answers from notes, implying she must be too stupid to be minister," he said.

### "Attack"

"Every member of this Assembly speaks from prepared note. I wonder why they only attack (Ms Price)?"

Attorney-General John Elferink said the common language of the NT Parliament had to be English.

The amended motion inquiring into changing standing orders passed with the full Parliament's backing.

After Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull spoke partly in Ngunawal in the Federal Parliament in February, Ms Price

said she realised she needed to speak up. "I spoke a language that still lives and is spoken by thousands of citizens of the NT and it was assumed I was offensive; I was misunderstood," she told Parliament.

With a 30% Aboriginal population, every NT MP has constituents who speak an Aboriginal language as their first tongue, she said.

"For speakers of our language to be truly equal at the table, to truly participate in a robust way and to feel welcome, then our language must be respected and allowed to be used in a way that can be appreciated and understood by those who speak only English," Mrs Price said.

She said she was fascinated that a few seconds of frustration that caused her to speak in Warlpiri provoked "so much outrage and fear".

"How did it feel not to understand? You got a tiny taste of what it is often like for us," she said.

"We are belittled, ignored, harassed and patronised in English all of our lives ... if we are to be able to properly represent ourselves in the parliaments of our country then our languages need to be recognised in some way. We need to be able to use our own voices." — AAP

# Receiver ordered for Pilbara corporation



A RECEIVER has been appointed to a Pilbara Aboriginal corporation that had been feuding with mining magnate Andrew Forrest after the Supreme Court deemed its board of directors invalid.

The legal action against Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (YAC) was launched

by John Sandy, a director of break-away native title claimant group Wirlu-murra Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (WMYAC).

The groups have been at loggerheads for at least four years, with Yindjibarndi saying Mr Forrest's Fortescue Metals Group has funded Wirlu-murra to undermine it and free up access to

land that the company's mines sit on.

Last month, Justice Rene Le Miere ruled that a December meeting of the YAC board and the resolutions it carried were invalid, with proper notice not given to one of the directors, Jill Tucker.

Last week, he said it was necessary to appoint a receiver to YAC pending a general meeting on April 19 "to ensure that

its property and resources are not used, or allowed to be used, directly or indirectly to help a candidate against another candidate in the election for directors".

"I find there is a risk that if the property and resources of YAC remain under the control of its executives they will be used to unfairly discriminate against the Wirlu-murra group," Justice Le Miere said. – AAP

# Coral bleaching fears



SEA temperatures in the Torres Strait have risen to such an extent that scientists are concerned about coral bleaching.

Measurements taken by the Torres Strait Regional Authority's (TSRA) environmental management program and the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) indicate that the average sea temperatures are hovering around 30.5 degrees. This is close to the temperature that scientists believe coral bleaching might occur (31.4 degrees), putting the region on a coral bleaching watch status, with alert status occurring at 31 degrees.

TSRA chairman Joseph Elu said coral bleaching occurs when corals, due to stresses such as high water temperatures, expel the small algae that live in their cells and give them their colour.

"Climate change has led to warmer global average temperatures and warmer oceans, exacerbated by the current El Nino (climate pattern), which is one of the strongest on record," he said.

"Bleaching can leave corals susceptible to coral diseases and, if it lasts long enough, cause their eventual death.

"Higher water temperatures have also been found to improve the

survivorship of the coral-eating crown of thorns starfish."

Mr Elu said healthy coral reefs are vital to Torres Strait Islanders' way of life.

"We need to increase our knowledge and understanding of what pressures are impacting our coral reefs for the benefit of current and future generations," he said.

"Hopefully some cooler conditions will prevail soon to reduce the stress on the corals."

The TSRA has developed a long-term coral reef monitoring strategy and response plan for the Torres Strait with AIMS, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

The surveys aim to record changes in coral reef health and, if present, identify the causes of change.

While the current El Nino event is now past its peak, there is a possibility

the risk of bleaching will remain into early next year due to the possibility of a La Nina event, which will also results in warmer waters across the western Pacific.

Mr Elu said that as part of the long-term coral reef monitoring strategy, the next coral reef surveys are planned for this month to record any impacts of the El Nino event.



Coral bleaching near North Keppel Island. Picture: Ray Berkelmans, AIMS



Erub Ranger Boggo Gela undertakes coral surveys at Mer. Picture: Tristan Simpson, TSRA

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Campbelltown	Wednesday 13th April	Waranwarin Early Childhood & Family Centre 105 Townson Avenue, Minto 2566	10.30am - 2pm
Richmond	Wednesday 13th April	In conjunction with Merana Family Fun Day Hawkesbury Community Service Cnr Macquarie & Brabyn Streets, Windsor NSW 2756	11am - 2pm
Sutherland	Monday 18th April	Sutherland Shire Cycling Club Rawson Avenue, Sutherland NSW 2232	10am - 1pm
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# Woman elected mayor of Torres Shire Council

By ALF WILSON



VONDA Malone has become the first female mayor of the Torres Shire Council, after defeating long-time leader Pedro Stephen in the

Queensland local government elections on March 19.

Fred Gela was returned as mayor of Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Aileen Addo is the new mayor of Mapoon on western Cape York replacing Peter Guivarra, who did not seek re-election.

Cr Addo won easily from two other candidates.

Alf Lacey will serve a record third successive term as mayor of the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council.

High-profile Palm Island man Lex Wotton, who was one of 15 candidates to stand for the four

councillor positions, was not elected. For the first time, preferential voting was an option for the 1000 registered voters on Palm Island.

Mayor Lacey beat Raymond Sibley, Thomas Geia, Delena Foster and Elizabeth Clay.

"I am very happy to be able to serve the people again and this is

the first time any mayor has been re-elected two and now three times in a row," he said.

Sitting councillors Edward Walsh and Roy Prior were returned, along with Deniece Geia and Robert Castors.

Andrea Kyle-Sailor was narrowly beaten by Cr Prior for the fourth position on council.

Votes were sent to Brisbane for a recount and the official result was not declared by the returning officer until March 31.

Rex Burke was elected mayor of Napranum, beating Ernest Madua Jnr.

Ralph Kendall is the new mayor at Pormpuraaw, Greg McLean was returned as mayor of Hope Vale for a fourth term and Desmond Tayley is mayor of Wujal Wujal.

Sitting mayors Wayne Butcher (Lockhart River) and Derreck Walpo (Aurukun) were returned unopposed.

Michael Yam is

the new mayor at Kowanyama. Eddie Newman was elected mayor of the Northern Peninsula Regional Council against seven other candidates.

Ross Andrews was elected mayor of Yarrabah.

Queensland local government elections are held every four years.



New Torres Shire Council mayor Vonda Malone.



Palm Island mayor Alf Lacey.



New mayor of Mapoon Aileen Addo.

## Nominations open for Yolngu awards



THE Yothu Yindi Foundation is now accepting nominations from Yolngu organisations and communities for the annual north-east Arnhem Land Yolngu Hero Awards, which are presented at Garma each year.

Chief executive Denise Bowden said the awards recognised Yolngu people living in the Arnhem region who have displayed outstanding leadership, community service, a commitment to improve the health and wellbeing of those around them, educational, and other significant achievements.

"We know there are many superstars in the communities of north-east Arnhem Land, and this is our way of acknowledging their feats," she said.

"Our Yolngu heroes aren't always the ones in the spotlight; many of them are doing their work quietly and diligently in the background, without seeking accolades."

Garma 2016 will honour six heroes in a special ceremony involving Garma ambassador Jack Thompson.

"We want communities to nominate people who have made a difference in the lives of those around them; those who are setting the right example and leading the way," Mrs Bowden said.

Garma 2016 will be held at Gulkula from July 29 until August 1.

To lodge a nomination, email [admin@garmafestival.com.au](mailto:admin@garmafestival.com.au) by May 20.

## Call to change date of Australia's day



AUSTRALIA Day should be on the last Friday in January to boost productivity and address the 'invasion day' debate, former deputy prime minister Tim Fischer says.

Mr Fischer proposes a floating Australia Day instead of the fixed January 26 date, which marks the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788.

"It is tied to the date of the arrival way back then. It's time we had a look at it," he said.

Mr Fischer said changing the date would help address the concerns of people he said were 'fixated on invasion day', which many mark as the date English oppression of Aboriginal Australians began.

He also said moving the date would help businesses, which could then plan on a long weekend every January.

"This would boost productivity by reducing the number of sickies which inevitably occur when Australia Day is on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday," Mr Fischer said.

Under his plan, Australia Day in 2017 would fall on January 27.

The former ambassador to the Vatican also said Easter should be fixed each year.

## JCU study looks at protecting turtles



A NEW study by James Cook University (JCU) in Townsville has called for changes in the management of bycatch to better monitor the unintentional catching of sea turtles by commercial fishers.

JCU's Kimberly Riskas led a project that examined more than 10 years of records on turtle bycatch.

"Turtle habitat often spans multiple management jurisdictions," she said.

"But most fisheries management agencies will monitor bycatch within a single fishery or a single year, without adding records together to determine how many turtles are being caught in total."

Ms Riskas said the existing approach to managing turtle bycatch does not go far enough to protect turtles.

"Our results show how important it is for management agencies to take the next step in their reporting and analysis protocols," she said.

"It is essential to analyse bycatch at the population scale and across fisheries; otherwise, we're missing the bigger picture of how bycatch affects long-lived species."

She said a possible solution would be a central database for reporting and collecting bycatch data, which would allow the identification of areas of concern.

# Treaty moves in Victoria



THE move towards a treaty in Victoria has taken another step forward with the Federation of Victorian

Traditional Owner Corporations (Federation) welcoming the State Government plan to hold regional meetings leading to a treaty summit next month.

Federation chairperson Janine Coombs said she looked forward to working with the Government to develop a treaty.

"Constitutional recognition and treaty are not mutually exclusive. Both are serious proposals that deserve the full consideration of Aboriginal Victorians," she said.

Labor Premier Daniel Andrews said the Government is working towards self-determination for Aboriginal people.

"Our engagement with Victorian Aboriginals and the recent debate around constitutional recognition has restarted the issue of treaty in Victoria and it is a subject

we are determined to resolve," he said.

"We will be hosting four regional community forums around the state culminating in a two-day meeting during Reconciliation Week in Melbourne."

The forums will have a common agenda. Attendees will be provided with independent background information about treaty, constitutional recognition and establishing a representative Aboriginal structure.

### Negotiation

The Federation supports preliminary discussions about treaty but has told the Government that any serious treaty negotiation must be conducted with the state's First Nations through their legitimate and representative traditional owner organisations.

"Discussions about treaty in Victoria must not be allowed to undermine the significant advancements made for land justice and reconciliation in Victoria as a result of traditional owner

led-reforms in the areas of native title and cultural heritage," Ms Coombs said.

"At the same time, treaty presents an opportunity to deal with unfinished business in areas such as participation in state governance, including guaranteed seats in Parliament, compensation for dispossession, water rights and finance for self-government."

Ms Coombs said the Federation was looking forward to working with the Victorian Government to develop a treaty proposal.

Mr Andrews said: "I look forward to working with and listening to Victorian Aboriginals."

The discussions will be held on April 18 at Mallee District Aboriginal Services (MDAS), Mildura; April 29 at Grains Innovation Park, Horsham; May 3 at Eastbank Centre (Council building), Shepparton; May 10 at Bairnsdale RSL; and May 26 and 27 in Melbourne.

Further information at <http://consult.aboriginalvictoria.vic.gov.au/>

# Giving his people a voice

By KEIRA JENKINS



CREATING a voice for Indigenous performers is the driving force behind actor, comedian and activist Bjorn Stewart's career.

His latest projects – a play heading for the NSW north coast, a multiplatform media project, and a program teaching school kids about sexual health – are as varied as Mr Stewart's talents.

The Kuku-Yalanji/Wemba Wemba man has appeared in television series *Black Comedy* and *Redfern Now* and in the stage plays *Bully Beef Stew*, *Brothers Wreck*, *The Dark Room* and *Coranderrk*.

"You hardly ever see blackfellas on TV, so I wanted to be part of the movement to change Australian television and the perspective on Aboriginal people," Mr Stewart told the *Koori Mail*.

"There's a lot of us now and there's a lot of new stuff that really shows the pool of talent we've got."

Mr Stewart explores ideas of forbidden love and betrayal as well as the destruction of the environment, in writer Reg Cribb's latest work *Thomas Murray and the Upside Down River*.

Mr Stewart said the play, which will be at the Lismore City Hall this month, has many layers and themes.

He will work with Grant Cartwright, Vanessa Downing, Nicholas Papademetriou and Francesca

Savige on stage, under the direction of Chris Bendall. Mr Stewart says his recent video *How to do Blackface* and subsequent multiplatform media project *Cope St Collective* alongside Colin Kinchela, Kate Beckett and Kodie Bedford, was born out of frustration.

"It was really tongue-in-cheek humour, trying to get across to the people who still think it's okay to do blackface," he said.

"It blew up so I continued doing sketches and comedy to tackle real issues that are happening now, like racism."

Mr Stewart said his other passion, beside performance and comedy, is projects with youth.

He is currently working with school kids, talking about sexual health and using sketches in a bid to engage them on the subject.

"Kids need to know they don't have to be shame about who they are," he said. "I just want to help our mob out where I can."

● Pictured: Bjorn Stewart portraying Billy Brown in *Thomas Murray and the Upside Down River*.



Justice  
Victims Services

## Reassessment of Victims Compensation Claims

On 1 September 2015 the Reassessment Scheme for Victims Compensation Claims commenced. This applies to victims whose applications were in the transition between the old Victims Compensation Scheme and the Victims Support Scheme. Those victims may be eligible to have their claim reassessed.

Eligible victims who wish to have their claim reassessed must make a reassessment application by **31 August 2016**.

For more information please call the Victims Support Line on: (02) 8688 6600 or email [vsrp@justice.nsw.gov.au](mailto:vsrp@justice.nsw.gov.au)

You can also refer to the Victims Services website: [www.victimsservices.justice.nsw.gov.au](http://www.victimsservices.justice.nsw.gov.au)

Z09744

Department of Energy and Water Supply

## Queensland fuel seller reports due 30 April 2016

All Queensland fuel wholesalers and retailers are legally required to register their business and provide an initial fuel sales report by 30 April 2016.

Reports can be submitted through the new fuel sellers register available via the Department of Energy and Water Supply's website at [www.dews.qld.gov.au](http://www.dews.qld.gov.au).

Fuel sellers must provide information about their business location, along with their fuel types and the volume of fuel sold during the period 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2016.

Penalties may apply to fuel sellers who fail to provide a report. The information collected in the initial reports will provide base line data for the administration of the Queensland biofuels mandate.

The Queensland biofuels mandate will come into effect from 1 January 2017 and will set minimum sales requirements for biobased petrol and biobased diesel.

Visit the Department of Energy and Water Supply's website at [www.dews.qld.gov.au](http://www.dews.qld.gov.au) for more information. Email [biofuels@dews.qld.gov.au](mailto:biofuels@dews.qld.gov.au) or phone 13 43 87 to receive assistance.



Queensland  
Government

Blaize08862

# APY grief at death of nurse



"NGANANA tjituru tjituru pulka. Uwankarala kurunpa katakatingu – We are all saddened. We are all heartbroken."

Speaking in her Pitjantjatjara language, South Australia's Co-commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement, Inawantji Scales, has expressed the feeling of Anangu community in South Australia over the death of outback nurse Gayle Woodford.

"Anangu everywhere, no matter where they are, grieve for the Woodford family," she said.

Ms Scales' comments came ahead of a traditional Aboriginal memorial smoking service last Friday, outside the Fregon health clinic where Ms Woodford worked.

The body of the 56-year-old mother of two was found buried in a shallow grave on Easter Saturday, three days after she went missing from her Fregon home on SA's Anangu Pitjantjatjara

Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands. Mimiili man Dudley Davey, 34, has been charged with her murder. Ms Woodford's death sparked calls for an end to remote nurses working solo as others told of threats, abuse and assaults.

The Federal Government will this week bring together key groups to consider how to improve the safety of remote area workers.

## Unite

Ms Scales said outback communities should unite in the wake of Ms Woodford's death. "I've been told that some Anangu outside of the APY Lands have been abused and threatened as a result of this tragedy," she said.

"We should not let one person's actions affect the way Anangu are treated. Instead, let this be a time when we come together to grieve and heal."

Ms Scales said 'Kunmanara Woodford' was like a family member to the Anangu. – AAP

# NORTHERN NSW

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Grafton	Monday 11th April	Camellia Cottage 3 Camellia Way, South Grafton NSW 2460	9am - 12pm
Nambucca	Tuesday 12th April	Hennessey Tape Oval Coronation Street, Bowraville NSW 2449	9am - 12pm
Port Macquarie	Wednesday 13th April	Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council Aston Street, Port Macquarie NSW 2444	9am - 12pm
Armidale	Monday 18th April	Minimbah Primary School 1-15 Galloway St, Armidale NSW 2350	12pm - 3pm
Gunnedah	Tuesday 19th April	PCYC Gunnedah View Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380	9am - 12pm
Inverell	Wednesday 20th April	Linking Together Centre 16 Waratah Avenue, Inverell NSW 2360	9am - 12pm
Glen Innes	Wednesday 20th April	Wilson Park Netball Courts West Avenue, Glen Innes NSW 2370	2pm - 5pm

For more information go to: [www.cycling.org.au](http://www.cycling.org.au)  
or email: [projects@letsride.com.au](mailto:projects@letsride.com.au)



An initiative of:



# Working to protect plant



THE North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) in Victoria is working

with Barapa Barapa traditional owners to protect a nationally endangered plant in Gunbower Forest in the Loddon Mallee region.

The forest has just one officially identified population of winged peppergrass, an annual herb with rattle-like seed heads.

The North Central CMA was awarded a state government critical action and strategic partnerships grant to monitor the plants in Gunbower Forest, look for new populations and collect and grow seeds.

Project manager Adrian Martins said the CMA is working with Barapa Barapa representatives, floodplain ecologists and Royal Melbourne Botanical Gardens staff on the project.

"There has been some good news and some bad news," he said.

"The good news is in two days' searching in black box woodlands in Gunbower Forest we located five new populations.

"The plants were found in open areas between red gum and black box woodlands that pool water after good rain.

"The bad news is that all the populations, except the one known patch, had been damaged by



North Central Catchment Management Authority's Sharnie Hamilton and Barapa Barapa Elder Robert 'Ducky' Charles looking for the winged peppergrass plant in Gunbower Forest and, inset, the plant.

vehicles driven off-track."

Mr Martins said the vehicles had devastated native plants, churned up the protective soil crust, and promoted weed invasion.

"Further measures will be required to control off-road recreation vehicles to protect the remaining populations," he said.

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning district

forest operations manager Tim Wishart said trail bike riders and vehicle drivers are welcome in state forests, parks and reserves providing they are licensed, their vehicles are registered and they

stay on the formed roads and official vehicle tracks.

"Taking a motorised vehicle off-road can cause a lot of damage to vegetation, watercourses and walking tracks," he said.

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIGENOUS CHILDREN



### Do you know someone who would benefit from a boarding school education?

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Boarding school scholarships are open to Indigenous children from regional, rural and remote Australia who will be starting high school in 2017.



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**“ Father John’s story is not uncommon.**

*Father John was born and raised in Murray Island and belongs to the Magaram Tribe. He left school as a 16 year old to work on the lugger boats in the Torres Strait Islands. He worked as a deck hand, free diving for trochus shells and was required to pack and carry them off the boats on to the jetty. Father John was only paid £20 per fortnight, he had no idea where the rest of his wages were and he struggled to support his family back on the Islands.*

**Stolen Wages Reparations Scheme**  
*Acknowledging the past*

From the late 19th century, the lives of many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders were controlled by ‘Protection Acts’—including taking and controlling their wages and savings.

The Queensland Government acknowledges the past injustices and pain that these ‘Protection Acts’ have caused Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

In the spirit of reconciliation, a Reparations Scheme was opened in 2015 with a commitment to distribute \$21 million in reparations payments to people whose wages or savings were taken and controlled.

If you have a similar story, you may be eligible for reparations payment.

Visit: [qld.gov.au/reparations](http://qld.gov.au/reparations)  
Call: 1800 619 505



Authorised by the Queensland Government, George Street, Brisbane.



# See yourself in the Navy

**H**E describes himself as your average indigenous kid from Brisbane, who could never have imagined the exciting career he would build for himself in the Royal Australian Navy.

“I was inspired by one of my mates, who is indigenous as well, to join the Navy” Jorde said. “I used to see Darren all the time on Facebook just doing something different and I wanted his job.”

Jorde was 23 and studying a Bachelor of Business at university when he decided to apply to join the Navy. He chose to enter the ADF following participation in the Defence Indigenous Development Program (DIDP).

The DIDP is a five-month residential course

that provides young indigenous Australians with exposure to the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

Jorde said that the Navy met his expectations for adventure. Far from the average working day his first experience at sea was a rescue.

“We got everyone off of a sinking boat. You just can’t find experiences like that in any other job,” Jorde said. “The more and more I got involved in the Navy I just thought – Wow, this is the ticket.”

As a Boatswain’s Mate Jorde is involved in small boat handling and operations, this includes involvement in boarding operations and force protection. He’s a small arms weapon specialist and is skilled when it comes to tying knots, ropework; work with wires, buoys and shackles.

Jorde said the best thing about the Navy is its culture, it’s like a family unit, they accept everyone, and you work together as a team, there is a great sense of community at sea.

“I think the more indigenous people who come into the forces, the more it sets a positive example for not just indigenous people, but for the rest of Australia as well.”

“I believe I’ve found my calling in life in the Navy. I see myself being a leader amongst my crew, my shipmates, a leader amongst my people; someone to look up to.”

To pursue an exciting career that allows you to travel the world and perform a wide array of interesting seamanship tasks visit <http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/>.



Able Seaman (AB) Jorde Lenoy from the Kalkadoon and Gunganji people joined the Navy four years ago as a Boatswain’s Mate.

**The Army is currently recruiting for various roles. For more information on military training and careers in the Defence Force visit: [defencejobs.gov.au](http://defencejobs.gov.au) or call 13 19 01**

Brian Ritchie, of the Violent Femmes, makes music with Eleanor and Raymond Dixon, of Rayella.  
Pictures: Dan Paris



# Stars out in Perth

## Marlinja group plays with Violent Femmes

By KEIRA JENKINS



A FAMILY band from the remote Marlinja community, about 730km south of Darwin, performed with US punk rock band Violent Femmes at the recent

Stars of the Desert event in Perth.

For Eleanor Dixon and her father Raymond, two members of the band Rayella, music was always part of their home and Ms Dixon remembers singing from the age of four in a church group.

But it was only two years ago that Rayella formed.

"We've been playing music for a long time but we only formed the band after (Violent Femmes' bass player) Brian Ritchie took notice of our music," Ms Dixon told the *Koori Mail*.

"He mentored us for a week. He was really interested in our music and we've kept in contact."

Ms Dixon said it fills her with pride to see how much the family band has achieved in the past two years.

"It takes hard work. But for a band that's come from a small community we've come a long way," she said.

"I'm surprised – I still can't believe we got to play with Violent Femmes (a huge 1980s band) because you don't get opportunities like that in the bush.

"Brian is so open-hearted and supportive. He's got a lot of experience, so as a mentor he has taught us a lot."

Music is important to the band members, not just as individuals but to

their community as well. "It helps to maintain traditions – we write a lot of songs in language so we can pass on that culture to the younger generations," Ms Dixon said.

"It's hard to get language taught in schools so we're trying to keep the learning process going through music."

Country Arts WA helped organise the Stars of the Desert, which was held at the US Consul General's residence.

Chief executive Jessica Machin said Country Arts WA aims to raise the profile of Indigenous artists from remote areas.

"There is some amazing talent and great things happening out in the bush, but a lot of the time we only hear about the bad things," she said.

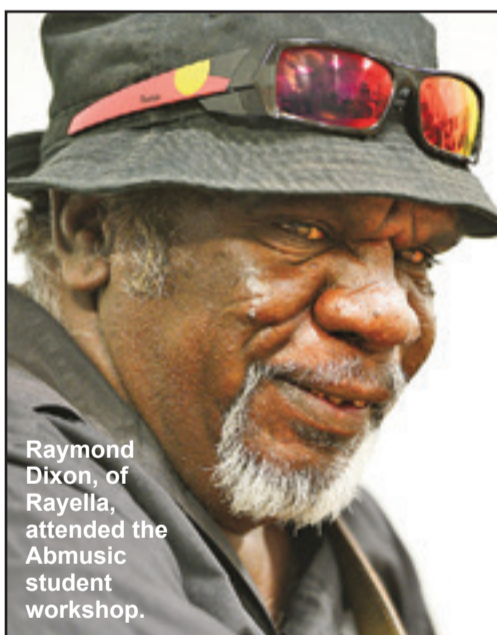
"The event was just awesome. It went off without a hitch. The two bands had never performed together before so it was such a special experience."

Ms Machin said Country Arts WA has enjoyed watching Rayella develop through its programs over the past two years.

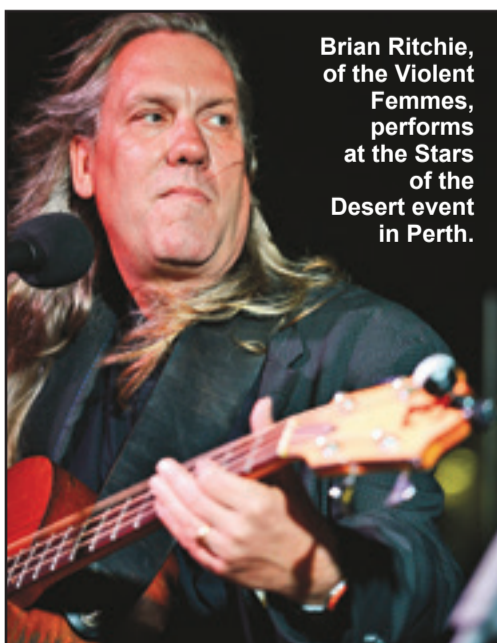
"Eleanor is such a trailblazer. She's really a powerful person. We've seen her go from very shy to performing in front of thousands of people," she said.

"What's important is developing young talent. It's important to give a high profile to these bands and allow them to play to an audience they may never have had the chance to play for otherwise."

For more information about Rayella and their new album visit <http://barklyarts.com.au/rayella-debut-album/>



Raymond Dixon, of Rayella, attended the Abmusic student workshop.



Brian Ritchie, of the Violent Femmes, performs at the Stars of the Desert event in Perth.



Abmusic students participate in a workshop with Ray and Eleanor Dixon, of Rayella, and the Violent Femmes.



Brian Ritchie, of the Violent Femmes, and Eleanor Dixon, of Rayella, perform.

# Aboriginal Woman of Year named



**WORRIMI** woman Dana Clarke has been named the inaugural NSW Aboriginal

Woman of the Year. She received the award from Aboriginal Affairs Minister Leslie Williams at the 2016 NSW Women of the Year Awards ceremony hosted by the Minister for Women Pru Goward at NSW Parliament House.

"Dana is a fantastic leader in her community and I am proud to say she is the first recipient of the Aboriginal Woman of the Year Award," Mrs Williams said.

"Her hard work and dedication is evident in that under Dana's leadership, the Burrun Dalai Aboriginal Corporation has grown from a small non-government organisation to the largest rural service provider of Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) and Family Support Services in NSW.

"Dana is a deserving recipient and I congratulate her on her positive and ongoing contribution to the community."

The award is for an outstanding leader who contributes to her own community and is well respected in the wider community for her success and leadership in her chosen field.

"The calibre of nominees for this award highlights the number of exceptional Aboriginal women



At the awards presentation are, from left, Aboriginal Affairs Minister Leslie Williams, Rhonda Radley, Dana Clarke, NSW Premier Mike Baird, Kirstie Parker, Nikita Ridgeway and NSW Minister for Women Pru Goward.

across NSW who are doing outstanding work in their community," Ms Goward said.

Under Ms Clarke's leadership, the Burrun Dalai's Office of Children's Guardian is one of

only five OOHC service providers to achieve re-accreditation in NSW.

The other finalists were Kristie Parker, Nikita Ridgeway and Rhonda Radley.

# Flag move rejected



**CAMPBELLTOWN** City Council in Adelaide has voted against flying the Aboriginal flag permanently, with one councillor calling the proposal "divisive".

The Campbelltown Reconciliation Advisory Committee had asked the council to buy a \$2000 flagpole so that the Aboriginal flag could fly next to the Australian flag.

But a majority of councillors voted against the proposal, deciding instead that

the Aboriginal flag should be flown only on special occasions.

Cr Max Amber said flying the Aboriginal flag permanently would increase the cultural divide.

Mayor Simon Brewer, who is on the Reconciliation Advisory Committee, condemned the move and made the following statement on Facebook: "In my view, in this more enlightened world, if (the council) is not flying the flag and recognising the special and unique place of

Aboriginal people in Australia that is divisive."

Kurna Elder Lowitja O'Donoghue told the *East Torrens Messenger* she was "gobsmacked" by the decision, and didn't think it was in question.

Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement chief executive Cheryl Axleby, who lives in the city, said it was a disappointing decision.

"The simple act of flying the Aboriginal flag is about respect, acknowledging the First Nations, the Kurna people whose

land the council office is located on, and also as a welcoming sign to Aboriginal people within the Campbelltown Council area," she said.

Currently, three flags are flown outside council chambers – the Australian flag, South Australian flag and the Campbelltown council flag.

The Mayor has urged the council to "join the 21st Century".

● **Sad flag decision: Cheryl Axleby's letter, page 23**

# Desmond lands WA award



Desmond Farrell with his award.



**DESMOND** Farrell is among 25 young people who have been recognised with Perth Airport

Achiever Awards. The 17-year-old was awarded the Ida Curtois Inspiration Award, which recognises a young person who has made an important contribution to the community.

Desmond, who is completing the Aboriginal orientation course at the University of Western Australia, received an extra \$1000 for his strong leadership role in raising awareness about Aboriginal culture and making a positive impact in the wider community.

WA Child Protection Minister Andrea Mitchell said the Achiever Awards provided up to \$4000 each to young people aged 15 to 25 who had been in the care of the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, to help them with further education and training.

"What inspires me about these young people is seeing the growth, resilience and positive changes they are making in their lives," she said.

"They have grown into determined and responsible young men and women who want to become role models within their own community.

"I congratulate all of the winners and have no doubt they will do well in their studies and training."

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# DANNY EASTWOOD'S VIEW



# A Yarn With...



## Noeleen Carlo

From Cherbourg (Qld) but has lived in Brisbane for more than 30 years

**Favourite bush tucker?**  
Porcupine and goanna.

**Favourite other food?**  
Berries and nuts, especially the bunya nut because you can use those for so many things.

**Favourite music?**  
Bart Willoughby, Coloured Stone, the Warumpi Band, Archie Roach, Yothu Yindi, Angus Rabbit, Mop and the Dropouts. Their music reminds us to fight for our rights.

**Favourite sport?**  
Softball and netball.

**Favourite holiday destination?**  
Travelling the entire land is my favourite.

**What are you reading?**  
I read lots of different books on spiritual topics and on lots of different religions. I've done Bible studies as well.

**What do you like in life?**  
Pretty much everything. I have a way of looking at things where I believe everything must be balanced. I like seeing my people standing tall and standing up for their rights. I like to see my people united.

**What don't you like?**  
I don't like violence. Don't violate my space or inflict pain.

**If you could, what would you do to help Indigenous people?**  
Fight for our land in the High Court. I've studied real estate law and it doesn't match up to native law, so I think there's a loophole there.

## Quote



**“How did it feel not to understand? You got a tiny taste of what it is often like for us.”**

– NT Minister Bess Price on speaking traditional language in Parliament

● See page 10

## Unquote

# Evidence shows price is too high

**W**HY is the Federal Government so hell-bent on introducing income management for Aboriginal people on Centrelink benefits?

Yet another report has been produced including the same conclusion as dozens of earlier reports: blanket compulsory income management doesn't work. This time the report is by the multi-party Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights, chaired by Liberal elder statesman Philip Ruddock, a former Howard Government Indigenous Affairs Minister.

The report, reviewing the Stronger Futures legislation, which was an extension of the Northern Territory Intervention, found that “compulsory income management is not effective in achieving its stated objective of supporting vulnerable individuals and families”.

And while the damning report was released last month, recommending that compulsory income management be wound back, the Turnbull Government is still blithely pursuing more compulsory income management measures.

Three days before the Human Rights committee's report was published, the Government launched its 'Healthy Welfare' card in Ceduna, an area that was picked for the income management 'trial' because of its high Aboriginal population.

Social security benefits are an important safety net – they say to people 'we won't let you starve'.

To attempt to disempower people on social security by telling them they're not capable of managing their own money is



unfair and restricts human rights.

The Healthy Welfare card is based on an idea proposed by mining billionaire Andrew Forrest. How's this for an idea: instead of basing social welfare policy on the thought bubbles of a rich, white, powerful man, why not actually speak to people on Centrelink benefits and those who analyse social policy?

It's impossible to escape the conclusion that this government doesn't care about evidence-based policy when it comes to the poor and the vulnerable.

It just cares about ideology and pandering to other powerful white men – as shown by the shock jocks who were lining up to congratulate the government on its Healthy Welfare card.

Ideology over evidence is a terrible way to formulate policy. But, sadly, in a country in which a university's mildly-worded teaching guide suggesting that saying Europeans 'invaded' rather than 'settled' Australia can be judged front-page news and send social media into a meltdown, a blinkered, biased approach is far too common and acceptable.

And, as from the time of invasion, Aboriginal people pay the price.

## Koori Mail – 100% Aboriginal-owned

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

# He's just wild about native foods

By KEIRA JENKINS

WHEN chef Clayton Donovan was four, his aunt took him to forage for bush food, as a way of getting the self-confessed troublemaker out of the house.

Nearly 40 years later, Mr Donovan still revels in experimenting with native foods, travelling the country with his pop-up restaurants rather than be confined to one physical location.

The Bundjalung and Gumbaynggir (NSW) freelance chef has travelled the country – and the world – with his work, doing what he calls a social experiment to see if he could get the “regular person” to eat bush foods.

Mr Donovan said, although he's experienced success with his restaurants, TV show *Wild Kitchen* and is looking to write a recipe book in the near future, the journey has rarely been smooth.

“When I started there were barely any Kooris in the industry; now I mentor young chefs who are coming through,” he said.

“My main goal has always been to push native foods, and it's quite a trendy thing right now.

“It's important to keep those flavours alive and to get people to choose to try them.”

As an apprentice chef working in kitchens around Sydney, Mr Donovan was already considering how to incorporate native foods into modern dishes. He said that the best way he's

found to do this is through the ‘pop-up’ style of restaurant.

“Moving around to different cities and places you can reach a much broader range of people,” Mr Donovan told the *Koori Mail*.

“In the restaurant I was working about 20 hours a day; pop-ups give me a bit more time to spend with the family.

## “Hard work”

“It's not much extra time because I'm away a lot. It's still hard work but it's taken me halfway around the world.”

Mr Donovan said he's often invited to events like the Blak to Bush fundraising dinner in Sydney and the ‘Eat the Street’ Food Festival in Lismore, on the NSW north coast, because

people are eager to try new things.

The current trend of eating ‘superfoods’ has helped the bush food market because many native plants have medicinal and nutritional values that have generated interest in what Mr Donovan does.

“Native foods have such unique flavours – some might be similar to something in another country – but Australia has such different foods to anywhere else,” he said.

“There's a huge demand for that. People are keen to try new things, people all over the country and all over the world.

“It's starting to infiltrate the mainstream, rather than be a niche form of food.”

Although he has many years’

experience in the industry, Mr Donovan said he is still learning at the same time he is teaching others about traditional foods.

He is still connected to his youth, remembering the first bush food he ever learnt about – the sap from the wattle tree, after which he named his restaurant *Jaaning Tree*.

“I'm still playing around with flavours and I really enjoy experimenting with new things,” Mr Donovan said.

He said Indigenous languages have been appreciated as part of culture for some time, and now it's time for food to catch up.

“Bringing the native food into the modern world, that's an important part of retaining culture,” Mr Donovan said.



Wild Kitchen chef Clayton Donovan attended the Eat the Street Food Festival in Lismore, northern NSW.

# SOUTH WEST NSW

## FREE ABORIGINAL BIKE SAFETY PROGRAM



### A 3HR PROGRAM THAT TEACHES:

- Practical bike skills
- Basic bike maintenance
- Where to ride in your community
- Program will also include snacks

Participants will also get a FREE Helmet & bike service so bring your bike with you!



LOCATION	DATE	VENUE	TIME
Griffith	Thursday 14th April	Olympic Park Olympic Street, Griffith NSW 2680	10am - 1pm
Leeton	Friday 15th April	Netball Courts (near Leeton Indoor Stadium) Palm Avenue, Leeton NSW 2705	10am - 1pm
Wagga Wagga	Monday 18th April	PCYC Wagga Wagga 228 Gurwood St, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650	9am - 12pm & 2pm - 5pm
Tumut	Wednesday 13th April	Tumut Public School 177 Wynyard Street, Tumut NSW 2720	10am - 1pm
Albury	Thursday 14th April	Westside Community Centre 16 Mulga Place, Albury NSW 2640	10am - 1pm
Yass	Friday 15th April	Victoria Park (Near Skate Park) Yass Valley Way, Yass NSW 2582	10am - 1pm

For more information go to: [www.cycling.org.au](http://www.cycling.org.au)  
or email: [projects@letsride.com.au](mailto:projects@letsride.com.au)



An initiative of:



## How about NAIDOC for All Stars?



All Stars coverage from the February 24 edition of the *Koori Mail*.

I WRITE regarding brother Preston Campbell's column on the timing of the All Stars in the future (*Koori Mail*, March 9).

I'm a proud Gumbayngirr/Dunghutti (NSW) man, aged 41.

As a rugby league fanatic and avid supporter of the All Stars concept, it's a must in our game and definitely has to stay on our calendar every year, for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stars now and our future NRL stars.

I believe the All Stars should be played in NAIDOC Week. It's the week when our Aboriginal nation celebrates this week of Aboriginal culture and awareness across this great country we call Australia.

It's our 'big week' and what better way to showcase our Indigenous All Stars than in NAIDOC Week?

In this new concept we play in NAIDOC Week and that doesn't coincide with the Auckland Nines, which a number of our stars participate in.

**DENNIS KELLY**  
Parklea, NSW

## POETRY

### A Story About A Man My Mum Knows

This isn't a ballad,  
Of days of old,  
Or about streets lined with gold.  
For this is his story,  
As she sees it his struggles and sacrifices he beholds.  
For the land he calls home and that he loves.

She knows his laughter and smile,  
His jokes and stories he tells her on the phone,  
Makes her wish to sit and stay awhile.  
But lately his smile is fading,  
His laughter has near but died out,  
Because of the land he loves,  
Is all dried up in drought.

He is a family man, with a loving wife and kids of his own,  
who when required work alongside him,  
And are there for him through thick and thin.

His work never ends,  
Even through blood sweat and tears,  
Because of the land he has worked  
has been dry for many long years.

There hasn't been any rain,  
the feed has dried and gone,  
so for him he works all day long, until the rains come,  
to replenish the lands once more and end this dismay.

Until then the days are endless,  
For him in the desert sun and unrelenting heat,  
So he travels for miles, carrying out water runs to ensure his stock drink,  
And days of constant travel,  
To deliver his stock a feed.

But he never says a word,  
About his struggles and his pain,  
but to those close to him,  
Can see it plain as day.

Mum prays for him and his family as well,  
For three long years,  
He hasn't taken a break,  
He has missed birthdays and celebrations,  
And Easter too,  
so simple people like us,  
Have a table laid with food.

So when you hear about the struggles,  
A man like him has to go through,  
about the times he sacrificed, for the stock we call food,  
for drought is his battle,  
he is like many a true hero,  
But what he wants most,  
Is time with friends and family at times when it counts.

Because that is what he has lost due to the horrible drought  
You may ask a question,  
One you're entitled to ask,  
Is why doesn't he leave this way of life for them?

Well here is the answer.  
He does it because who else would do this with such love and devotion?  
This life that requires such a task.

But I know he will smile and laugh his hearty laugh.  
For my Mum knows his battle will only end,  
When the rain decides to descend.

**MADDISON GILBY-FRENCH**  
Bathurst, NSW

# Sad flag decision

RECENTLY the Campbelltown City Council in Adelaide decided against flying the Aboriginal flag all year round, instead preferring to only display the Aboriginal flag during NAIDOC and Reconciliation Week.

During a council meeting on March 15 the council rejected the recommendation of its Reconciliation Advisory Council to permanently fly the Aboriginal flag outside council offices.

Despite Kaurna yarta (land) being the birthplace of the Aboriginal Flag, which was first flown in Tarndanyangga, known as Victoria Square, in 1971, the Campbelltown City Council has chosen to neglect the Aboriginal constituents within the council area, which has included myself for the past 23 years.

This is a disappointing decision from the council, preferring only to give tokenistic recognition of Aboriginal people, rather than cement their resolve to build genuine relationships based on respect with Aboriginal people as the First Nations peoples of this land.

The symbolism the Aboriginal flag has for Aboriginal people cannot be underestimated. It is a part of our identity and acknowledges Aboriginal peoples and their culture, which has previously been denied and is long overdue.



The decision does little to enhance the council's Reconciliation Action Plan, essentially ignoring the Aboriginal voice through the Reconciliation Advisory Committee by rejecting its recommendations, and leads to questions regarding its commitment to Aboriginal people.

The simple act of flying the Aboriginal flag is about respect, acknowledging the First Nations, the Kaurna people whose land the council office is located on, and also as a welcoming sign to Aboriginal people within the Campbelltown Council area.

The council previously erected a migrant monument to reflect the migrant population

and the "valued contributions of migrant families ... who have given much over the years".

However, the council has denied recognising the contributions of Aboriginal people, in particular the Kaurna people, whose dispossession from their land continues to benefit the council and community as a whole.

There is no group within our community that has sacrificed and given more than the Aboriginal people, but the recognition of this is still lacking.

If having a permanent Aboriginal flag flying is seen as "divisive", then what would be said of a whole monument dedicated to the Kaurna people, the traditional custodians of the Adelaide Plains region?

It is saddening that despite it being 2016, we still are engaged in these kinds of discussions.

I would strongly suggest that the Campbelltown city councillors take a leaf out of the book of Port Adelaide Enfield, Prospect and Playford, who all proudly fly the Aboriginal flag all year round.

**CHERYL AXLEBY**  
Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement CEO  
Adelaide, SA

## Keeping Your Say short and sweet

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

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

Even if sent via email, all letters and

poems must be accompanied by the author's full name, home town/city and state/territory, and a contact number so we can verify content. After that, we're happy to withhold names and addresses upon request.

We will publish 'Looking For' letters as long as they do not breach the privacy of individuals mentioned.

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

– EDITOR



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**E-mail**

The address is:  
editor@koorimail.com

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

# Tynesha looks to a future in the ballet

By DARREN COYNE



IT'S a long way from that first plié to a role in the Australian Ballet.

It requires many hours of hard work and training with the best teachers for that shot to 'do something exceptionally well'.

Tynesha Hancock, of Lismore in northern NSW, has her sights set on becoming a member of the Australian Ballet's full-time program, and has been in Melbourne this week being taught by former principal dancer Lisa Pavane.

It's her fourth visit to Melbourne to take part in intensive training classes with the Australian Ballet interstate training program.

The 14-year-old Bundjalung girl told the *Koori Mail* she was inspired to become a ballet dancer by older cousins when she was eight years old.

"It's really fun," she said. "When you're dancing it's like you are in your own little world."

"I used to get a bit nervous performing when I was little, but now I just enjoy it."

Tynesha's love of classical dancing has already given her the opportunity to travel to other states in Australia, and to New Zealand last year, when she was a finalist in the Alana Haines Dance Awards.

The interstate training program with the Australian Ballet gives young dancers from regional areas like Tynesha the opportunity to be guided by the best dancers in the country.

"It's elite training, an opportunity for regional dancers to get the type of training that people in the cities take for granted," her dance teacher, Sue Whiteman from the Alstonville Dance Studio, said.

"Tynesha has the raw talent but we are also trying to foster her interest in her culture as an Indigenous dancer for more contemporary companies like Bangarra."

Apart from ballet, Tynesha is also training as a cheerleader twice a week in order to develop her flexibility.

The gymnastics training is a break from the strict routine of ballet and also has its own rewards and challenges, as she will be competing in national competitions later this year.

Combined with



Tynesha Hancock: "When you're dancing it's like you are in your own little world."

schoolwork at Lismore's Trinity Catholic College, Tynesha is a busy girl, with at least 14 hours of solid practice a week.

She also works with an integrated group known as The Little Dragons, which includes people with disabilities, every second Sunday and during school holidays.

Her mother Selina said she was hesitant at first to allow Tynesha to pursue her dream of becoming a

dancer.

"I tried to persuade her not to because it can be quite expensive, but from the age of six or seven that's all she wanted to do," she said.

But Ms Hancock said the sacrifices were worth it.

"It gives her the opportunity to do exceptionally well in something and to achieve at the highest possible standard. That's what drives her," she said.

# Focus on Aboriginal identity

By JILLIAN MUNDY



IDEAS of contemporary Aboriginal identity being linked – whether correctly or incorrectly – to benefits and resources need to be removed from

conversations on Aboriginality, says Professor Bronwyn Carlson, the author of *The Politics of Identity – Who Counts as Aboriginal Today*, which was launched in Wollongong, NSW, late last month.

"We really should think about what it means to be an Aboriginal person," she said. "We need to engage in conversations broadly, away from the Alan Jones and Andrew Bolts (media commentators) of the world, to allow for the diversity of our experiences with colonialism."

"And we need to really divorce the ideas of what counts as Aboriginal as being linked to benefits and resources."

"It's a minefield. You have to allow

spaces for people who have diverse stories as well, we have to make sure people aren't taking advantage of this messy space."

Since her book hit the shelves in February, Prof Carlson has been immersed in the conversation about identity.

*The Politics of Identity – Who Counts as Aboriginal Today*, based on her 2013 Stanner Award-winning thesis, draws together laws, policies, research and personal stories of the often vexed subject of Aboriginality, with a focus on Aboriginal people

whose heritage, for a range of reasons, has been dislocated from larger communities of Aboriginal people and now want to identify as, and be recognised as, Aboriginal.

She discusses the changing face of Aboriginality and the influence of segregation, assimilation and self-determination policies.

"In all these debates and surveillance about who counts as Indigenous today, we witness also the inculcation of our younger generations into a divisive politics that will surely guarantee many more years of squabbling over the morsels the governments keep throwing at our feet as we tear ourselves apart for a share," she said, "rather than return our younger generations to our former political agenda of addressing the legacy of dispossession and disenfranchisement of all Indigenous

peoples in Australia," she said.

Prof Carlson says the point of writing the book was not to solve the 'problem' but to understand the basis of current thinking and how it shapes practices around Indigenous identity confirmation.

"I think it is important for all Australians to have a deeper understanding of the ways in which the colonial era has impacted on contemporary ideas of Indigenous identity," says Prof Carlson, an Aboriginal person who was born and lives on D'harwal country in NSW.

She says the research, which unearthed enough information "to build a house out of" and only just scratches the surface, was somewhat of a personal project, propelled by her own journey of Aboriginality, a recognition that her search for information needed to extend past her family level, and an awareness of issues people faced when requesting confirmations of Aboriginality when she worked at an Aboriginal medical service.

In the introduction to the book, Prof



Professor Bronwyn Carlson with a copy of her book *The Politics of Identity – Who Counts as Aboriginal Today*.

Carlson explains the need to understand how and why she was understood as 'not being Aboriginal enough'.

"I wanted to know how and why historical legacies continued to assign such weighted meaning to black/white lines in the everyday, given the history of dispossession and the subsequent administration of Aboriginal lives in Australia."

"I wanted to know why so many of us were suspended in the land of not belonging."

Prof Maggie Walter, pro vice-

chancellor Aboriginal research and leadership at the University of Tasmania, says the book is a critical and insightful contribution to the "complex and fraught terrain" that is Aboriginality, and exposes the underlying racism from Indigenous and non-Indigenous critics who presume access to benefits is the only reason Aboriginal people who could pass as 'white' choose not to do so.

Prof Carlson said since the book's release, dozens of Aboriginal people have contacted her to say how the publication has touched them personally, and related directly to their lives.

She is currently an Associate Professor in Indigenous Studies at the University of Wollongong.

*The Politics of Identity – Who Counts as Aboriginal Today* is published by Aboriginal Studies Press and has already gone into reprint.



# Boys up with the best

I AM writing this article as a proud parent touring Aotearoa (New Zealand) with the Lloyd McDermott National Aboriginal Schoolboys Rugby side.

We have so many great Aboriginal people not given the proper representation they deserve in the annals of Australian history. Lloyd McDermott is one such person.

The list is endless...

Yorta Yorta man William Cooper, who in 1938 led a delegation to deliver a petition against the persecution of the Jewish people by Nazi Germany and was the founder of Aborigines Sunday, now commemorated as NAIDOC week.

His nephew Douglas Nicholls, who was influential for successfully lobbying for the referendum in 1967.

Another was Mick Miller, a respected Elder and statesman at the forefront for the struggle for social justice and land rights in Australia in the 1960s and 70s.

Aboriginal women include Gladys Elphick, who was named South Australian Aboriginal of the Year after years of serving the needs of our community. And Mum Shirl, who was influential in Redfern being seen as a force in Aboriginal politics and the cultural hub of Aboriginal identity in Sydney.

I personally identify back six

generations ago to a Kamilaroi woman named Amelia Whiteman, my great, great grandmother. Throughout her life she witnessed thousands dying as influenza took its toll. She survived the water being poisoned and our people being shot and hunted down. It was through her bloodline that our ceremonial leaders came and we still speak our language and practise ceremony today.

Lloyd McDermott was not only our first Wallaby, he, like William Cooper years earlier, was one of the very first to publicly denounce a fascist, racist government when he refused to play against South Africa in 1962.

Nelson Mandela often spoke publicly about the influence sporting boycotts had in overcoming apartheid. Not many realise it was one of our own who first made a stand.

There are no easy games of rugby when you tour Aotearoa. The boys were to play two games against 1st XV sides, one from Palmerston, who play in New Zealand's top-tier Super 8s Rugby Competition, and a Maori invitational side from Wainuiomata in Wellington.

What we witnessed over the two games gave just a small glimpse of our potential if ever we took up rugby union the same way we



## Woolombi Waters

commit to rugby league and AFL.

Our boys smashed 'em. After losing the first half against Palmerston we never looked back. Three tries straight after the half-time break and four more tries before full time gave a 50-5 win. No-one was expecting that.

Attention immediately turned to the game against Maori. Blackfellas don't play a lot of union, but it suits

our style of play. Against Palmerston we just had too much speed out wide, were very elusive with ball in hand and great short and long passing games creating space. All our boys have that Blackfella step: little stutter steps at pace before exploding into space.

From the opening Haka, against Maori it was obvious that this game was going to increase in intensity. The first 20 minutes were brutal, but our boys showed the strength of character, discipline and self-belief too often ignored when writing about our Indigenous superstars.

We have all read articles about how brilliant and naturally gifted are the likes of Ben Barber, Greg Inglis and Kurtley Beale, but our champions also demonstrate strong work ethic, professionalism and commitment. These touring boys displayed all these characteristics and more in defeating the Wainuiomata Maori invitational side 27-0.

Off the paddock, local parents spoke about the boys' manners, their respect and how proud they were as Maori to have such an exciting, talented team of exceptional young Aboriginal men tour their traditional homelands.

In all, our young rugby tourists scored 15 tries and only had one scored against, amassing 77 points for with only five against.

Parents and rival coaches also talked about the exciting and unique style our boys played, where ball out wide was turned back inside and breaks down the wings included kicks off the side of the foot to players in support down the centre of the field.

As I said, just a glimpse of the potential if we ever take up rugby union the same way we commit to rugby league and AFL.

Well done boys. You have maintained the legacy of just some of the many great Aboriginal people I named at the start of this article and done your families and communities proud.

The Lloyd McDermott Team List with coaching staff: Leeroy Ahmatt, William Archer, Blake Barbuto, James Beaufills, James Bell, Darren Caulton, Charles Charltonwalker, Deon Evans, Trevor Fourmile, Wyatt Gavin, Che Hyslop, Brett Johnson, Jayden Kitchner, Braydon Law, Chance Liddywild, Peter Mayo, Luke McDonald, Ricky McDonald, Boyd McIntyre, Dakota Priestley, Owen Simpson, Henry Snowball, Ngijaani Waters, Jet Williams, Daniel Yarran.

*Dr Woolombi Waters is an award-winning writer, educator and academic at Griffith University. He is a regular Koori Mail columnist.*



**Family & Community Services**  
Aboriginal Housing Office

## Expression Of Interest

### Housing Aboriginal Communities Program (HACP) Title Transfer

The Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO) is inviting Expressions Of Interest (EOI) from AHO-registered Aboriginal Community Housing Providers (ACHPs) that believe they meet requirements for transfer of title of Housing Aboriginal Communities Program (HACP) properties.

An HACP Panel has been convened to consider applications and hear from ACHPs that are in possession of documented proof to enact the title transfer process.

The HACP Panel will travel to regional locations to meet with ACHPs that have submitted an EOI.

#### HACP Criteria

To apply, ACHPs **must** meet the following criteria:

1. The Aboriginal community housing provider is registered with the AHO.
2. There is evidence of a valid AHO Housing Agreement in existence, and where required, evidence of a valid Head Lease Agreement in existence.
3. The HACP properties are under the management or control of the Aboriginal community housing provider.
4. The Aboriginal community housing provider is not under any form of external administration.
5. The Aboriginal community housing provider must accept the HACP properties in their current state and condition, being clean, safe and habitable.
6. The Aboriginal community housing provider must be willing to accept the conditions of transfer outlined below:
  - a. The Aboriginal community housing provider remains liable for all rates, taxes and statutory charges.
  - b. Upon transfer of HACP properties, the AHO will register and maintain a registrable interest in the HACP properties for an indefinite period pursuant to section 21 of the *Aboriginal Housing Act 1998 (NSW)*.
  - c. The Aboriginal community housing provider must enter into an Agreement to Transfer to finalise the transfer.

#### Legal advice

We encourage applicants to seek independent legal advice.

#### Confidentially

The AHO acknowledges and agrees that it will comply with the *Privacy and Personal Act 1998 (NSW)* in connection to any personal information created or held for the purpose of evaluating HACP title transfer Expressions Of Interest.

#### Further information

If you would like support in preparing for the EOI, AHO regional staff in your area are available to help you understand your entitlements, and to assist you with your application. If you would like to know more about this initiative or to obtain an EOI application form, please contact the HACP Team on:

Phone: **1800 730 869** Email: **AskaboutHACP@fac.s.nsw.gov.au** Web: **www.aho.gov.au/hacp**

#### Applications

EOI applications should be submitted to: Housing Aboriginal Communities Program (HACP) Expressions Of Interest, Aboriginal Housing Office, PO Box W5, Westfield, PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

**Please note EOI closes 22 April 2016.**

# Young Torres Strait leaders at program



Torres Strait young leaders, back from left, Iesha Faid (Poruma Island), Tari Fell (Horn Island), Dalasa George (Poruma Island) and Simon Gela (Thursday Island) and, front, Toni Pearson (Hammond Island) and Alex Blanco (Mer Island) with Outward Bound instructors Coral Wallace and Phil Bailey.

**TSI** SIX young leaders from the Torres Strait have attended the Torres Strait Young Leaders Program (TSYLP) in Canberra.

The candidates, sponsored by the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA), were Simon Gela from Thursday Island, Tari Fell from Horn Island, Toni Pearson from Hammond Island, Alex Blanco from Mer Island, and Iesha Faid and Dalasa George from Poruma Island.

TSRA chairperson Joseph Elu said the leadership program is tailored for the region's emerging leaders.

"The young leaders chosen had ambitions to play future leadership roles in their communities, acting as role models for their peers and successive generations," he said.

"This cohort will not only become a part of the Torres Strait Leadership network but also the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation (ARLF) network nationwide."

Mr Elu said the TSYLP allows young leaders to gain new perspectives and experiences within politics, history and culture, and gain confidence in their leadership abilities.

"A key component of the program is the experiential outdoor component, which is designed for participants to challenge themselves and learn a lot about themselves and their colleagues," he said.

Applications for the next TSYLP will be open in November 2016 for the 2017 program.

## Sovereignty in church message



THE president of the Uniting Church in Australia, Stuart McMillan, used his Easter

message to appeal for a serious national conversation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sovereignty.

"The Easter message is one of renewed hope for the world," he said. "A conversation about sovereignty and how it can empower and bring hope to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is a crucial conversation for our nation."

"Sovereignty and what that means for us as a church is an issue we're committed to exploring. I don't believe that we can ever close the gap until we honour First Peoples as sovereign and negotiate treaties on just terms."

The 2016 Uniting Church in Australia Easter message featured Mr McMillan and Adnyamathanha woman Rev Denise Champion, who last year became the first Aboriginal woman to be ordained as a minister in South Australia.

The message, recorded on Rev Champion's homeland of Ikara (Wilpena Pound) in the Flinders Rangers National Park of South Australia, uses an instrumental version of late Adnyamathanha man Buck McKenzie's *Ikara (Wilpena Pound)* as background music.



Uniting Church in Australia president Stuart McMillan and Adnyamathanha woman Rev Denise Champion.

In her contribution to the Easter message, Rev Champion talks about her parents' deep relationship with their homeland and the stories they shared.

"Our ancestors' stories were passed on – stories of hope, of learning to live in peace and harmony with one another, and learning to live with our environment," she said.

"These stories gave us courage as we journey through this life and hope for the next."

In 2010, the Uniting Church changed the preamble to its constitution to acknowledge Aboriginal and Islander people as the First Peoples of Australia, including recognition that the

Holy Spirit was present in Australia, nurturing and sustaining First Peoples and revealing God to them through law, custom and ceremony before the arrival of missionaries.

At its fourteenth National Assembly meeting last year, the Uniting Church agreed to support the recognition of Aboriginal and Islander people in the Australian Constitution as a "step towards and not a blockage to the larger issues of sovereignty and treaty".

The message is available for viewing and download via the Uniting Church in Australia YouTube channel. It has subtitles in eight different community languages.

## Concern at WA move on heritage



THE National Native Title Council (NNTC) is "extremely concerned" that the *Aboriginal Heritage Amendment Bill* has been placed back on the notice

paper for consideration by Western Australia's Parliament.

NNTC chairman Nolan Hunter said the WA Government continues to ignore the concerns of traditional owners across the state.

"It appears that the Government is stubbornly pushing ahead with the proposed amendments to the legislation despite the many objections and the protests of traditional owners," he said.

"The Bill leaves the protection of significant Aboriginal heritage in the hands of the chief executive officer of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs."

"However, the extent of the powers that the CEO of the department will have is left to regulations that haven't even been drafted yet."

Mr Hunter said that despite concerns raised by many stakeholders, the Bill remains detrimental to the protection of Aboriginal heritage.

"The level of protection under the amended legislation remains woefully

inadequate, particularly if you compare it to the levels of protection to European built heritage," he said.

"Aboriginal heritage is just as important to the broad community as European heritage."

"We believe that if it passes through Parliament in its current form, the ability of traditional owners to fulfill their cultural obligations in the protection of their Aboriginal heritage will be diminished."

### No confidence

"We do not have any confidence in the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs to adequately protect our cultural heritage nor do we trust the department to act responsibly in light of the fact that many significant sites have already been removed from the state register."

"This Government has not given any hint that they wish to protect the cultural history of Aboriginal people in this state, and the NNTC again calls on the Government to remove the Bill from Parliament and engage properly with traditional owners on the best way to protect and manage Aboriginal heritage."

The NNTC is the peak body for native title representative bodies and service providers.

# BATHURST AND LITHGOW

## FREE ABORIGINAL BIKE SAFETY PROGRAM



### A 3HR PROGRAM THAT TEACHES:

- Practical bike skills
- Basic bike maintenance
- Where to ride in your community
- Program will also include snacks

Participants will also get a FREE Helmet & bike service so bring your bike with you!



LOCATION	DATE	VENUE	TIME
Bathurst	Monday 11th April	PCYC Bathurst Cnr Morrisset & Commonwealth Streets, Bathurst NSW 2795	12pm - 3pm
Lithgow	Tuesday 12th April	PCYC Lithgow Hoskins Ave, Lithgow NSW 2790	10am - 1pm

For more information go to: [www.cycling.org.au](http://www.cycling.org.au)  
or email: [projects@letsride.com.au](mailto:projects@letsride.com.au)



An initiative of:



# SA heritage concern



SOUTH Australian Native Title Services (SANTS) says a Bill to amend the South Australia's *Aboriginal Heritage Act* (1988) is being pushed through State Parliament without proper consultation with the Aboriginal Community.

SANTS principal legal officer Andrew Beckworth said the organisation is opposed to the Bill and is concerned for the rights of Aboriginal people in the

## Act amendment move called bizarre, sneaky, unacceptable

state. "The Bill will leave us with an Act that gives Aboriginal people less say over their heritage, less certainty for developers and proponents in the mining and oil and gas industries about which Aboriginal

people to talk to, unclear processes and timelines and all in the context of legal uncertainty regarding the validity of aspects of the Act," he said.

SANTS chief executive Keith Thomas said it is unclear why the

Bill is now being rushed through Parliament.

"The Aboriginal community has expressed concern with the proposed changes to the Act as it is diluting their control over heritage protection, rather

than enhancing it," he said.

"It seems bizarre and sneaky that after all these years, a Bill that has no Aboriginal voice, is being pushed."

Narungga Nations chairperson Tauto Sansbury said the *Heritage Act* needs protecting.

"The Act is an important piece of legislation designed to protect Aboriginal heritage," he said.

"The lack of consultation is totally unacceptable and it should not be put to Parliament for debate or implementation."



The advertisement for **CQI MANAGER** at the **Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service**

was incorrectly placed in the March 23 edition. This position is currently not available and, as such, no applications will be accepted. The Koori Mail apologises for the error.

Department of Justice and Regulation

**Koori Prison Officers**  
**Dame Phyllis Frost Centre**



**Put Your Life Experience to Work in Your Community**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants are now sought for prison officer roles at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre located at Ravenhall. Prison officers make a valuable contribution to the community and have a positive impact on people's lives.

**For further information on this position or to attend an information session, please call the Koori Employment Team on (03) 8684 0385. To submit your application, please visit [correctionsjobs.vic.gov.au](http://correctionsjobs.vic.gov.au) by 5pm, Monday 18 April 2016.**

*Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply*

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Ros Moriarty with the new colouring book *Colouring Country*.  
Picture: David Maurice Smith/Oculi

## Colouring book shines spotlight on country

By KEIRA JENKINS



**ROS Moriarty** and her husband John, a Yanyuwa man from

Borroloola, say that their goal in founding the Balarinji studio three decades ago, and now releasing an adult colouring book, has been to build bridges between cultures.

"We aim to connect people with Aboriginal imagery and give them a chance to participate in the culture," Ms Moriarty

told the *Koori Mail*.

The book *Colouring Country*, released last week across Australia and in Britain and the United States, features 42 images ready to be coloured in.

"Aboriginal art is much appreciated overseas, perhaps more than it is in Australia," Ms Moriarty said.

Each picture includes a description of the story behind it, written by Ms Moriarty.

She said many artists have their works featured in the colouring book.

"It's exciting that we can

tap into something like a colouring book; that's a mainstream way to engage people," Ms Moriarty said.

"It will reach many more people than an exhibition in a gallery, where only people visiting will get to see. It's about creating positivity surrounding the culture."

Ms Moriarty hopes people experience Aboriginal culture through *Colouring Country*.

"We want people to question what country means for Aboriginal people, and see how much they have to be grateful for," she said.

# Yolngu people mourn senior women



YOLNGU people throughout Arnhem Land are in mourning after two senior women died on the same day.

A founding member of the Yothu Yindi Foundation (YYF), Mrs Mununggurr, whose first name cannot be published for cultural reasons, died last week after battling illness.

She was remembered as a healer and a generous and

charismatic woman whose spirit and warmth would be sorely missed.

Senior Yolngu Elder Galarrwuy Yunupingu said the deceased lady believed that two worlds could come together.

"The Gumatj honour the yothu yindi mother-child connection, and we feel the emptiness and heartbreak like a mother losing one's child," he said in a statement.

"Our family is devastated, and we hold fondly the memory of a

strong woman who will forever remain close to our hearts."

The Gumatj, Galpu and Rirratjingu families were already mourning the loss of Ms Mununggurr's niece, Galpu family leader Ms Gurruwiwi, who died earlier the same day.

"My aunties were the family's life-force, and their wisdom and knowledge was priceless," YYF board director Binmila Yunupingu said.

Binmila Yunupingu said the two women "maintained the integrity of

our family's clan practices and maintained their cultural responsibilities, always honouring the legacy laid down by those who passed long before their time".

Ms Gurruwiwi was an inspiring leader, Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion said, and he extended his condolences to her family and community.

He said she was a tireless advocate for the interests of the Yolngu, particularly through her work as a lecturer at Charles Darwin University, where she

taught Yolngu Studies.

She worked as an interpreter and translator of Yolngu language through the Aboriginal Interpreter Service, and taught at Shepherdson College at Galiwinku, on Elcho Island.

Cultural ceremonies are being held in the region, and non-community members are asked to treat grieving families with sensitivity and respect, particularly on social media, where they are asked not to post photographs of the deceased. — AAP

# Koori Court set to start



THE Victorian Government has launched the state's newest Koori Court, in Geelong.

Attorney-General Martin Pakula launched the court during an official ceremony at the Geelong Law Court last week, making it the eleventh adult Koori Court and the twelfth Children's Koori Court in the state.

"The courts allow offenders to have a say and better engage with the process and reduce those feelings of alienation and intimidation experienced by many Koori offenders, especially young people," he said.

Koori Courts were established in 2002 to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal Victorians in the criminal justice system, ensuring offenders are sentenced in a more culturally appropriate manner and are able to discuss the underlying life issues that contribute to their behaviour.

They involve the Koori community, Aboriginal Elders and respected persons in the court process, with an Elder or respected person providing cultural advice to the magistrate and discussing the background of the offender.

## Requirements

The magistrate still sentences the offender in accordance with the requirements that apply in mainstream courts.

To have a case dealt with in the Koori Court, a person must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, plead guilty and consent to having the case heard in the Koori Court.

The person must not be charged with a sexual offence or breach of an intervention order and must be willing to come to court and talk openly about their behaviour.

Koori Courts employ 80 Elders and respected persons, and 16 full-time and part-time staff, making a significant contribution to the employment of Indigenous staff across Court Services Victoria.

The Geelong Koori Court will begin sitting in June.

Member for Geelong Christine Couzens said the Koori Court would bring numerous benefits to the region.

"It's fantastic to see the Koori Court model being rolled out in Geelong. It will be a huge benefit to Aboriginal Victorians in the Barwon South West region," she said. "Koori Courts are also a great source of employment for local Koories. I look forward to meeting with local Koori Court workers once the court begins sitting in June."



Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore and Yuin Elder Uncle Max Eulo with performers from Redfern Jarjum College Wesley Harriott, Kusal Ruden and Zane Austin-Ramsay. Picture: Katherine Griffiths, City of Sydney

# Signs in language a welcome move



NEW signs in the City of Sydney's parks now welcome people with the words 'bujari gamarruwa', which

mean 'good day' in the language of the traditional custodians of the land, the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore said adding the acknowledgement of country and the welcome words to the signs in the city's parks was an important way to recognise the traditional custodians of the place we now call Sydney.

"Australia's First Peoples have a resilient living culture that the city is deeply committed to acknowledging, sharing and celebrating," she said.

"Including these important messages on park signs will boost awareness of our shared cultural history and lay the groundwork for a future that embraces all Australians and promotes mutual respect and shared responsibility for our land."

The new signs, which also include park history and other information,

have been installed in all the city's major parks, reminding people about the cultural significance of Sydney's important green spaces.

The first sign was unveiled at Reconciliation Park, Redfern, with a ceremony that included the lord mayor, local Elders, chief executive of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council Nathan Moran, local school children and community members, and the winners of the 1998 Name-the-Park competition.

## Gadigal word

The Gadigal words bujari gamarruwa were sourced from University of Sydney professor Jakelin Troy's *The Sydney Language* – the most comprehensive Gadigal word list published and accepted by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The words are spelt phonetically rather than historically, making them easier for visitors to pronounce, and helping reawaken Aboriginal language and highlight its cultural significance.

Prof Troy, who worked with the city's

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel on the wording, has praised the initiative for bringing the Gadigal language to more people.

"Anytime the language of the city is used, we hear the voices of the Gadigal people from before 1788 right up to now," she said.

"The Gadigal story is a remarkable one because of its cultural strength – the strength of these people who've been able to live with these changes and continued to be Gadigal people.

"As an Aboriginal person, it's been uplifting to work together as people of Sydney, where it doesn't matter who you are or where you're from, to acknowledge the Gadigal with these signs. Whether you're Indigenous or not, these signs are an important recognition and embracing of place."

Promoting Sydney's First People's culture and language is part of the city's first Reconciliation Action Plan, released last year.

More words and histories about people, places and events can be found at [sydneybarani.com.au](http://sydneybarani.com.au)

# Program offers identity with integrity

By BRITTA LYSTER



A PROGRAM being run through the Hunter Aboriginal Learning Circle is giving Indigenous students the opportunity to research their family history. Called Identity With Integrity, the primary focus is to provide a culturally appropriate environment for students to research their family history.

Facilitator Kim Katon, who has more than 20 years' expertise in family research, is helping participants.

Students are given advice on researching methods for births, deaths and marriage records, libraries, and searching library catalogues and indexes, accessing Aboriginal cultural centres, historical and family history societies, photographs, films and sound recordings, and government archives.

Hunter Aboriginal Learning Circle director Lillian Gordon said she identified a need for the program after students were unable to detail their Indigenous family histories.

"Our identity and knowing who we are and where we come from form the

foundation of where we go and how we get there," she said.

"From an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander perspective, it forms the core of who we are, our kinship and relationships within our communities.

"We found that many people wanted to gain knowledge about their Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander family history, but were unsure where to start or didn't have access to the resources and technology.

"Aboriginal Learning Circle Hunter TAFE has successfully facilitated two pilot programs with a view to develop a more

comprehensive program that would allow participants the opportunity to build resources, develop research skills, develop supports and networks, engage with technology and develop an ongoing family history that will grow with their families and mobs.

"We look forward to growing this program and assisting Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people in their building of their knowledge of family and kinship."

Ms Gordon hopes the program, believed to be the only one of its type, will be expanded.

# Red Cross call over justice reinvestment



THE Australian Red Cross has launched a new research report calling for a radical shift in the justice

system, redirecting funds away from imprisonment and into crime prevention, and has called for a national target to reduce Indigenous incarceration by 50% in the next five years.

Red Cross chief executive Judy Slatyer said the '2016 Vulnerability Report Rethinking Justice' calls on all governments to put justice reinvestment at the centre of justice policy.

"Justice reinvestment is a cost-effective alternative to what we're currently doing, which is not working, costing us billions and is fundamentally inhumane," she said.

"Justice reinvestment means money is diverted from building and running more and more prisons into strengthening disadvantaged communities to address the issues that lead to criminal behaviour in the first place.

"The number of people in prison has doubled in the last 20 years. Overcrowded prisons are costing us \$3.4 billion a year to run. So it makes sense to reduce the flow into prisons, rather than building more.

"This means redirecting spending to tackle the underlying causes of crime, including poor mental health, poor education and employment prospects, homelessness, domestic violence and alcohol and other drug abuse."

Ms Slatyer pointed out that poverty and disadvantage were two of the causes of people ending up in prison.

"Crime is higher in more disadvantaged postcodes, where there's entrenched poverty, segregation and residential instability," she said.

"So people go into prison disadvantaged and they come out even more disadvantaged. And this also hits innocent families and communities. When a child loses a parent to the prison system this becomes an intergenerational problem."

Ms Slatyer said the over-representation of Indigenous



Woorabinda Mayor Shane Wilkie, Woorabinda representatives Mabel Malcolm and Jobe Adams, Red Cross chief executive Judy Slatyer and SA Law Professor Rick Sarre. Members of the Woorabinda community and Indigenous Red Cross workers have been running justice reinvestment programs.

people in prisons must be tackled urgently.

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are being incarcerated at rates 13 times greater than non-Indigenous people," she said.

"There has been an extraordinary recent growth in prisoner numbers among Indigenous people of 88% since 2004. This reflects the broader disadvantage faced by many Indigenous people, and is another persuasive reason why resources must be diverted to those communities if we are to turn around these shameful trends."

## Woorabinda

Under the direction of the Woorabinda Governance Group in central Queensland, 14 fulltime Red Cross workers, who are all Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, are running programs from youth and family support to community engagement.

Following the incarceration of Woorabinda youths whose offences affected many in the community, Elders initiated a reintegration approach to ensure not only a smooth transition back to the community but also a sense of healing for the ex-prisoners and their families.

Ms Slatyer said that while prisons are a necessary part of

society, the data shows they are neither effective at rehabilitation, nor are they deterring crime. Of the 42,239 people released from Australian prisons in 2013-14 almost 60% had previously been released from prison – only to return. Some 38% of prisoners are reimprisoned within two years of their release.

Ms Slatyer said Red Cross calculates that substantial funds could be freed up by justice reinvestment. If the rate of incarceration were simply held at current levels through justice reinvestment and other reforms, savings of \$1.2 billion would be generated over five years.

Ms Slatyer said that if the rate of incarceration were reduced by 2% a year, savings of \$2.3 billion could be made over five years and part of these savings could be invested in the social and health services that would, over time, address many of the underlying causes of crime.

Red Cross has made five recommendations, including that all governments jointly commit to justice reinvestment through the Council of Australian Governments; that they fund justice reinvestment trials in areas of high rates of crime; and they commit to a 10% reduction in adult imprisonment rates over the next 10 years, with a 50% reduction target for Indigenous people within five years.



Justice reinvestment program Never Going Back participants Nathan Martin and Junior Niuqila. Mr Martin has just completed the Certificate I in Maritime Operations.

# First success for Never Going Back

By NATALIE CROMB



THE Redfern justice reinvestment program Never Going Back has had its first success story.

Never Going Back is a joint initiative of the Tribal Warrior Association, Long Bay Jail, TAFE NSW, the Department of Corrections and Redfern Police. It was launched last year with the aim of providing Indigenous inmates with the skills to be successful upon their release from jail and 'never go back'.

The program currently has four participants in a maritime operations course, which provides skills such as firefighting, first-aid and seamanship.

Long Bay inmate Nathan Martin has now completed the Certificate I in Maritime Operations. This is his first step in qualifying to become a full crew member on a vessel.

Speaking to NITV on the day of his graduation, Mr Martin said he was proud of his qualifications.

"It is definitely invaluable. Even if you are not considering

a career in it, participating in this course ... will change your life," he said.

The rationale behind the qualifications in maritime operations comes from Tribal Warrior Association chief executive Shane Phillips, who wants to continue to mentor the participants after they're released from jail and keep them in the supportive network they've grown accustomed to while participating in the program.

Superintendent Josh Freudenstein, from the Redfern Local Area Command, said that the program is simple.

"We give each participant the opportunity to realise their mistakes and formulate a strategy to give back to the community and with that comes pride in owning their mistakes and making amends," he said.

Never Going Back, although only in its pilot stage, is showing early signs of success and those involved – both participants and sponsors – believe in the program and hope that it is rolled out to other areas and expanded for other troubled Indigenous youths.

# River Journey is sharing stories



TRADITIONAL stories are on display on the Melville foreshore in Perth, with new signs and interpretation facilities being installed on the Swan and Canning rivers.

WA Environment Minister Albert Jacob said the River Journey facilities at Bicton Baths, Point Walter and Heathcote were important for the way they highlighted significant cultural heritage stories from the Whadjuk traditional owners, along with the natural values of the area. A fourth interpretation facility at the Brentwood foreshore is due to be completed in June.

The River Journey project, funded by the Western Australian Government through the Department of Parks and Wildlife, is part of a larger trail vision for similar developments along the Swan and Canning rivers.

"These facilities bring alive the rich history of the Swan and Canning rivers and reflect the social, economic and environmental significance of these wonderful natural assets," Mr Jacob said.

"With the River Journeys, anyone coming down to the river can enjoy the Melville foreshore's past and present in a contemporary way.

"As well as enjoying the magnificent view,

visitors will gain an understanding of the Aboriginal history of the area and other historical events."

To create the project, four Whadjuk traditional owners shared stories of the creation of the deep water at Blackwall Reach and the Point Walter sandbar, as well as other natural features along the southern foreshore.

Wooden platforms link into pathways and are shaped into a multi-use space with seating, interpretation and improved access to the foreshore.

Natural and cultural heritage information is shared through engraved quotes on

aluminium frames with stories about each site, images and audio recordings.

The River Journey project has also developed two virtual trail guides that link the new interpretation facilities together.

One of the trail guides, Melville Water Riverpark Trail, runs 16km from the Fremantle Traffic Bridge to Canning Bridge.

The second 1km trail guide, Jenna Biddi Yorga, meanders through Blackwall Reach Reserve.

The guides provide an online trip planner, maps, trail descriptions and points of interest combined with the new interpretation facilities.

# NAAJA targets custody powers



THE North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) has sought permission from the High Court to appeal a Northern Territory Court of Appeal

decision concerning police powers of 'protective custody'.

NAAJA principal lawyer Jonathon Hunyor said the protective custody powers are used about 10,000 times each year, with Aboriginal people making up more than 90% of those locked up for being intoxicated.

"Locking up drunk people cannot simply become routine," he said.

"Standards should be in place to ensure police turn their mind to other options.

"At its heart, this case is about how police should apply the long-standing principle that arrest and detention should be an action of last resort."

The *Police Administration Act* allows police to lock up someone for 'protective custody' if the person is intoxicated and they pose a risk to themselves or other people, even if the person has not committed a crime.

"It is critical that we don't allow protective custody to be used as a way of removing Aboriginal people from public places," Mr Hunyor said.

"Our case is about making sure police use their protective custody powers in a fair and proper way, and that people are not being locked up unnecessarily."

NAAJA is seeking leave to appeal a

decision of the NT Court of Appeal, *Mole v Prior*, concerning an Aboriginal man who was detained for protective custody purposes on New Year's Eve after drinking in public and making an obscene hand gesture at police.

He is alleged to have committed a number of offences after being taken into custody.

Human Rights Law Centre senior lawyer Ruth Barson, coordinating the legal team, said the laws clearly have a disproportionate impact on Aboriginal people and that it is

important for the High Court to have an opportunity to consider whether the NT Court of Appeal was wrong in failing to set appropriate policing benchmarks.

"Locking someone up who has not committed a serious crime is a drastic step," she said.

"Given how frequently these powers are used in the NT, we need ways to ensure they're not being misused or overused,

and that they are not being applied in a discriminatory way."

Ms Barson said the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody made clear that to reduce the risk of Aboriginal people dying in custody, governments must reduce the rates at which Aboriginal people are locked up.

"Locking up drunk people in police cells should only ever be done as an absolute last resort," she said.

"We need properly resourced alternatives to detention, like sobering-up shelters, which are a far better and less risky option."



Queensland Minister for Housing and Public Works Mick de Brenni, Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion and Dr Chris Sarra with Matty Bowen, front, and Upper Ross Rams junior footballers around a drawing of Cowboys House.

# NRL Cowboys House to help boys finish school and find jobs

By ALF WILSON



A NEW boarding school in Townsville is aiming to help more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boys

from remote communities in Queensland finish their schooling and find jobs.

NRL Cowboys House is a joint initiative between the North Queensland Cowboys, the National Rugby League and the Queensland and Australian governments.

Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion said Indigenous workers will be

employed in the construction of the project.

To be built on former Townsville TAFE land, NRL Cowboys House is being supported by \$9.5 million from the Australian Government. It will provide accommodation for 25 high school students from the beginning of the 2017 school year, expanding to 50 boys.

## Ambassadors

Cowboys star Johnathan Thurston and former champion fullback Matt Bowen will be Cowboys ambassadors for NRL Cowboys House.

Senator Scullion said the house had been modelled on

the successful AFL Cape York House in Cairns.

On April 1, artist's impressions of NRL Cowboys House were shown to visitors and locals on the proposed site, near the Pimlico TAFE campus, in the city's inner west. Preliminary work began last year, and it is expected all construction will be finished by December.

NRL Cowboys House will be managed by the Cowboys Community Foundation, with financial and other support from the NRL. Australian Rugby League Commission member Dr Chris Sarra spoke about the positives of the Cowboys House.



Women from town camps in Alice Springs came together for the International Women's Day Carnival.

## Women celebrate in Alice



THE strength and resilience of women in Alice Springs was recently celebrated at an International

Women's Day Carnival, organised by Tangentyere Council.

The council's women's safety group, together with the Alice Springs Women's Shelter, presented the 2016 International Women's Day Carnival.

Held on the Stuart Terrace Lawns, the event celebrated the strength of women town campers.

Safety group manager Maree Corbo said it's important the women of town camps recognise how strong they are and the contribution they make to town camp life.

"The women of the town camps want the safest communities for their families, and International Women's Day is a celebration of all the unrecognised work women in the camps do each and every day," she said.

The event included music, interactive stalls, food, fun and games.

# Elders ready to let their Games begin



THIRTY-five teams of Elders from around NSW will compete in the ninth Aboriginal Elders Olympic Games, in Port Stephens in the state's Hunter region, tomorrow (April 7).

The 15-member Inverell-Tingha team from north-west NSW is hoping to win the right to host the 2017 games.

Team members will compete in a range of games including quoits, relay races and bean bag throwing, as well as traditional Aboriginal

favourites including gorri, kee'an and buroinjin. Inverell Elder Elaine Binge said the Elders Olympic Games encourage respect and healthy living as part of Seniors Week celebrations across NSW.

"The Olympics is more than just sport and a fun day encouraging health living," she said.

"It's also about recognising the unique experiences and important contributions that Elders make to their communities around Australia."

The Elders Olympic Games unite Indigenous

Elders from across NSW for a day of laughter and friendly competition.

Aunty Elaine said the Games bring young Indigenous volunteers together with Aboriginal Elders in a relaxed family environment where new generations can enhance their cultural knowledge.

"I have never seen so many Elders in the one place," she said.

"It's a real happy time for everyone."

"It's a great chance to catch up with old friends and family and make some new friends, too."



Participants in the previous Elders Olympic Games. Picture: The Manning River Times

# Heritage boost in Victoria



THE Victorian Government says Indigenous people will have greater oversight powers and

a stronger role in managing and protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage under new laws.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Natalie Hutchins said the laws establish new structures and powers to advance Aboriginal self-determination, highlighted by changes to make Registered Aboriginal Parties the decision-makers on cultural heritage permits.

"These changes significantly advance Aboriginal self-determination in the important area of heritage and culture," she said.

The Victorian legislation will provide for the explicit protection of intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage, such as stories, song and language.

"New protections for intangible heritage are an exciting and

revolutionary change which acknowledges for the first time those intangible values which Aboriginal people hold as significant about their cultural heritage," Ms Hutchins said.

The Government says Indigenous people employed by Registered Aboriginal Parties will also have enforcement powers under the Act through a new Aboriginal heritage officer role.

### Heritage officers

Aboriginal heritage officers will aim to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage, particularly in regional Victoria.

The Bill also introduces practical measures to ensure impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage from land use and development are more efficiently managed, with a new preliminary Aboriginal heritage test to remove doubt about when a cultural heritage management plan is required before development.



# Project helps babies of war



A PROJECT by the University of Sydney is seeking to help children born in Australia during World War II

put together the pieces of their family history and identity. Due to racist and restrictive legislation in Australia, the United States and other countries at the time, many relationships between people of different races were not recognised, including between Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander women and American men.

Don Carter, who grew up in Townsville and Cairns, had parents who married but were prevented from living together. His African-American father, Don Carter Snr, came from Philadelphia. He insisted that he be able to marry his Aboriginal fiancée, perhaps the only African-American to do this.

When the marriage eventually happened, about 12 months after Don's birth, it was only allowed on the condition that the bride be counselled that she could never migrate to the United States, and neither could her child.

Australian Research Council Indigenous research fellow Dr Vicki Grieves said that as a result of the high numbers of foreign troops stationed in Australia, there are potentially thousands of children born from liaisons between Australian women and troops during this time.



Don Carter and his mother Stella James (left) and (right) Aboriginal woman Stella James, who married African-American Don Carter Snr, with Stella's sister Vera and Edward Ivy on the wedding day.



"Don's story is but one of the many we are collecting that illuminate the lives of people of the time and also explain to the children born of war their family circumstances," she said.

Dr Grieves said that the threat to Australia between 1941 and 1945 led to as many as a million troops, mainly from the US, being stationed in Australia at a time when the total population of the country was almost 7.5 million people. They were based in many centres, including Townsville, Mt Isa, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. The need for infrastructure against a possible invasion from the north saw troops from the US also in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Darwin.

Dutch troops retreating from the Japanese invasion of the

Dutch East Indies arrived in Australia, including battalions of men from Indonesia and Suriname who were stationed in 'Victory Camp' outside of the northern NSW town of Casino.

"In these times, the development of close relationships and intimacies in scenarios such as those of wartime seems to be expected and commonplace," Dr Grieves said. "However, at the time of the American military forces' arrival in Australia they were told not to 'fraternise' – an idea that was not realistic at all.

"In the society of this time, before reliable birth control, sexual activity was frowned upon, especially outside of marriage. Unmarried women who fell pregnant carried the stigma of

being immoral and so the idea of having a child outside of marriage was often terrifying for women.

"Into this mix came two sets of people who were socially and sexually surveilled, monitored and controlled – Australian Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Islander women and African-American men."

Dr Grieves said that while the US and Australia organised for a war bride scheme for white military men and their white wives, it was a different story for black people in both countries.

"They moved very swiftly to prevent the marriage of African-American men in Australia and they also ensured that the women who were to be brides were 'more than 50% white' by visiting their homes," she said.

"The US immigration law forbade the migration of women of colour from Australia and the White Australia policy prevented the migration of African-American men back to Australia to be with their families and loved ones.

"The possibility of people of colour forming families to nurture the growth of their children became impossible, and thus we have the children born of war. This has been a secret history.

"Now there are a group of children born of war who are determined to expose this history to the light of day."

There is a meeting of Children born of War and their families in Brisbane on April 10-11. For more details contact Dr Vicki Grieves – email [vicki.grieves@sydney.edu.au](mailto:vicki.grieves@sydney.edu.au) or phone 0421 966 300.

# Barang working for better future

By BRITTA LYSTER



THE Barang Regional Alliance has met senior representatives of the NSW and Federal governments

in an effort to empower NSW Central Coast Indigenous people and create a better future for generations to come.

Barang, which means 'tomorrow' in the local Darkinjung language, is a coalition of six organisations from across the region. They are Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council, NAISDA Dance College, Bungree Aboriginal Association, and Bara Barang, Ngaimpe and Mingaletta Aboriginal corporations.

The goal is to have a unified voice on behalf of the diverse Indigenous community on the Central Coast.

Last month, senior federal public servant Richard Eccles and Steven Gal, from the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, were among officials who met with Barang members.

They discussed the benefits of sharing information on how better to improve coordination and communication between on-the-ground providers and funding bodies.

The representatives also met with stakeholders and were able to see

work being done by several local community organisations, including The Glen Rehab, Bungree and the newly-opened Barker College at Yarramalong, which caters for Aboriginal children from Kindergarten to Year 6.

Barang chairperson Sean Gordon said it gave the government representatives a unique opportunity to gather information and get an idea of what services are being provided and how best to work with Barang to improve outcomes.

## "Opportunity"

"We have a precious window of opportunity now to achieve real change and strengthen our partnerships through both the Commonwealth Government's Empowered Communities Initiative and the NSW Government's Local Decision-Making Framework," Mr Gordon said.

"The next step is to ensure the Barang Regional Alliance is resourced and has access to all the necessary data to make better-informed decisions about the priorities for our community.

"I am pleased that we now have a commitment to have an Empowered Communities backbone organisation up and running here on the Central Coast very soon."



Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet deputy secretary Richard Eccles, NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet senior official Steven Gal and Barang Regional Alliance chairperson Sean Gordon.

## Wellbeing Day at Port Pirie



ABORIGINAL and Torres Strait Islander artists and performers will have a chance to show their talents at this year's Tarpari Wellbeing Day at Port Pirie, South Australia.

The biennial Indigenous health event, from 10am on April 20, will tie in with an art exhibition, while a main stage will showcase local talent.

Aboriginal community development and engagement officer Katrina Prior encouraged artists in SA's Mid North and Yorke Peninsula to submit works.

"Sixteen local artists exhibited works in the 2014 display, including painted boards and canvases, didgeridoos, pots, boomerangs, photo frames, stones and crochet bags," she said. "Local schools also got involved, with students creating their own special artworks to recognise the region's rich cultural history.

"In addition to artists, we'd also love to hear from any singers, dancers, storytellers, didgeridoo players or jugglers who are keen to strut their stuff on stage at the main event in April."

The art exhibition, officially opened at the Port Pirie Regional Art Gallery on April 1, will run until May 1.

Performers must register with Ms Prior on (08) 8638 4693.

# Info Hub to have national audience



**JUSTICE Connect's Not-for-profit Law group says charities and not-for-profit organisations helping Indigenous people will benefit after it extended its Information Hub to include a national audience.**

The hub, a 'one-stop shop answering charities' legal questions from how to start one to how to wind one up', has been operating in Victoria and NSW for 18 months.

Justice Connect Aboriginal Governance and Management Program manager David Jagger said the hub would help Aboriginal organisations across the country.

"Some are small, extremely remote and isolated," he said. "A comprehensive online resource, or collection of resources, like this will allow organisations to access more governance and management tools quickly and easily."

Not-for-profit Law director of national projects Sue Woodward said the hub aims to help services in rural areas as well as cities.

"For rural and regional charities and other not-for-profits, access to legal services is particularly difficult and expensive," she said.

"Charity law is notoriously difficult, even for lawyers, let alone people just trying to help their local communities.

"Our resources cut through legal jargon and give practical tips.

"Many charities working to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are considered rural and regional, where legal advice and information is harder to get.

"We hope our new service can be of particular help for those groups. We want to help the helpers."

The regulatory body overseeing charities in Australia, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), says it is also excited about the new service.

ACNC commissioner Susan Pascoe welcomed the launch for the national Information Hub, which will provide free resources to registered charities.

"Charities are largely reliant on volunteers and therefore may have limited or no access to professional advice," she said.

The Information Hub can be found at [www.nfplaw.org.au](http://www.nfplaw.org.au)



A group tours Aurukun in northern Queensland.

# Aurukun council gets down to business with workshop



AURUKUN Shire Council says a workshop it hosted has led to increased business interest at the Cape York community.

Aurukun Shire Council chief executive Bernie McCarthy said the Aurukun Means

Business workshop coincided with a visit by mining company Rio Tinto to gauge the supply capability of the community for the \$2.7 billion Amrun bauxite project.

The workshop also heard about business and employment opportunities that would arise from the project.

"We had an overwhelming response to the workshop by outside companies and organisations from around Australia, with more than 60 people, including local

businesses and residents, participating on the first day and about 75 attending on the second day," Mr McCarthy said.

"Aurukun Shire Council hosted the sessions and provided town tours for workshop participants and Rio Tinto.

"The participants included smaller contractors through to large companies from Queensland and Western Australia.

## "Business opportunities"

"We spoke to these companies about the business opportunities in Aurukun which include housing construction, sewerage and road upgrades, refurbishment of the sports centre and Three Rivers Community Centre, training of staff, tourism in conjunction with traditional owners, cleaning

and industrial estate development.

"Already we have had inquiries from companies looking at the viability of setting up in Aurukun both for work locally as well as business associated with the Amrun project.

"Attendees were advised that if their only interest was the Amrun project, that they should attend the Rio sessions in Cairns or Weipa, so we were delighted that so many came to Aurukun to see what opportunities were available in our township.

"The strategy for holding the workshop is in line with the key economic development goals in Aurukun Shire Council's Corporate Plan which include increasing employment opportunities and business growth for local Aurukun residents to break the welfare dependence cycle."

# Youth services move praised



THE Central Australian Aboriginal Congress and Alice Springs Town Council have been congratulated by Northern Territory

Chief Minister Adam Giles for their cooperation and progress with the ongoing after-hours youth services initiative.

"Keeping at-risk young people engaged with youth programs and support can have life-changing effects to increase their sense of stability and confidence," he said.

"Patrols continue to provide support in the community, and (in this month's) school holidays the Saturday night activities will return to the Alice Springs Youth and Community Centre."

Congress chief executive Donna Ah Chee said the youth service employs four full-time



**"Not only is the service contributing to the prevention of crime and risky behaviour, but it has created an opportunity to engage in the health and wellbeing of many young people we would otherwise not see." – Donna Ah Chee**

engagement officers and one full-time social worker who engage with youth before transporting them home and off the streets.

"The original service agreement excluded public

holidays from operation, however, following a spike in crime over the Christmas break, all parties have agreed that the service should operate during holidays," Ms Ah Chee said.

"Our staff are engaging with a truly diverse cohort of young people – many of whom are first-time clients.

"Not only is the service contributing to the prevention of crime and risky behaviour, but it has created an opportunity to engage in the health and wellbeing of many young people we would otherwise not see."

Alice Springs Mayor Damien Ryan has received community praise for the youth service initiatives and is looking forward to it continuing.

"Alice Springs Town Council officers have been busy since the service started in November last year and have established great relationships with the local youth," the mayor said.

"Our community is grateful that this service is available to the young people of Alice Springs."



Author Christine Stuart.

## Book in time for NAIDOC

By KEIRA JENKINS



**AUTHOR** Christine Stuart is launching a new book in time for NAIDOC Week.

The children's book uses words from her local language, Gubbi Gubbi.

Her first illustrated book, *Gubbi Gubbi Animal Friends*, was about a boy, his father and the native animals.

The upcoming *Gubbi Gubbi Bush Tucker Girl* is about a girl, her mother and gathering food.

"The men were traditionally the hunters and the women looked after the gathering of the bush tucker," Brisbane-based Ms Stuart told the *Koori Mail*.

"The book has only got 10 Gubbi Gubbi words in it because too many words can be overwhelming.

"The best way to learn is to start basic. The kids love the animals and I've used simple words that are easy for people to say."

Ms Stuart said she is passionate about teaching language, and has been holding cultural workshops in schools for a number of years.

"The school principals were fascinated with my work and my first book," she said.

"I wanted to get the language out and the best way to do that is through the children."

The illustrations in the new book are the work of two of Ms Stuart's nieces.

"The art has to be clever to get people's attention," she said.

*Gubbi Gubbi Bush Tucker Girl* will be launched at Caboolture Library (Qld) on July 9 and at Buderim Bookstore on the Sunshine Coast (Qld) on July 8.



The Bangarra OzHarvest meal is served up to locals at Yirrkala, in the Northern Territory. Picture: Ashwin Rathod

# Bangarra, OzHarvest serve up a healthy partnership



**BANGARRA** Dance Theatre has launched a new healthy eating partnership with OzHarvest, an organisation that collects surplus food from commercial outlets and delivers it for use by charities.

The partnership was announced at Yirrkala, in North East Arnhem Land.

OzHarvest, led by *Wild Kitchen* chef Clayton Donovan, shared information on

how to prepare nutritious meals at minimum cost before Bangarra's dance ensemble performed to about 450 locals.

Bangarra Theatre artistic director Stephen Page described the partnership as meaningful.

"It was such a beautiful experience to get together with the community for a feed prior to our live performance in Nhulunbuy, North East Arnhem Land," he said.

"Hunting, preparing and sharing food

is a meaningful ritual in communities, and on this trip the company was able to engage even further with our families up north."

Bangarra executive director Philippe Magid said the partnership was born of mutual values.

"This visit is the first step in working with communities to see how we can best develop the partnership to bring the most benefits," he said.

● Reflections, page 21

# Academic warns on inmate needs



**AUSTRALIA** needs to change its approach to assessing the risks and needs of Indigenous

prisoners, according to Swinburne University of Technology's Dr Stephane Shepherd.

Indigenous prisoners account for more than one quarter of Australia's prison population.

Dr Shepherd, a Fulbright Scholar from Swinburne's Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, studies cross-cultural health and wellbeing, with a specific focus on Indigenous Australians.

He recently told an international audience of medical and legal

**"The monocultural, one-size-fits-all mentality that underpins the development and application of risk assessment does not work."**

professionals that so-called violence risk instruments should not be used with Indigenous offenders and patients because they do not take into account Indigenous worldviews, life experiences and conceptualisations of health.

Violence risk instruments are commonly used by Australian mental health professionals and

correctional officers to determine an offender's likelihood of committing a violent act in the future.

Information from these tools informs correctional decision making, sentencing and treatment allocation.

"The monocultural, one-size-fits-all mentality that underpins the development and application of

risk assessment does not work," Dr Shepherd said.

"It prevents an understanding of the cultural, societal and individual influences that engage or disengage an Indigenous person from contact with the criminal justice system.

"It also excludes Indigenous community input and participation in the process."

Dr Shepherd said violence risk instruments need to be culturally modified immediately and mental health professionals need to be regularly educated in cultural competency so that they can conduct clinical and risk assessments in a culturally sensitive way.



Dubbo Elder Neville Toomey is ready for another trip.

# NSW transport service wins Elder's praise



A RESPECTED Elder has praised an Aboriginal community transport service operating in Dubbo and other areas of western NSW.

Neville Toomey says the service, run for the past two years by CareWest, is a great help to local Indigenous people.

The service aims to help people get to medical appointments, shopping, social outings and cultural activities.

Mr Toomey, 70, says it does just that for local Aboriginal – and other – people.

“This is a wonderful service, particularly for people of my age, and it is nice to know we are not forgotten,” he said.

“To be helped when doing my

shopping and other jobs makes getting out and about more enjoyable. I enjoy the conversations I have and I am never rushed to do things or finish my jobs quickly.”

CareWest Aboriginal community transport development coordinator

Sharlene Wright says the service has two Aboriginal drivers based in Dubbo. A wheelchair friendly bus and car make up the service transport.

“As we also cater for mums and bubs, we can

provide car seats and capsules for young children which means that no one need miss out on their transport needs,” she said.

More details and bookings at CareWest Community Transport on (02) 6883 2323.

**“This is a wonderful service, particularly for people of my age, and it is nice to know we are not forgotten.”**

## Fish pose low risk – review



THERE is a low risk to human health posed by consumption of fish caught near the McArthur River Mine in the Northern Territory an

independent review has found.

The departments of Health Mines and Energy (DME) and Primary Industry and Fisheries funded the review by environmental consulting company Hydrobiology of all available data to examine whether heavy metals have been accumulating to dangerous levels in fish caught near Borroloola.

After reviewing the findings of the report it was agreed that the Food Standards Australia and New Zealand national guidelines for safe fish consumption were still appropriate for this region, the Government said.

The Government said the report identified several ‘knowledge gaps’ where the sampling regime could be improved to provide a more focused assessment of human health risk relating to consumption of aquatic life, and DME has written to the mine operator Glencore instructing it to address monitoring deficiencies by this month.

A petition signed by almost 4000 Borroloola residents and Aboriginal traditional owners was presented to the NT Government last September, calling for the closure of the mine after revelations that its tailings dam was leaking into Surprise Creek, where fish had elevated lead levels.

# Website maps kinship system



THE Australian National University (ANU) has launched a new website mapping and explaining the Australian Indigenous kinship system that underpins

Aboriginal society. Chief investigator Patrick McConvell, from the ANU School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics, said the AustKin website, which maps the family-like ties of more than 600 Indigenous groups, had the potential to help Indigenous communities regain lost knowledge of their kinship systems.

“Some of the communities, especially in the south, have lost some of this cultural background and are very keen on getting it back,” he said.

ANU research fellow Elizabeth Ellis, a

Ngaanyatjarra woman of the Western Desert, said the kinship system underpins roles and responsibilities within Indigenous culture, as well as how people interact with each other.

“When non-Aboriginal people come to our communities, the main thing they can never understand is the kinship system,” she said.

“Your kinship category is like a duty statement. In everyday life because you’re an aunty you have certain responsibilities towards a niece or nephew. It also dictates your role in ceremony.

### “Relationship”

“When you meet someone you can have a family relationship straight away.

“A lot of the way you speak is dictated by how you are related. When outsiders come into Aboriginal communities, there has to be

an establishment of relationship.

“People won’t speak to you unless they know you’re in the right kinship category for them to speak to.”

Dr McConvell said the AustKin site had the potential to help non-Aboriginal people or organisations in their dealings with Indigenous communities.

“If you go into an Aboriginal area you have to familiarise yourself with the kinship system, otherwise you won’t get anywhere,” he said.

Dr McConvell said he hoped the website would be used by schools and Indigenous language groups to understand Aboriginal social relationships.

AustKin has been six years in the making and supported by two ARC grants.

Visit the website at <http://www.austkin.net/>

# Management strategy for Swan area



THE Western Australian Government has released a 10-year management strategy for 82 parks and

reserves totalling about 22,000 hectares on the southern part of the Swan Coastal Plain.

Environment Minister Albert Jacob said the release of the Swan Coastal Plain South

Management Plan secured the protection of a range of landscapes, plants and animals.

The plan covers conservation land in and around Perth, from the Darling Range to the western coastline and from Dunsborough to the Swan River, and is the result of community consultation.

“The area is recognised as an international biodiversity hotspot,” Mr Jacob said.

“The parks and reserves are known for their natural and cultural values as well as being popular recreational spots for activities such as cycling, horse riding, hiking, picnicking and camping.

“A key initiative of the management plan is the protection of the internationally significant Ramsar sites, the Peel-Yalgorup and Vasse-Wonnerup wetland systems, which

provide habitat and breeding grounds for thousands of waterbirds.”

Mr Jacob said the plan took into account significant cultural values and the importance of providing opportunities for joint management arrangements with the Noongar people.

The plan is available to view at <https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/parks/management-plans>



# NACCHO HEALTH NEWS

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EDITION 6

APRIL 2016

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## Chair encourages our award-winning health services



Youngsters at the Indigenous Governance Award-winning Institute for Urban Indigenous Health. Picture: Wayne Quilliam

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation Chair Matthew Cooke is encouraging all 150 member services to enter this year's Indigenous Governance Awards (IGA). This year, the awards will celebrate organisations that are developing local solutions to local problems with culture as a source of strength and innovation, and Mr Cooke says no one does it better than our Aboriginal community controlled health services.

"One of the NACCHO/QAIHC members, the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health in Brisbane, became a finalist last year for its 'Work it Out' and 'Deadly Choices' programs, which was a major achievement giving they were only in their fifth year of operation. This recognised how the programs impacted on the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in South-East Queensland," he said.

"This is only one of many potential award-winning health services that should be encouraged to enter these prestigious awards."

Applications for the Awards close on May 20. Visit [www.reconciliation.org.au/iga/](http://www.reconciliation.org.au/iga/) for more information

# Election 2016 – it's time to encourage all political parties to focus on Aboriginal health

WITH an early Federal Election looking likely, it's time to encourage all political parties to focus on Aboriginal health and the critical role of the community controlled sector in improving services and health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Turnbull Government has flagged it will call a double dissolution election on July 2 if the Senate refuses to pass the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC) Bill, targeting unions. The Prime Minister has until May 11 to call the poll.

A decade after governments agreed to

**"One of the principles that is espoused by all levels of government on Aboriginal issues is that engagement with Aboriginal communities and organisations is the only way to successfully close the gap." – NACCHO Chairperson Matthew Cooke**

bipartisan support for the Close the Gap agreement, National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) Chairperson Matthew Cooke said long-term commitment from politicians to strengthen and grow the community controlled sector, through partnership with it, must be a priority for all political parties.

"One of the principles that is espoused by all levels of government on Aboriginal issues is that engagement with Aboriginal communities and organisations is the only way to successfully close the gap," Mr Cooke said.

"Time and again we see evidence that supports that principle.

"Our own sector, managed by

Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people, is making the biggest in-roads against the Closing the Gap health targets.

"Our services provide over two million episodes of care nationally each year and have made the biggest gains against the targets to halve child mortality and improve maternal health.

"Indeed, our services have successfully contributed to the Close the Gap targets that have reduced child mortality rates by 66% and overall mortality rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by 33% over the last two decades."

● Continued page 20

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# Why we need to support Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services

By Tanya Denning-Orman\*  
This Opinion Piece was originally published by *Daily Life* – [dailylife.com.au](http://dailylife.com.au)

My mum's name is Lilly. She puts me to shame in many ways. She is a healthy Aboriginal woman, 65 years old, and was recently given some rare news from her doctor.

Excitedly, he explained that her cholesterol levels had dropped. It's something that he rarely gets the opportunity to say to older Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people – "you're getting healthier".

But fighting against the norm, Lilly is. She walks everywhere and makes healthy choices – because she can.

My mum uses education, choice and a rock-hard determination to not only improve her health, but also the health of our people.

Living in Central Queensland, she has dedicated most of her working life as a health worker to improving the lives and experiences of others.

More than anyone else, she makes me feel like I am standing on the shoulders of all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who came before me.

Chronic health disease resonates with every Indigenous

community and every Indigenous family, where sickness is unfortunately just a way of life.

My own childhood was marred by this. I saw my nan suffering from tuberculosis and diabetes, whilst my grandfathers passed as middle-aged men do, way before their time.

Through the years, my mum constantly educated us about the importance of healthy choices. She worked hard for us to have a choice. She ensured we knew that we had a choice.

I chose an Aboriginal Medical Service for my pre- and anti-natal care and for my son to be born with an Aboriginal midwife. It felt right.

I chose to put my baby's and my health into the hands of someone I trusted to have the knowledge and the cultural sensitivity of the issues that confronted us.

It is now 45 years since the first Aboriginal Medical Service started up in Redfern. Since then, there have been numerous examples of Indigenous-controlled health success stories, including the Mums and Babies program at the Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Services; the 'Nutrition: at the heart of good health' initiative by the Jalaris Aboriginal Corporation; the Good Food, Great Kids project at the Yarra Valley Community Health Service; and the



Tanya Denning-Orman

Healthy Housing Worker program at the Murdi Paaki Regional Housing Corporation.

Whilst these programs are diverse, their commonality is powerful and relevant – local people with the control and empowerment to find solutions at their local level, with successful outcomes for the health issues they confront.

Chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart diseases are

the principal causes of early death amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Health professionals agree that improving diet and nutrition is a fundamental starting point to tackling these issues, where removing barriers to obtaining healthy food and promoting healthy nutrition amongst Indigenous families are the key first steps.

Indigenous peoples have thousands of years of bush food knowledge bringing healthy and sustainable living – even the farm produce on missions was healthier than the food offered in community stores today.

Our people are very aware of our health. Whilst health indicators tell us we aren't where we should be, Indigenous health workers are tireless advocates for holistic and preventative healthcare.

The answers to the Indigenous health crisis are clear. Indigenous communities are capable of finding the solutions.

Indigenous health workers like my mum are living proof – individuals who are dedicated and working hard to provide solutions.

Through improved knowledge of and access to health services, increased resourcing, cultural sensitivity and empowering local communities in the health planning processes, we will significantly

improve outcomes.

The health gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians is unacceptable. From mental health to heart disease and everything in between, it's a continuing crisis that affects the young and old with no obvious signs of a resolution.

Raising awareness of Close the Gap and all it represents is an essential and positive step in the right direction, however, targets need to be achieved by effective action.

Linked closely to other areas of Indigenous disadvantage, Indigenous consultation is imperative in all areas of Closing the Gap.

Our people are key to our solutions, as is appropriate funding to ensure that essential services, like water, electricity, education and healthcare are prioritised within communities.

Only then will we see a consistent improvement in health statistics and start to realise the dream of Closing the Gap of life expectancy by 2030.

Only then will we bring about real change so that Lilly's story won't stand in isolation.

\*Tanya Denning-Orman is a proud Birri and Guugu Yimithirr woman from Far North Queensland and Channel Manager at NITV –



**NACCHO**  
**thanks**  
**to NITV**  
**for filming**

NACCHO would like to thank NITV for filming our pilot episode of *Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service* featuring the organisation's chair Sol Bellea (pictured left). The interview with Sol was just one of the approximately 200 board, staff and community members in up to 20 urban, regional and remote NACCHO member organisations. *Aboriginal Health in Aboriginal Hands for healthy futures* was produced and edited by the NACCHO production team of Wayne Quilliam, Yale Macgillivray and Colin Cowell: <https://www.youtube.com/user/NACCHOTV>



From left, Dr John Boffa, the Chief Medical Officer Public Health at Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Aboriginal Corporation, Prof Brian Owler, Congress Chair William Tilmouth, and local Federal Member the Hon Warren Snowdon.

# AMA President Professor Brian Owler experiences our remote Indigenous community health services



Prof Brian Owler hearing stories of the Pintupi lizard dreaming at Kintore in the Northern Territory.

**A**USTRALIAN Medical Association (AMA) President Professor Brian Owler recently met with doctors and other health workers in Alice Springs and several remote Indigenous communities, and saw first-hand how health services are delivered at the local level.

In Alice Springs, Prof Owler met with the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress to discuss challenges in improving Indigenous Health, including a lack of GPs in remote communities, housing shortages, inadequate access to clean water, and local issues affecting the delivery of health services in central Australia.

Prof Owler also saw how the Purple House, a renal centre in Alice Springs, provides dialysis to the local community and operates a

mobile dialysis unit that travels to remote communities.

Accompanied by Federal Member for Lingiari Warren Snowdon, Prof Owler flew to two remote communities, Utopia and Ampilatwatja.

Prof Owler said that, despite the numerous health issues in the communities, it was heartening to see very dedicated doctors and nurses providing vital health services.

In both communities, school attendance rates are high, alcohol bans have made a positive difference, and local people enjoy a close relationship with health centres.

Prof Owler told SBS that unless Government policy targets Indigenous health as a priority, it will be hard to get kids into school and adults into jobs.

# Australia needs to see an era of genuine collaboration between all political parties to close the Indigenous health gap

**A**MA President Professor Brian Owler says Australia needs to see an era of genuine collaboration between all political parties to close the Indigenous health gap.

On National Close the Gap Day, Prof Owler said that all levels of government, government agencies and departments, and health services must work together if significant, enduring advances in closing the health gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians are to be achieved, and for Close the Gap justice targets to be met.

"Good intentions need to be transformed into tangible actions to achieve widespread improvements in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders," he Owler said.

"We have seen encouraging improvements in some areas of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing over recent years, but we need to

see consistency of positive outcomes across the country and across the major health indicators.

"Smoking rates are reducing, and we're on track to halve the mortality rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young children by 2018.

"But much more needs to be done to close health inequality gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

"Health should be a foundation that underpins improvements in other measures as well.

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to experience stubbornly high levels of treatable and preventable conditions, such as type 2 diabetes, rheumatic heart disease, kidney disease, and other life-shortening conditions, high levels of chronic conditions at younger ages, high levels of undetected and untreated chronic conditions, and higher rates of co-morbidity in chronic disease.

"Indigenous Australians also die 10 years younger than their non-Indigenous peers on average, but in many areas there is a 20-year difference in life expectancy.

"As a nation, we have changed the way we talk about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and, as a nation, we can now take the next step to close the health and life-expectancy gap.

"National Close the Gap Day is an important reminder for all Australians to take action and support Indigenous health equality.

### "Everybody's business"

"Closing the gap is everybody's business."

This year is the 10th anniversary of the Close the Gap campaign to address the health inequality that exists between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

The Close the Gap Coalition — a grouping of Indigenous and non-Indigenous

health and community organisations — has the support of nearly 200,000 Australians in calling on governments to take real, measurable action to achieve Indigenous health equality by 2030.

The AMA, as a proud supporter of the Close the Gap campaign, encourages people to show their commitment to health equality by signing the pledge to close the gap.

Prof Owler said the AMA believes that closing the health inequality gap is a national priority. "It is inexcusable that Australia, one of the world's wealthiest nations, can allow 3% of its citizens to have poorer health and die younger than the rest of the population," he said.

"A genuine partnership between governments, across the political spectrum, would be a catalyst to achieving significant and much-needed health and lifestyle improvements for all Indigenous Australians."



# Indigenous Advancement Strategy report: Abbott-era Indigenous cuts went too far – Senate inquiry

THE Abbott Government's 2014 streamlining of its \$8.5 billion Indigenous Affairs budget, and the moving of the portfolio directly into the Office of Prime Minister and Cabinet, was poorly executed, failed to consult key Indigenous groups and led to widespread confusion, a Senate inquiry has heard.

Labor's Indigenous Affairs spokesman Shayne Neumann told *The Australian* a report tabled on the Indigenous Advancement Strategy, announced in the 2014-15 Budget, had "exposed the lie that (Tony) Abbott was the PM for Indigenous Affairs; they now know they got (the policy) wrong".

"We now have evidence of the extent of the devastating cuts which have decimated frontline services," he said.

The report, which comes after 12 months of deliberations and hearings, notes that the consolidation of more than 150 programs previously delivered across eight government portfolios into just five streams had been deeply problematic.

## What the Senate Committee recommended

1. That future tender rounds are not blanket competitive processes and are underpinned by robust service planning and needs mapping.
2. That future tendering processes should be planned strategically, with a clear sense of service gaps and community need based on consultation with local services and communities. A tendering or alternative funding process should be conducted in a manner which enhances the capacity of organisations to meet community needs.
3. That future selection criteria and funding guidelines should give weighting to the contribution and effectiveness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to provide to their community beyond the service they are directly contracted to provide.
4. That where possible and appropriate, longer contracts be awarded to ensure stability so that organisations can plan and deliver sustainable services to their communities.

The five streams were identified as jobs, land and economy; children and schooling; safety and wellbeing; culture and capability; and remote Australian strategies. It was claimed this would make program delivery more flexible and reduce red tape.

However, the Senate

committee found that the system's use of competitive tendering processes had disadvantaged many Indigenous groups and not always delivered programs where they were most needed. It recommended in future this method be replaced by needs-based assessments.

Evidence from PM & C

5. That the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet improve its overall Indigenous Advancement Strategy communication plan to ensure that all stakeholders are fully informed and have access to clear and timely information.

6. That the full internal review of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy process undertaken and facilitated by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet be made public.

7. That the Government release the revised funding guidelines as a draft for consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and their organisations.

8. That Government prioritise investment in capacity building and support for smaller community controlled organisations in future tender processes.

9. That the Government act immediately to address the June 30, 2016 funding deadline for organisations.

confirmed the lack of consultation and engagement between government and Indigenous groups, with senior bureaucrat Liza Carroll admitting the department had "underestimated the amount of effort that we are now realising was needed upfront. We recognised it needed some, but I do not think we had

recognised the depth of that early enough".

Ms Carroll said the difficulties some Indigenous organisations faced in coping with the changes had been "underestimated", a fact which had partly led to the department being unable to "finish our assessment process at the end of the last financial year".

The report acknowledged Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion's note that IAS funding had increased the number of Indigenous organisations funded under the portfolio from 30% to 46%, with these groups receiving 55% of total IAS funding.

Mr Neumann demanded that the Government act on the committee's recommendations, which included awarding "longer contracts ... to ensure stability" and establishing funding guidelines that "give weighting to the contribution and effectiveness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to provide to their community beyond the service they are directly contracted to provide".

# Federal Government to work closely with NACCHO and the sector to make sure we get Indigenous ice treatment services right

PRIME Minister Malcolm Turnbull says Australia cannot "arrest its way to success" and local health professionals will get most of the \$300 million in new funding to tackle the ice scourge.

Backing all 38 recommendations of the National Ice Taskforce, the Federal Government is putting an extra \$297 million towards drug treatment, after care, education and other community-based preventative measures.

The new funding is on top of the current \$310 million for treatment services

The Turnbull Government has released a new action plan to tackle ice via the National Ice Taskforce Final 249 page report and the Commonwealth response.

The Taskforce's report is a thorough analysis of Australia's ice problem, and has provided a clear direction for both the Government's response and the National Ice Action Strategy.

Here's a recent press conference with Mr Turnbull and Health Minister Fiona Nash:

PM: Just one second, Fiona is going to address the, you asked about the regions and that is very important, Fiona is going to address the Indigenous component in this package.

Minister Nash: I did flag in my earlier remark that is part of the \$241.5 million going to treatment services; we will have a specific focus on indigenous treatment services. We need to make sure that they have culturally appropriate treatment services in place.

So, while we will be doing this through the primary health networks, there is a very strong expectation that the PHNs will work very closely with the Aboriginal community controlled health sector in how we ensure those treatment services are appropriate.

"I have already spoken to the sector about this, to the head of NACCHO, Matt Cooke, and also my adviser on the Advisory Council, Ted Wilkes, about ensuring that we work very closely with the sector to make sure that we get those Indigenous treatment services right."

## The Report

In its report, the Taskforce has made 38 recommendations across five areas of priority.

1. The first priority must be supporting families, workers and communities to better respond to people affected by ice.

2. Efforts to reduce demand for ice through prevention activities must be strengthened.

3. Ice users need treatment and support services that cater to their needs.

4. Efforts to disrupt supply must be more coordinated and targeted.

5. Better data, more research and regular reporting is needed to strengthen Australia's response and keep it on track.

The response sets out a comprehensive package to reduce the demand for ice and reduce the harm it causes, while continuing efforts to disrupt supply.

Proportionally, Australians use more

methamphetamine, including ice, than almost any other country. Evidence suggests that there are well over 200,000 ice users in Australia.

Ice is an extremely powerful stimulant and it is causing significant harm to our community, disproportionate to that caused by other drugs.

The Government has already made significant investment in policing borders and streets to combat the supply of ice.

The weight of ice seized at the Australian border grew almost 60 times between 2010 and 2014 and police made record busts and 26,000 arrests for possession or distribution of amphetamine-type stimulants in 2013-14.

The National Ice Taskforce made it clear that we cannot arrest our way out of the ice problem – we must also work to reduce the demand for this drug.

## Almost \$300 million

The Government will invest almost \$300 million over four years to improve treatment, after care, education, prevention, support and community engagement to tackle ice. The package includes:

- \$241.5 million to be invested through the 31 Primary Health Networks (PHNs), which will use their local knowledge to boost the alcohol and other drug treatment sector and reduce demand for ice.

- An additional \$13 million to introduce new MBS items for Addiction Medicine Specialists to increase the availability of treatment.

- An additional \$24.9 million to help families and communities by providing the resources, information and support they need to respond to ice.

- An additional \$18.8 million to establish better research, evidence and guidelines on ice, including a new Centre for Clinical Excellence for Emerging Drugs of Concern.

The Government understands that local knowledge is best. That is why local Primary Health Networks will work with communities to determine what form of treatment will be most effective in each local area.

Given the close correlation between mental health and drug abuse, we have closely aligned delivery of drug and alcohol treatment services with the delivery of mental health packages through PHNs.

Ensuring that Indigenous-specific treatment services and culturally appropriate mainstream treatment services are available for Indigenous Australians will be a key priority.

The package also includes significant investment in rural and regional areas, where the Taskforce Report indicated service gaps and a misalignment between service priorities and community need.

The measures from the package will form part of the new National Ice Action Strategy, which will be considered by the Commonwealth and all state and territory governments at the next COAG meeting.

For more information about the National Ice Taskforce, including the Final Report, go to <http://www.pmc.gov.au/ice>





## **Fight diabetes in your community**

**If you have diabetes,  
join the NDSS. Ask at your  
local health service,  
visit [www.ndss.com.au](http://www.ndss.com.au)  
or call 1300 136 588.**

About 1 in 3 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders will get diabetes and there are too many of us not getting help.

If you have any type of diabetes and have a Medicare card you can join the NDSS for free. It gives you cheaper products and help so that you can live better with diabetes.

The NDSS helps doctors understand how big diabetes is in our communities, so by registering, other people can get help too.

**ndss**  
national diabetes services scheme

**d** diabetes  
australia

The National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) is an initiative of the Australian Government administered by Diabetes Australia.



At the Apunipima Cape York Health Council's 21st anniversary celebration, from left, Willie Gordon, Vicki Kennedy, Kaylene Bowen, Gina Nona, Meun Lifu (holding the plaque), Jenny Ropeyarn, Alice Tayley, George Ropeyarn and Gwen Schreiber.

# Milestone for Apunipima

**T**WENTY-ONE years ago last December the Apunipima Cape York Health Council was established to serve the Indigenous people of far north Queensland. That 'coming-of-age' landmark was celebrated by about 200 people at a party in Cairns, where the council's surviving original members were entered into the Apunipima Hall of Fame for Cape York people who have made a

significant contribution to improving local health.

In 1994 at Pajinka Lodge, near Injinoo at the tip of Cape York, Elders and traditional owners from the 17 Cape York communities and others came together at a land and health summit to demand action on worsening health outcomes for our people.

Apunipima was the result.

In November of that same year, Apunipima was incorporated as an advocacy organisation with a membership of 34. Over the years membership has grown to 580, sadly with just 15 of the 34 original members still alive.

Apunipima chief executive Cleveland Fagan said the 21st anniversary was a time to reflect and remember the brave work of the original members.

"A plaque was presented in recognition, commemoration and celebration of each of the members," he said.

"Their belief and enduring support has led Apunipima to become the leading health service delivery organisation for Cape York, with health outcomes improving year on year.

"May their faith never be forgotten."

# Werin Aboriginal Corporation now an independent medical service

**W**ERIN Aboriginal Medical Corporation has reached the milestone of becoming an independent medical service.

Board secretary Warren Mason said the Port Macquarie-based organisation's independence meant the local community could take control of the service and set the agenda based on community needs.

"It allows us to take control on our own needs and care," he said.

The auspicing arrangements with Biripi Aboriginal Medical Service have ceased.

Local Federal MP Luke Hartsuyker said it was great the service had achieved independence after 10 years of successful operation.

"It's vitally important we deliver quality services to all Australians, no matter where they live, particularly with regional services for Indigenous Australians," he said.

Mr Hartsuyker said Werin provided holistic services



Werin staff and officials celebrate the Port Macquarie-based corporation's milestone.

across a range of health disciplines.

Port Macquarie MP and NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Leslie Williams said Werin's

independence meant the board had much more local control about what happened in their space.

That principle aligns with the

State Government's plan for Aboriginal affairs.

Mrs Williams said one of the platforms of the OCHRE (Opportunity, Choice, Healing,

Responsibility, Empowerment) plan was about local decision making and prioritising needs.

Werin directly contributes to improving Aboriginal health through increasing access to, and delivering, best practice comprehensive primary health care.

Werin chairman Guy Jones said that as an Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Service (ACCHS), a board of directors is elected by the local Aboriginal community to govern each ACCHS.

Mr Jones said the unique governance model makes the services directly operated by, and totally accountable to, the local Aboriginal community.

The stand-alone status comes as Werin is awarded an additional \$1.1 million in Health Department funding over the next three years to focus on pre-and post-natal care and health care for children up to age five.



# Winnunga will welcome explicit acknowledgement

**W**INNUNGA Nimmitjah, an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service (ACCHS), is the only health service providing holistic primary health and social and emotional wellbeing care to the Canberra and region community.

Recently, the Close the Gap Campaign Steering Committee released a Close the Gap Progress and Priorities Report

The report is the most comprehensive analysis available on progress in achieving the Close the Gap targets. It provides a sobering insight into the magnitude of the task facing Australia and provides guidance on where the effort involved in closing the gap should be concentrated.

In this regard the report is unequivocal in its recognition of the fundamental importance of ACCHS: "That the findings of

*the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Measures Survey (NATSIHMS) are used to better target chronic conditions that are undetected in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. In particular, access to appropriate primary health care services to detect, treat and manage these conditions should be increased. Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services should be the preferred services for this enhanced, targeted response."*

### Evidence-backed

The report provides an evidence-backed justification for the need to continue to fund and expand existing ACCHSes. It refers to major inquiries into the efficiency and effectiveness of ACCHSes. It finds that the "two key advantages of ACCHSes are

better access and a more culturally appropriate, community-based holistic approach, which in many ways offers, in the long term, a better return on investment of the health dollar".

The report identifies the most common service gaps in ACCHS as mental health and social and emotional wellbeing. It also found that a concerted effort is needed to ensure ACCHS are properly resourced to address chronic disease and services for mothers and babies.

While there have been measurable improvements in respect of some of the Close the Gap targets, in others there is little or no progress and it is likely the gap will not close in the specified time.

A government's commitment to closing the gap in relation to all health related

indicators can reasonably be measured by its preparedness to implement the recommendations of the Closing the Gap Campaign Steering Committee.

In this regard, Winnunga would welcome an explicit acknowledgement by the Government of the recommendation detailed above about the primary role of ACCHSes such as Winnunga Nimmitjah in the delivery of primary health care for the Aboriginal community.

The Aboriginal Community Controlled Health services both here in Canberra and at 302 clinics nationally will not agree to turn our backs on the most disadvantaged and disempowered and we call on the Australian Government to honour the principles of health equity as outlined in the Statement of Intent to Close the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes.

## NACCHO and Winnunga Nimmitjah Aboriginal Health Service celebrate Close The Gap 10th anniversary celebrations at national event in Canberra



At the celebration, from left, Winnunga's Dr Nadeem Siddiqui, Roslyn Brown of the United Ngunnawal Elders Council, Member of the ACT Legislative Assembly for Ginninderra Jayson Hinder, Colin Cowell of NACCHO, Winnunga Nimmitjah CEO Julie Tongs, Professor Ngiare Brown and Winnunga's Jon Stanhope. Pictures: Geoff Bagnall



Tjanara Goreng Goreng from the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body signs Close The Gap pledge while Roslyn Brown of the United Ngunnawal Elders Council watches on.



Enjoying the event, from left, Gaye Doolan, Coordinator, Indigenous Health and Student Engagement at the Australian National University; Winnunga CEO Julie Tongs; Brian Demmery; Nicholas Yuen, a medical student from the Australian National University; and Aadil Rahim, a medical student from the University of Newcastle.



Thelma Weston, the Administration Reception and NSP Officer at Winnunga, shows the Close The Gap cake for the celebration.



# Big changes in Pharmacy

**N**ACCHO is participating in the Pharmacy Trials Programme (PTP), a \$50 million initiative of Federal Health Minister Sussan Ley to sponsor transformative and innovative delivery of pharmacy services.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are a focus of the PTP.

NACCHO is represented on the Trials Advisory Group (TAG) of the PTP.

TAG brings together national stakeholders to consider Trial proposals. Approved Trials evaluated as cost-effective can go on to access another \$600 million of new pharmacy services funding.

Clearly, the PTP initiative has significant potential for strengthening the scope and the quality of pharmacy services within and delivered in collaboration with ACCHOs.

NACCHO is working with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia as well as with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia to submit Trial proposals. NACCHO is also consulting with a range of stakeholders, experts and reviewing recent literature. This ensures that NACCHO's interests are fully represented and that the most relevant and up-to-date methods and ideas are incorporated into Trial proposals.

The \$50 million PTP is part of the Australian Government's Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA) with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

It will be interesting to see how transformative and innovative Trial



A picture taken at the Danila Dilba Health Service, Darwin, Aboriginal community controlled health pharmacy.

proposals approved by the Trials Advisory Group will be.

NACCHO is especially keen to trial a range of solutions for embedding pharmacy services within ACCHOs, with the aim of identifying which solutions deliver the

best value for money to clients.

At one end of the spectrum, legislation in the Northern Territory allows ACCHOs to own, set up and operate their own pharmacies. Elsewhere, some ACCHOs have installed a pharmacy in their clinics

and they have it stocked and staffed by an outposted pharmacist employed by a Community Pharmacy in town.

Some ACCHOs have banded together to employ a full-time pharmacist – as with the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health in south-east Queensland. Occasionally, a single ACCHO employs its own full-time pharmacist – as in Galambilla in northern NSW.

Yet another model for pharmacy services is to contract a visiting pharmacist for a set number of hours per week.

About 50% of ACCHOs have no form of in-house or on-site pharmacist.

Minister Ley has also set up an independent Panel to review Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation. This is an opportunity for NACCHO to influence current federal laws to improve Quality Use of Medicines and access for ACCHOs and communities across Australia. The Panel will be publishing a Discussion Paper and inviting submissions in May.

NACCHO has already advocated that the Panel do its best to progress the long-delayed reforms to Section 100 and CTG PBS Co-payment Measures.

A comprehensive set of changes have been agreed to by NACCHO and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia in a Joint Statement co-signed in October 2015. This is available on NACCHO's web site under About Us – Resources/Downloads – Aboriginal Health

## New pharmacy partnership is good medicine for Yarrabah

**R**ESIDENTS of the north Queensland Aboriginal community of Yarrabah now have easy access to much-needed medication for the first time in nearly two decades.

A five-year partnership between Yarrabah's community-owned health service and an Edmonton (Cairns) chemist has resulted in the opening of a new pharmacy in the community.

Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services chief executive Sue

Andrews said officials had been working with pharmacist and part owner of the Edmonton pharmacy Leo Maltam to offer services to Yarrabah for the past five years.

"The Edmonton pharmacy has provided good service and delivered medication to many people who were not able to go to Cairns or Gordonvale," Mrs Andrews said.

"However, the pharmacy staff needed about four hours a day to prepare the medication and time to

travel to and from Yarrabah.

"This meant that some people in Yarrabah would not get their medication on the same day, as the deadline for people to submit their scripts was noon."

### Essential

Mr Maltam said it was essential that Queensland's largest Aboriginal community, of about 3000 residents, should have access to such a service.

"For a community this size to

not have timely and affordable access to essential and lifesaving medications was something we wanted to help address," he said.

"We have two pharmacists running the new Yarrabah Pharmacy, and we are very excited about working with Sue and her team."

Gurriny Yealamucka senior medical officer Dr Adam Brownhill said the new pharmacy was an excellent example of two organisations striving to close the

gap through improving access to services for a disadvantaged community. "From the perspective of the clinic, the on-site pharmacy will improve patient care as there will be no delay in patients accessing medications," he said.

"This will improve recovery times for acute illnesses and ensure that clients with chronic conditions do not miss out on their regular medications. This has been a very successful program and will be ongoing."



Stanley Connolly, 4, and Norma Connolly, 3, enjoy the launch at the Yarrabah Pharmacy.



Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services CEO Sue Andrews speaking to media at the Yarrabah Pharmacy opening.



# Fight diabetes in your community with the NDSS



It's the National Diabetes Services Scheme. The doc helps you join and get the free NDSS card. You get cheaper products and lots of good advice about living healthy.



5

About 1 in 3 in our community will get diabetes and there are too many of us not getting help. By joining the NDSS I get support to keep enjoying life.

And because the NDSS helps doctors understand diabetes in our communities, other people can get help too. Join the NDSS and help fight diabetes.

**If you have diabetes, join the NDSS. Ask at your local health service, visit [www.ndss.com.au](http://www.ndss.com.au) or call 1300 136 588.**



The National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) is an initiative of the Australian Government administered by Diabetes Australia.



# NACCHO Baseline Profiles

## – putting data to work

NACCHO is developing Baseline Profiles for its Member Services as a first step in getting health and related data back in the hands of the Member Service ACCHOs and their communities.

In these times of changing Federal policies, cutbacks in areas of funding and overall fiscal constraints, ACCHOs are faced with providing broad ranging evidence of their performance to justify existing budgets and staffing levels, as well as justifying applications for new funding for the expansion of services into identified areas of need.

Challenges are also arising as an increasing number of programmes are being funnelled through the newly formed Primary Health Networks.

A new approach for determining funding allocations being used by the government and PHNs is referred to as "market testing". This approach will potentially require ACCHOs to compete with state and territory health departments, other NGOs and for-profit practices and corporations for the provision of basic services and for the delivery of new programmes.

Mapping the service delivery footprint of ACCHOs' service areas is important to demonstrate their role and significance as unique providers of comprehensive primary health care in over 300 locations coordinated by 140 NACCHO Member Services.

ACCHOs are working with many of the new PHNs to build an understanding of the actual range of services provided to the population in their communities and the geographic extent of their service delivery. PHNs are required by the Department of Health to develop Health Needs Assessments and associated planning.

The ACCHO Sector has over 320,000 clients with over 3.7 million client contacts delivered in 2013-2014. In comparison, the number of

Emergency Department presentations in public hospital emergency departments in all states and territories was 7,195,903 (2013-2014) and RFDS undertook 292,523 client (patient) contacts in the same period.

NACCHO's Baseline Profiles, based on publicly available data, are being created for each Member Service. The profiles form a template to enable Member Services to add data from their own information systems. These localised templates will then be available for use in reports for service planning and to provide evidence of performance, as well as for communications with community, funding bodies and policy makers.

### Critical aspect

A critical aspect of planning is "access to services", for both existing services and for identifying areas where there is no access – ie gaps.

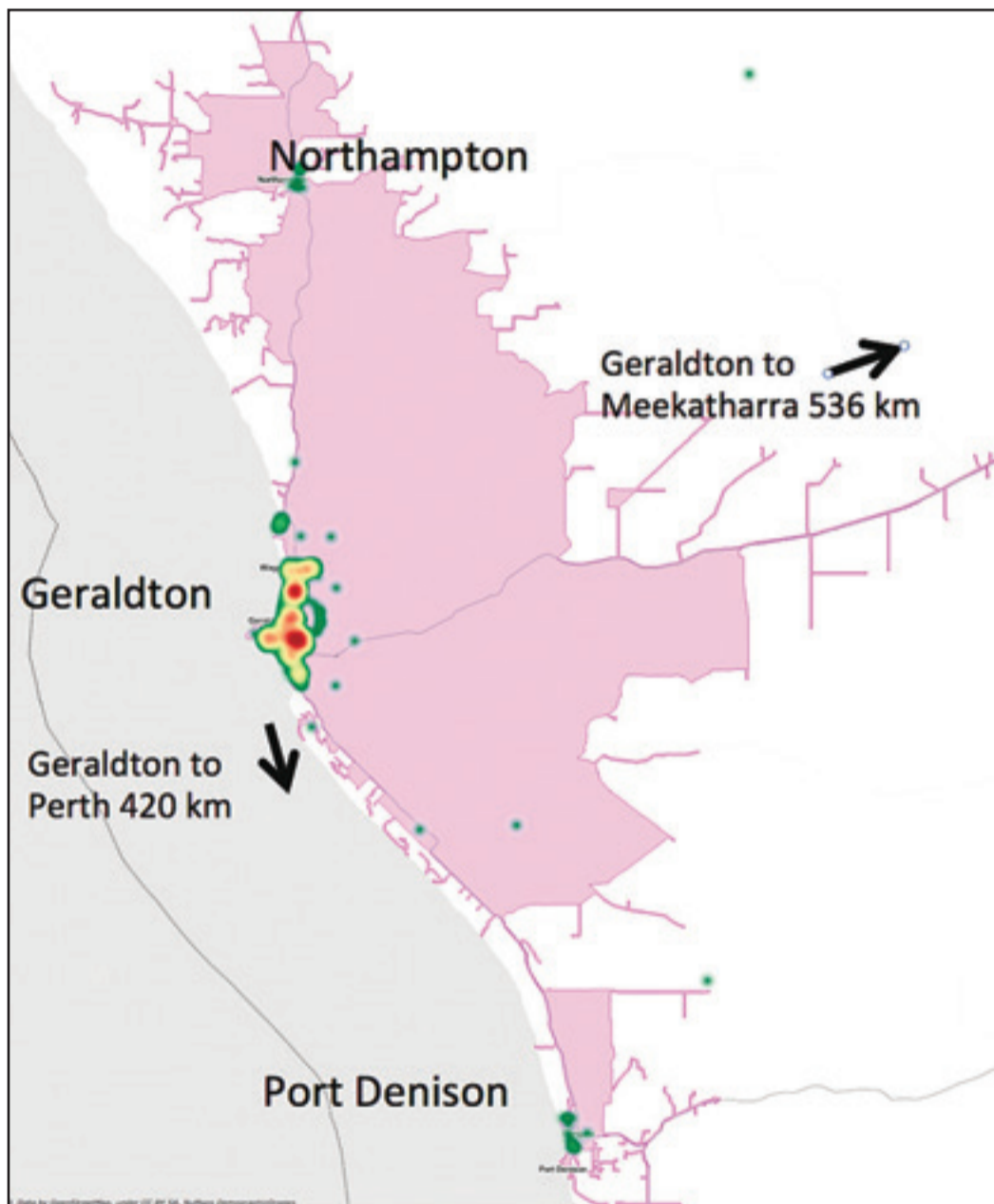
The Baseline Profiles are using drive times (the time it takes to drive to an ACCHO) as a way of determining accessibility to health services, building on the work of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC).

The graphic on this page shows example panels from the Baseline Profile for the Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service in the electorate of Durack and Country WA PHN.

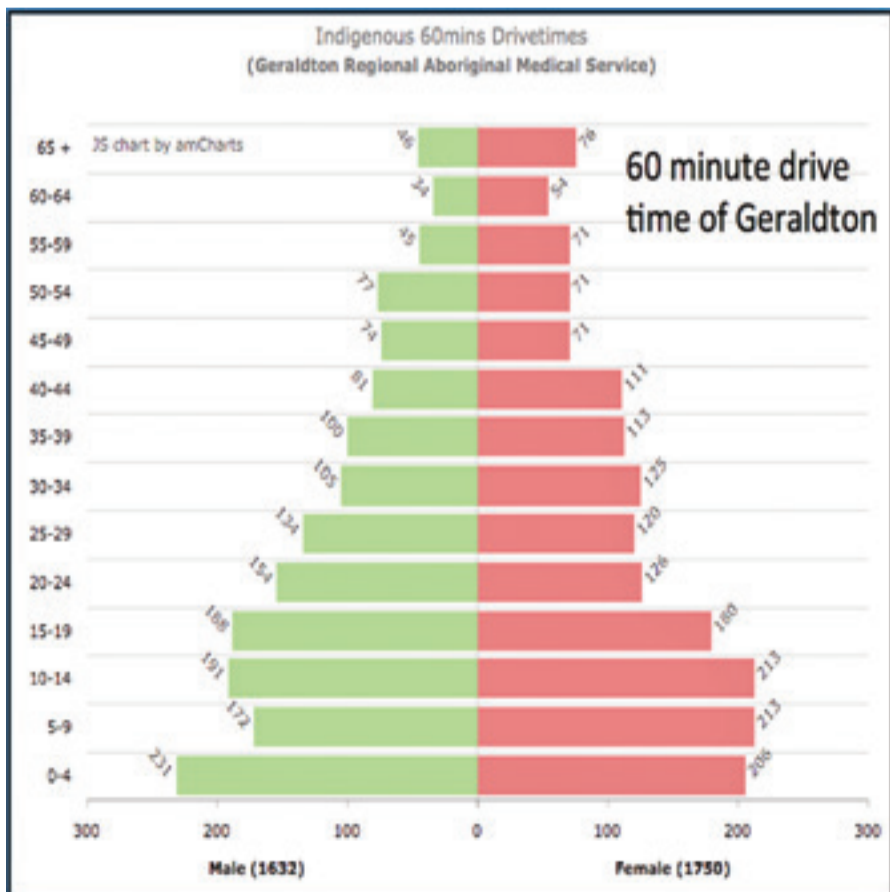
NACCHO will use the Baseline Profile to demonstrate the extent, experience and value of the ACCHO Sector to policy makers in government and those developing new programmes and budgets.

ACCHOs are a critical component of Australia's primary health care system; the Baseline Profiles and Member Service's localised profiles will reinforce this fact.

Maps below showing the 60 minute drive time area from Geraldton (WA), and the age-gender pyramid of the population and service delivery area for the Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (GRAMS).



Heat map showing areas with a high density of Aboriginal people and the area included in a 60 minute drive time. Aboriginal population within the 60 minute drive time of Geraldton is 3382, with 4727 in the larger service delivery area (ABS Census 2011).



Age-gender pyramid of the Aboriginal population in the 60 minute drive time area from Geraldton in Western Australia.



Service delivery area with GRAMS fixed and mobile clinic serviced locations.



# The need to make Quality an Organisational Culture approach

EVERY ACCHO strives to ensure that the best possible standard of care is provided for their clients. Indeed, it was aspirations such as that which led to the formation of the first Aboriginal Medical Services in the early 1970s.

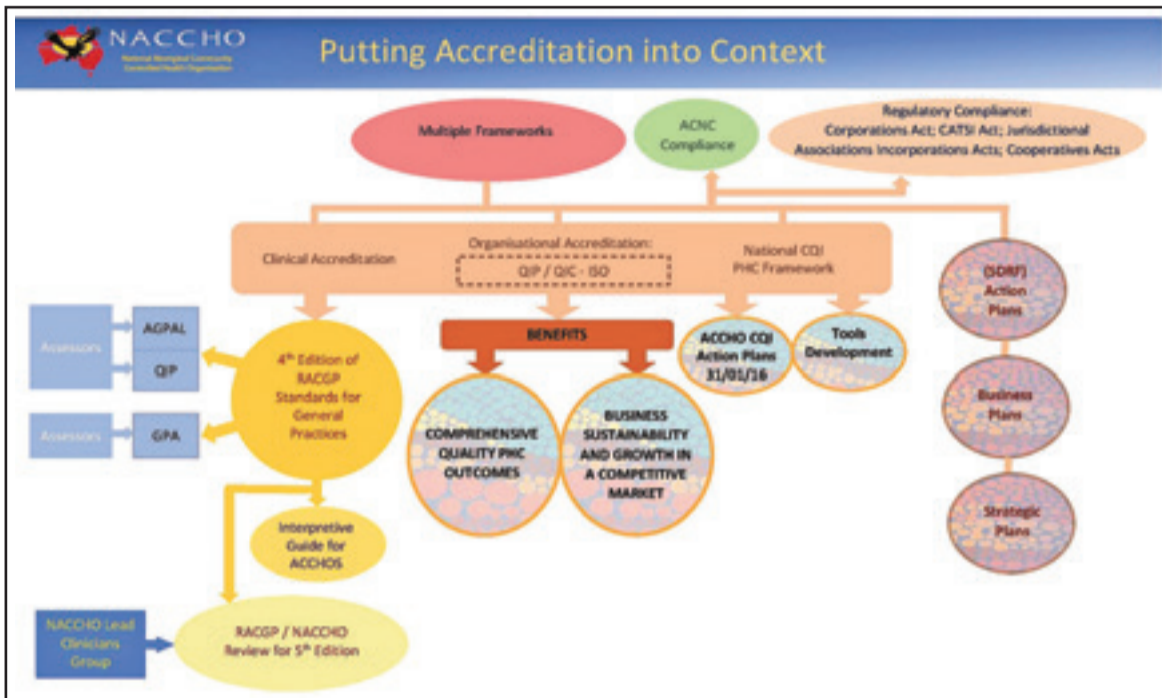
How, though, does an organisation know that it is delivering that standard of care?

Analysis of patient data is one way of making that assessment, but that implies a process that stands apart from actual service delivery. Further, having additional layers of process in practice operation leads to greater levels of administrative burden.

Various accreditation and practice guideline regimes do assist in establishing operational practices that are conducive to the delivery of care to the highest standards to patients.

Even so, any assessment of the efficacy of those practices might only be possible from a retrospective position.

While doing so will help to some degree with service planning, it can lead to a lag between issue identification, formulating a response to that issue and to implementation of that response.



Many organisations have, for some years now, adopted practices that seek to make constantly improving standards of service delivery embedded, or intrinsic, to their operations in a proactive sense. Rather than utilise client

information retrospectively, they conduct their analysis of it with a view to predict and project trends, and thus plan in anticipation of future need.

Such an approach forms the fundamental underpinnings of

concepts such as Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI). Rather than being separate, standalone processes, the integration of CQI as part of organisational culture can lead to the best possible standards of care being provided in

an intrinsic, rather than extrinsic, manner.

Recognising that various accreditation, practice guidelines and other quality improvement regimes can exist as semi-detached from within an organisation's operations, the NACCHO Secretariat is undertaking a body of work with the aim of assisting in those regime's holistic integration. The intention of that work is to find the mechanisms and approaches that can be employed to make continuous improvement and, thus, the best possible levels of patient care, part of the organisational culture of all ACCHOs.

NACCHO has conducted an Organisational Accreditation Roundtable in Canberra (on March 23) as part of that body of work, one purpose of which was the identification, at the service level, of the synergies between those various regimes and how they might best be embedded in organisational culture.

The goal of that work is not just to assist ACCHOs in reaching their visions in terms of providing the best possible standards of care, but also to assist them to be standout service providers in an increasingly competitive provider market.



Artwork by Jordan Lovegrove, Ngarrindjeri, of Dreamtime Public Relations

**Can we do better than 'I treat everyone the same'?** This question will be tackled in the workshops that we will be running across the country, with a particular focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. This six and a half hour sessions will allow you to become intimately acquainted with the experiences and stories of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members, providing you with an understanding of their culture and the barriers that often prevent them from attaining effective healthcare.

This interactive forum will also encourages participants to share their own experiences and stories and together, we will discuss the best and most effective techniques in tackling this issue so as to improve the care provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and their families.

**So do not miss this wonderful opportunity** in experiencing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture including an Indigenous inspired dinner. This workshop will be a great opportunity for you to attain an understanding on how to provide more effective care to your patients and 'bridge the cultural gap' whilst fulfilling your QI&CPD requirements for the 2014-2016 triennium as this workshop is accredited for 40 Category 1 CPD points.

## Uncover the cultural barriers that may be preventing you from providing the best healthcare to your Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients

Please visit the RACGP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health events page via <http://www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/faculties/aboriginal/education/events> to find out more about these workshops. Please refer to the tables below for dates and locations of these workshops.

Date:	Wednesday 13 April 2016
Timing:	3:00pm – 9:30pm
Venue:	Risdon Cove (Piyura Kitina)
Address:	838 East Derwent Highway, Risdon TAS 7017

Date:	Wednesday 4 May 2016
Timing:	3:00pm – 9:30pm
Venue:	National Centre of Indigenous Excellence
Address:	180 George Street, Redfern NSW 2016

Date:	Wednesday 22 June 2016
Timing:	3:00pm – 9:30pm
Venue:	TBC
Address:	Brisbane QLD

Date:	Wednesday 6 July 2016
Timing:	3:00pm – 9:30pm
Venue:	Charles Darwin University
Address:	Ellengowan Drive, Casuarina NT 0811

Please contact Salome Pinto on 03 8699 0528 or via [aboriginalhealth@racgp.org.au](mailto:aboriginalhealth@racgp.org.au) for more information on the workshops



# NACCHO signs milestone agreement with AHHA to close the gap in Aboriginal health

AUSTRALIA'S biggest Aboriginal health organisation and public healthcare and hospitals bodies recently signed a national agreement to work together on closing the gap in Aboriginal health.

Under the agreement, NACCHO and the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA) will work together on policies, research, and public health campaigns to address health issues in Aboriginal communities.

NACCHO represents more than 150 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations. The AHHA is Australia's national peak body for public and not-for-profit hospitals, community and primary healthcare services, and advocates for universal, high quality and affordable healthcare to benefit the whole community.

NACCHO Chair Matthew Cooke said the agreement would harness the strengths of both organisations to reverse the appalling differences between the health of Aboriginal people and other Australians.

"We are making inroads into closing the gap in some areas of Aboriginal health, but Aboriginal people still have a life expectancy 10 years less than non-Aboriginal people," Mr Cooke said.

"Aboriginal teenagers are five times more likely to take their own lives than other Australians. Our communities also have higher rates of chronic disease, cancer, smoking and alcohol use.

"I am looking forward to this agreement leading to real collaboration between our members, public hospital professionals and Primary Health Networks."

AHHA Chief Executive Alison Verhoeven said the agreement would bring together the experiences of health service providers who work in the public and not-for-profit health sector across Australia and local Aboriginal controlled health organisations working in local communities.

"Through this agreement we can be a more effective united voice in speaking out together to improve the design and delivery of health services to Aboriginal people," she said.

"This agreement strives for a whole-of-sector approach to better link primary, community,

**"I am looking forward to this agreement leading to real collaboration between our members, public hospital professionals and Primary Health Networks."**

**– NACCHO Chair Matthew Cooke**

aged and acute care with the valuable work of the Aboriginal community controlled sector to improve the health of Aboriginal peoples. We will also be exploring new opportunities for collaboration through our research arm the Deeble Institute for Health Policy.

"This is an exciting partnership that I'm confident will come up with some visionary approaches to Aboriginal health care."

## AHHA Supports Close the Gap Day

The AHHA says it is proud to support organisations that work to close the gap. It recently signed an agreement with NACCHO which has brought together the experiences of health service providers that work in the public and not-for-profit health sector across Australia and local Aboriginal controlled health organisations working in local communities.

Through this agreement, AHHA says both groups can be a more effective united voice in speaking together to improve health services for Aboriginal peoples.

AHHA urged health leaders and organisations around the country to pledge their commitment to work with community leaders to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health on Close the Gap Day 2016.

"Close the Gap Day is a reminder for the entire healthcare sector about how far we still have to go to remove health inequalities between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and other Australians," AHHA Acting Chief Executive



Chairpersons Dr Paul Dugdale (AHHA) and Matthew Cooke (NACCHO) signing the national agreement.

Dr Linc Thurecht said.

"To close the gap by the original target date of 2030 is ambitious but remains achievable. There have been improvements in some areas of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health since the campaign was launched in 2006, but these gains must be built on every year. Meeting many of the Close the Gap targets remains a significant challenge."

The AHHA urges health leaders and governments to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to ensure all initiatives to improve health equality are best practice, well targeted and culturally appropriate.

"It is essential to remind the Commonwealth, state and territory governments that closing

the gap must remain a national priority," Dr Thurecht said.

Improving chronic disease and primary care outcomes among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people needs to be among the top priorities for the immediate future, Close the Gap Co-chair Mick Gooda told AHHA in the February edition of its bi-monthly magazine *The Health Advocate*, which was themed around Close the Gap initiatives.

Dr Thurecht said: "The key to improving chronic disease outcomes is to increase rates of early detection and treatment. This involves not only increasing awareness and health literacy among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, but also ensuring they have access to quality health services.

"Let's support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in improving on the health gains made in the past 10 years to ensure any Australian, no matter their background, can enjoy the same expectations of a long and healthy life."

## Need for change

The latest Issues Brief from the AHHA Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research Summer Scholarship Program has outlined the need for institutional change in hospitals to reduce rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients discharging against medical advice (DAMA).

The Issues Brief, an evidence-based approach to reducing discharge against medical advice amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients by Summer Scholar Caitlin Shaw, from James Cook University, explored the causes of higher rates of DAMA among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly in rural and remote areas.

It found the current high levels of DAMA suggested acute care settings such as hospitals are not effectively addressing the concerns of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients in order to keep them engaged in care for the duration of their treatment.

The literature review found a number of contributory factors associated with DAMA among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Significant factors included a lack of cultural safety, a distrust of the health system, institutionalised racism, miscommunication, family and social obligations, and isolation and loneliness.

**"Through this agreement we can be a more effective united voice in speaking out together to improve the design and delivery of health services to Aboriginal people." – AHHA Chief Executive Alison Verhoeven**





# Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and the consequences of alcohol consumption in pregnancy

**H**IGH rates of alcohol consumption have been reported in both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population.

Aboriginal women are more likely than non-Aboriginal women to consume alcohol in pregnancy at harmful levels.

Australian research indicates that maternal alcohol use is a significant risk factor for stillbirths, infant mortality and intellectual disability in children, particularly in the Aboriginal population.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is an umbrella term used for a spectrum of conditions caused by fetal alcohol exposure. Each condition and its diagnosis is based on the presentation of characteristic features which are unique to the individual and may be physical, developmental and/or neurobehavioral.

Health professionals asking and advising all women of child-bearing age about the consequences of alcohol consumption in pregnancy is an essential strategy in preventing FASD.

Based on this evidence, NACCHO, in partnership with Menzies School of Health Research and the Telethon Kids Institute, has developed and implemented a flexible, modular package of FASD Prevention and Health Promotion Resources (FPHPR) to reduce the impacts of FASD on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

The package has been designed for the 85 New Directions: Mothers and Babies Services (NDMBS) across the country which are made up of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHOs), State and Territory



Facilitator Dr Jason Agostino with participants at the FASD workshop held recently in Darwin.

government bodies and Primary Health Networks (PHNs).

The package of resources is based on the model developed by the Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service (OVAHS) which includes FASD education modules targeting five key groups:

- Pregnant women who are using NDMB antenatal

services, and their partners and families;

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women of childbearing age;

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander grandmothers;

- NDMBS staff; and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men.

To compliment the package of resources,

two-day capacity building workshops for NDMBS staff are currently being implemented across the country. The aim is to enable health professionals to develop, implement and evaluate community-driven strategies to reduce the impact of FASD in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Addressing other health behaviours such as tobacco smoking and other drug use in pregnancy is also covered as part of the training.

The interactive workshops focus on a broad range of skill development, ranging from community engagement strategies to one-on-one brief intervention and motivational interviewing techniques.

Participants are also introduced to a range of screening tools to assess drinking alcohol, tobacco

smoking and other drug use in pregnancy and how to use them effectively. The importance of data collection, continuous quality improvement (CQI) and monitoring and evaluation is also covered.

The first workshop was held recently in Darwin with great success. Participants gained valuable knowledge on the issue of FASD and the importance of developing practical, whole-of-community approaches to prevent it.

The project team will now move to Queensland this month to deliver the second workshop followed by other States and Territories across the country.

For further information about the FASD Prevention and Health Promotion Resources Project, contact Bridie Kenna on (02) 6246 9310 or [bridie.kenna@naccho.org.au](mailto:bridie.kenna@naccho.org.au)

# Norm has a scheme to help him manage his diabetes

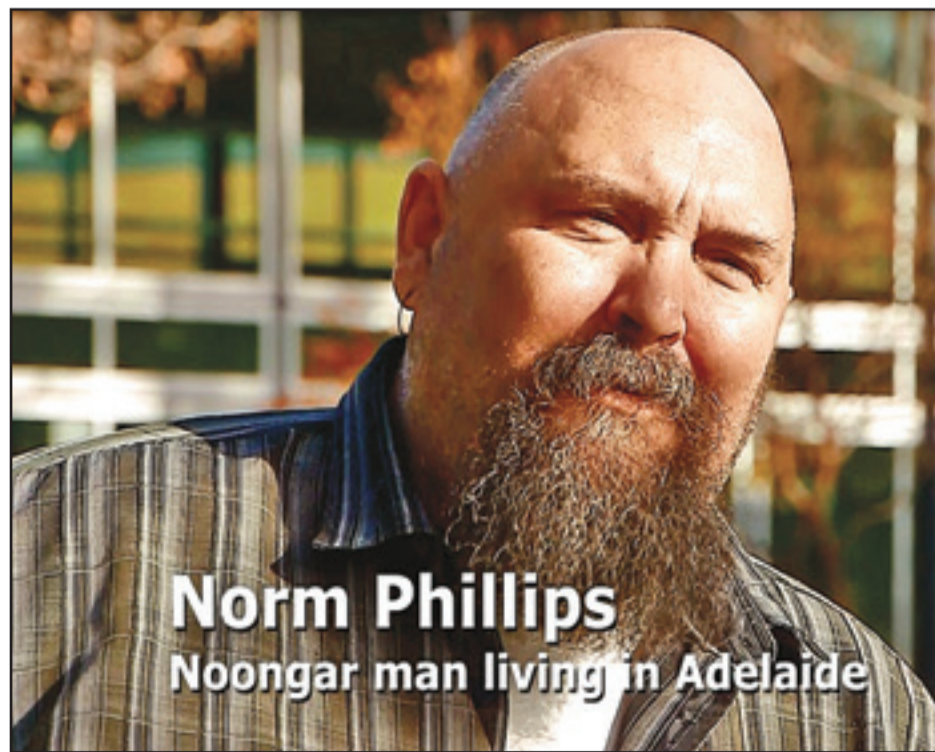
**W**HEN type 2 diabetes was first suggested to Norm Phillips as the cause of his dizziness, he found it hard to believe. For a while he was in denial, until a blood glucose test confirmed it. A series of serious and life-changing events, including a motorbike accident and cancer diagnosis, made it difficult for Norm to get into any sort of routine to manage his diabetes. After suffering a stroke, he decided he needed to focus on his diabetes, especially because it was one aspect of his health he could control.

Norm is now monitoring his diet and slowly losing weight in an effort to improve his blood glucose levels. He's determined not to let his diabetes stop him from doing the things he enjoys and urges others in a similar situation not to be ashamed of their condition, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Rates of diabetes among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are estimated to be three times higher than for other Australians.

"The blood glucose test they do for diabetes is easy. It can be hard to change your lifestyle but with diabetes, it's better to do something sooner rather than later," Norm said.

Norm's doctor helped him sign up to the National Diabetes Services Scheme\* (NDSS) when he was diagnosed, which gave him access to test strips, syringes



Norm Phillips  
Noongar man living in Adelaide

and pen needles at much lower prices.

Norm says that more education is needed so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities know about the benefits of the NDSS and the range of support services it provides for people with diabetes.

As the NDSS support services are targeted in areas with the highest number of registrations, people who register are helping ensure others in their community can get the support they need.

In his regular men's group meetings,

Norm says the guys were surprised to hear that his stroke was most likely caused by diabetes.

"They were shocked when they found out I had diabetes, and that it may have caused my stroke. I think we find it hard to relate to diabetes until we see someone who is directly affected by it."

Diabetes educator Michael Porter talks to Norm's men's group about health issues every few months. He often encourages men at the group to get tested, and if they have diabetes, to register for the NDSS.

"Joining the NDSS can help fight diabetes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities," he says.

"Anyone with diabetes can sign-up and get access to free and discounted products to help them live well with diabetes.

"The NDSS card also gives people access to education sessions and support groups, which can really help them make changes to get their health back on track.

"If we know there are a large number of people in an area with diabetes, then we can make sure to provide more support and education services in that area. The NDSS helps us to know where services are most needed."

\*The National Diabetes Scheme is an initiative of the Australian Government administered by Diabetes Australia.



# Vulnerable communities must lead own recovery

By Dr Tom Calma AO and Professor Pat Dudgeon

THE recent terrible news that a 10-year-old Aboriginal girl had taken her own life shook many Australians. Yet there would be few Aboriginal families who have not already been affected by the suicide or attempted suicide of their young people. This includes our own extended families and kin.

Our families have suffered the losses of a loved 14-year-old girl and two equally loved young men who were employed and content. All tragic and unexplained losses that have left those grieving feeling hollow and bewildered.

The deaths by suicide of our young people then are not isolated events. The latest statistics show that our 15-24 year olds are dying by suicide at four times the non-Indigenous rate; and our one-14 year olds at nine times the non-Indigenous rate.

Colonisation still impacts upon us. Our young people and children are not immune from the deep and persistent disadvantage, or poverty and social exclusion, that the Productivity Commission reports still characterises about one in 10 Indigenous Australians.

What this means is stressful life events impact on our mental health – be they violence, racism, long term unemployment or poor health. High levels of psychological distress are reported in over one in four of us, three times higher than the non-Indigenous rate. Another contributing factor is the use and abuse of drugs and alcohol. Ice is just the latest community- and family-destroying scourge.

Trauma, including intergenerational trauma, is also a major issue, particularly (but not only) for Stolen Generations survivors and their descendants. This group reports higher rates of mental illness and alcohol and other drug problems than Aboriginal people who weren't removed from their families, communities and cultures.

This belies the kneejerk response of removing children from families in crisis, rather than working with their families. While removal is necessary in extreme cases, it should always be seen as a last resort.

We need to break the inter-generational cycles of despair and dysfunction, not accelerate them.

In fact, to those calling for another Stolen Generation – well, we already have one. Thousands of our children are today involved in child protection services, at a rate eight times higher than non-Indigenous children.

And despite the care and commitment of services and those involved in fostering, there are risks for all children, black or white, involved. This includes 'broken placements' and institutionalisation, and increased rates of mental health issues, contact with the criminal justice system, substance use and abuse, and homelessness later in life.

For our children in particular,

risks associated with compromising strong Aboriginal identity-formation and the breaking of cultural transmission are well-documented.

And removing a child can also exacerbate existing factors, or itself be a suicide risk, as was reported in the case of the girl who died recently.

What we have then is a concentration of suicide risk factors in many of our communities, with our children and young people in the front line. Yet for some, the response is to close down these communities: put them in the 'too hard' basket. But this is lazy policy that will cause as much harm as it might prevent.

So we are all asking: what can be done?

**More forced social engineering is not the answer.**

Aboriginal people have already experienced the trauma of communities being closed down. Historically, peoples with different cultures and languages were forced to live together under the control of missionaries and governments. This is one of the roots of the crises in many communities today.

And where will the people from the closed down communities go? Is it better that they end up homeless in towns that shun them, and live in camps where violence, sexual abuse and alcohol and drug use are just as problematic?

More forced social engineering is the last thing the members of these communities need. People advocating community closures need to ask themselves: what will be the effects be of removing them from sustaining and wellbeing-supporting contact with kin, culture and country? Yes, there are challenges in many communities, but let's also acknowledge that there are cultural and other strengths that can be built on, and that could be lost in closures.

**Stop seeing Indigenous communities as a drain on the public purse.**

Instead of responding after the event to crisis after crisis, let's be proactive and preventative in our focus. Let's think about investing in these communities, rather than seeing them as a drain on the public purse.

In particular, where are the services, including mental health and drug and alcohol services, to meet the needs of these communities? As the National Mental Health Commission reported in its 2015 review, despite much good work in recent decades, on a needs-basis there are still significant mental health and other service gaps. This includes services to support our families and communities in crisis situations, and to support them before they get into such situations.

The National Mental Health Commission recommended to Government that there was a Closing the Gap target for improved Indigenous mental health, and a national target to reduce suicide by 50% in a



Dr Tom Calma

decade – including a 50% reduction in suicide among Indigenous Australians. Further, that an Indigenous mental health action plan be developed. However, there has been no take-up at this time.

**Vulnerable communities must lead their own recovery.**

There are alternative ways to respond to child suicide in our communities without removing children from families or closing communities, but it requires resources and placing communities in the driver's seat.

Most broadly, 'upstream' activity to mitigate the impact of disadvantage and the associated suicide risk factors is required. Here vulnerable communities must take the lead in identifying their needs, be it addressing community safety, unemployment or alcohol and drug use. And, yes, it might include whole-of-community responses to preventing child sexual abuse.

**Developmental factors and culturally-informed norms are crucial.**

It might also include building on protective culturally-informed norms (including familial norms) and other cultural reclamation work that has been shown to be protective against youth suicide in indigenous Canadian communities, and that we



Professor Pat Dudgeon

believe has an important role to play here.

In particular, addressing the developmental factors that can predispose our children and young people to suicide is critical. Protecting them from sexual abuse is important, but sexual abuse is not the only cause of suicide among our children and young people. Among some, impulsiveness and overwrought responses to the end of a relationship have been reported as being enough to lead to suicide.

In fact, a comprehensive response might include addressing healthy cognitive development from conception onwards, providing age and culturally appropriate school programs about relationship issues and how to handle break-ups, and promoting cannabis and other drug use reduction. It should involve strategies to reduce the contact of our young people with the criminal justice system including by addressing boredom and increasing employment opportunities.

Communities themselves are also best placed to develop situational analyses to support more focused universal suicide prevention activity, including by identifying specifically suicidal behaviours and suicide risk factors among their members – and appropriate responses.

**Access to the same support as all Australians at risk.**

Our communities must also have access to the same high quality clinical standards, treatments and support available to all Australians at risk of suicide. Critical in this is access to culturally safe mental health service environments, and culturally competent staff (who are able to work effectively, cross-culturally with us). We should also have access to cultural healers as needed. Effective transitions from community-based primary mental health settings to specialist treatment and then back again to community primary mental health care settings are also important.

**After a suicide, postvention is critical.**

Because many of our communities are small and close-knit, a death by suicide can have a significant destabilising impact and may influence other community members to attempt suicide or self harm. As such, when culturally appropriate and with social support as required, postvention is an important suicide prevention measure in our communities. Programs that respond to suicide, such as the one currently piloted in WA by the Australian Government, are a welcome example of this.

And with many responsibilities for suicide prevention being devolved to the primary health networks, it is critical that these partner with our communities in suicide prevention. This is particularly so in relation to the implementation of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy for which \$17.8 million has been pledged by the Australian Government, and that has been entrusted to them.

Sustainable outcomes in the longer term require empowering and meaningfully engaging with Indigenous families and communities including those in crisis situations.

But this is best done long before they reach the terrible point of losing yet another child to suicide.

● If you need help, call Lifeline on 13 11 14.



## Save the Date

Coming Together for a Greater Tomorrow:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
Suicide Prevention  
Conference

5 - 6 May 2016

Alice Springs Convention Centre NT

Registration and accommodation bookings are available at  
<http://www.atsispep.sis.uwa.edu.au/natsispc-2016>

There are a limited number of bursaries available – please contact Chrissie Easton at [chrissie.easton@uwa.edu.au](mailto:chrissie.easton@uwa.edu.au) if you need assistance to complete the application.



# How traditional tool-making is changing minds – and lives – for healthy futures

By Bridie Walsh, for CASSE\*

**M**EN from the Central Desert say connection to culture is the solution to violence and substance abuse and a unique program, the Men's Tjilirra Movement, run by CASSE (Creating a Safe and Supportive Environment) is supporting men to create their own path out.

Tjilirra is the Pintupi word for traditional tools such as boomerangs, spears and shields. During each Men's Tjilirra Movement (MTM) gathering, where Elders pass on the methods for making tjilirra, the men challenge each other to think about and resolve difficult social issues faced in community.

"It's about being strong," says Ngangkari Aboriginal mental health worker Martin Jugadai. He works across Haasts Bluff, Papunya, Mt Liebig and Kintore.

"When you lose culture you become a different person, a worse person," he says.

This sentiment is echoed by the senior men involved in the Men's Tjilirra Movement. They universally agree that the only way to interrupt cycles of disadvantage and violence is to reconnect to traditional culture, dreaming and story. They identify marijuana use as an increasing issue.

A young Luritja man from Mt Liebig says: "We want to get the Stolen Generation ('s knowledge) right back. I see lots of young fellas smoking dope, some young fellas will fight when they run out of dope. They think marijuana is good but they lose their culture with dope," he said.

Since its formal inception in March 2015, the Men's Tjilirra Movement has engaged 350 men across Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff), Watiyawanu (Mt Liebig), Walungurru (Kintore), Kiwirrkurra and Warumpi (Papunya) and Alice Springs.

"This program points out the strengths of culture as paths for people to strengthen and heal," says MTM program manager Jamie Tjupurulla Millier. He runs this unique mental health program for psychoanalytic organisation CASSE alongside Martin Jugadai and Aboriginal language interpreter Nathan Brown.

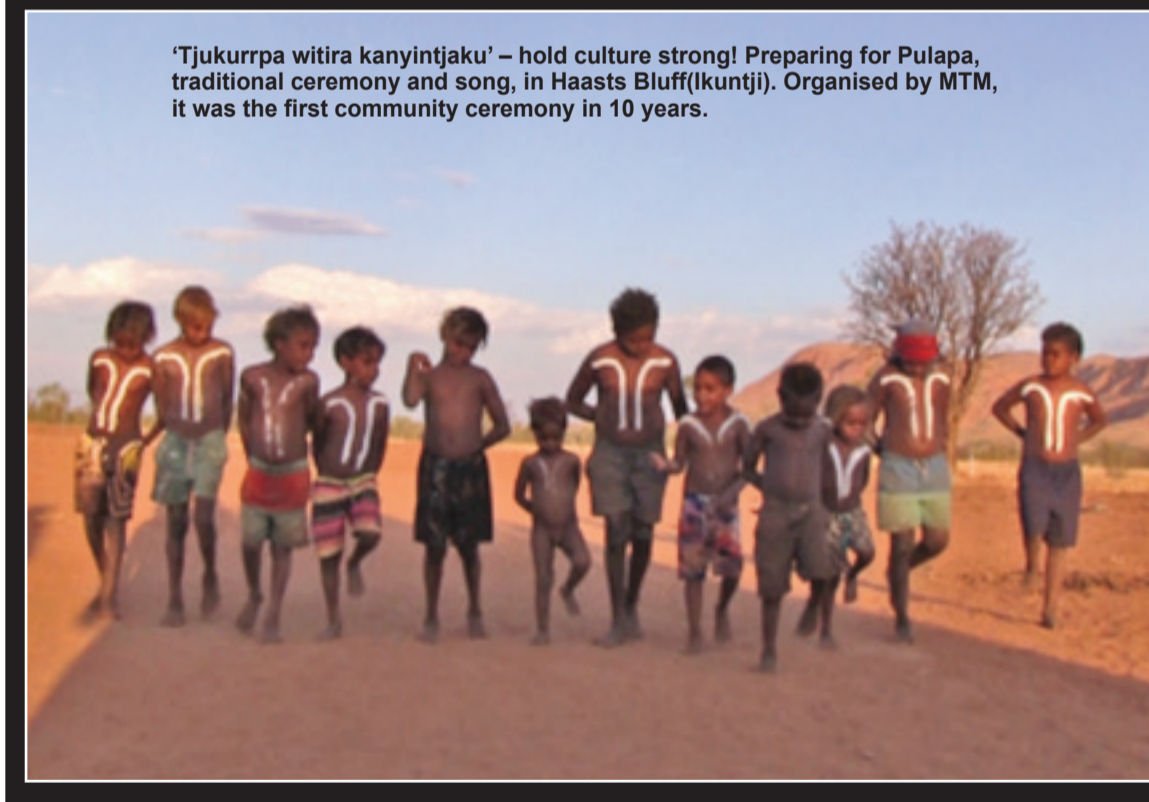
Millier overcame his own substance-abuse issues learning the art of traditional tool making from Ngangkari Elder B Whiskey. He can't pinpoint the moment of recovery, but four years of sitting at Whiskey's feet, hearing his story and dreaming and being heard led him out of a decade of drug use that started with the gateway drugs – cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana – and culminated with intravenous use of amphetamines and repeated trouble with the police.

Meanwhile, Jugadai was addressing his own battle with alcohol. He now drinks much less.



**Drawing the line: Martin Jugadai and Bundi draw in the sand to explain the importance of culture, country and tradition, and living in two worlds.**

**'Tjukurrpa witira kanyintjaku' – hold culture strong! Preparing for Pulapa, traditional ceremony and song, in Haasts Bluff(Ikuntji). Organised by MTM, it was the first community ceremony in 10 years.**



He attributes this to his journey in mental health education, better understanding and finding strength in culture.

"I was making boomerangs and spears, by myself, and sometimes with my brother," says Jugadai.

"Jamie was here (in Mt Liebig) then and was also making traditional tools."

Martin had the idea for the young and old men to get together and focus on mental health. Millier, Jugadai and mental health nurse David Beverage discussed the idea for a number of years then began discussions with CASSE, and Men's Tjilirra Movement (MTM) is the result.

During this time, Millier

continued to encourage youth to get more involved in traditional tool making.

"It takes the therapy room out into the bush," explains CASSE Director Pamela Nathan, a clinical and forensic psychologist and psychoanalytic psychotherapist whose work with Aboriginal communities spans 35 years.

CASSE provides a psychological framework and monitoring and evaluation to ensure the ongoing and sustainable success of the program, in collaboration with Remote Jobs Community Program (RJCP) supported by the Royal Flying Doctors Service.

Typical psychological therapy

involves telling your story, being acknowledged for the suffering, hurt and pain you have experienced and taking on a new perspective – a new way of thinking – for healing to come.

Nathan describes the Men's Tjilirra Movement as a safe place to talk in the presence of another sitting with the tjilpi (old men) where therapy happens.

Tjilirra has a significant role to play.

"Tjilirra have been confiscated under Western law as weapons," she explains. "Yet they are the traditional tools of ancient ceremony, Aboriginal Dreamtime and law. They are instruments of cultural identity, cultural

continuity and belonging."

Jugadai explains the confusing effect of lost identity. "Stay with culture you'll be right, but if you go too far down the whitefella side you'll lose yourself," he says.

He describes the doubt and confusion that can set in: "(People start asking) 'Where's my country? Where's my culture?'"

By reconnecting to culture, men are reclaiming their identity and pride.

Some men are calling for more camps, and time learning culture, practising law and ceremony; and others have identified the economic opportunity of selling tjilirra to secure work for the future.

"I've not seen anything remotely close to the openness that men show in (the MTM) space," says Brown, who works closely with Millier and Jugadai as an interpreter to help foster dialogue.

"Men openly challenge themselves and talk about issues that are really difficult to deal with," he says. "They focus on how to stop and reduce the behaviours that rob people of a better quality of life."

"Rates of substance abuse, domestic violence and suicide are far higher in Aboriginal communities. It's on a different planet than mainstream world and largely related to cultural dispossession, and not knowing who they are."

One particularly worrying statistic is the rate of Aboriginal incarceration, especially in the Northern Territory with Indigenous representation reported as high as 84%.

"Where men were the leaders, protectors and providers of the family, they are now being taken out of the picture," says Millier.

Cultural dispossession has torn down the cornerstones of Aboriginal mental wellbeing – identity, culture and belonging. However, the Men's Tjilirra Movement intends to play its part in making culture and men strong, creating a safe space for men to talk through what matters and support Aboriginal determination.

The pride in being Aboriginal is powerfully transformative. As one young Aboriginal man speaking for many said: "I felt happy and my spirit was great and strong."

For more information about the Men's Tjilirra Movement and CASSE Australia, visit [www.casse.org.au](http://www.casse.org.au)

*\*CASSE is an organisation of dedicated psychological professionals who work with people and communities at their most vulnerable. The primary goal is to support and think together about how to develop secure relations and psychological wellbeing for today and the future. CASSE says that by changing minds it is saving lives. It is this simple vision that guides its work every day. – [www.casse.org.au](http://www.casse.org.au)*



# Fred Hollows Foundation commissions NACCHO for National ACCHO Sector Report on Eye Health Service Delivery

IN December 2015, the Fred Hollows Foundation commissioned NACCHO to prepare a National ACCHO Sector Report on Eye Health Service Delivery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Vision loss is 11% of the Indigenous health gap. There is 20 times the rate of blindness in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander than in the non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. About 35% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have never had an eye exam and 39% are unable to see normal print. About 94% of this vision loss is preventable or treatable.

The report will be both a desktop and in-field study and will include case studies to illustrate the diverse service models and innovations in Eye Health Service Delivery.

In addition to collecting data on eye health provision in the sector, NACCHO has visited different locations around Australia in order to showcase the various different models of delivery of eye health to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

There are a wide range of successful models targeting different geographical areas and eye problems around the country.

In Queensland, the Indigenous Diabetes Eyes and Screening (IDEAS) Van drives 5000km around the state every month



The Indigenous Diabetes Eyes and Screening (IDEAS) Van on the road in Queensland.

focusing on treating patients with diabetic retinopathy. Diabetic retinopathy can affect the eyes of diabetics and is caused by damage to the blood vessels of the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye (retina). At first it can show no symptoms, but eventually can cause blindness.

The IDEAS Van is a semi-trailer that contains a fully-equipped ophthalmology and optometry specialist treatment centre.

The van has provided retinal screening cameras to 35 different Aboriginal Medical Services around the state and health workers at these Services have been trained to take the images of patients' eyes with the camera. These are then sent to ophthalmologists in major centres

to determine if diabetic retinopathy is present beforehand.

When the IDEAS Van and the optometrists and ophthalmologists then visit that Service, they can treat the patients who they already know have diabetic retinopathy.

## Well designed

The Van visits some of the remotest places in Queensland every month and has been well designed to ensure that corrugations on dirt roads don't damage any of the sensitive equipment on board.

More than half of low vision amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is caused by refractive error. This can easily be corrected with spectacles, but they are not always available at an affordable price.

While all state governments provide a low- or no-cost spectacles service to low-income patients, the Victorian Aboriginal Spectacles Subsidy Scheme provides spectacles for as little as \$10 to all Aboriginal patients, regardless of whether they hold a pension card or health care card. The frames were selected with input from community Elders and the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, and are available at most Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in Victoria and some private practitioners.

This has been successful since 2009, and there are now very few patients who haven't previously seen an optometrist when compared with when the service began.

Winnunga Nimmitjiah

Aboriginal Health Service, in Canberra, has implemented eye screening as a minimum for all patients with diabetes.

Winnunga's General Practitioner, Dr Nadeem Siddiqui, uses a slit lamp purchased with the assistance of ACT Health to examine patients' eyes. The slit lamp exam provides a magnified, three-dimensional view of the different parts of the eye. This enables the examining doctor to look at the cornea, lens, iris and vitreous humour.

The patient places his or her head against a frame and the chin in a rest while the examiner looks through a powerful microscope at each eye. This lamp is able to detect suspected cataracts, macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and refraction.

Dr Siddiqui can then refer the patient to an optometrist or ophthalmologist for early intervention and treatment.

Dr Siddiqui says that the model of shared care they have with Canberra Hospital works well, although he would like to see a higher priority given to eye surgery for Aboriginal patients.

The report will contain more details on these and other unique eye health delivery models in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector, including lessons learned from each of them and where gaps exist in the provision of eye care in the sector.

## Apunipima Council welcomes new Eye Health Coordinator

NOEL Rofe has a vision for all people to have the best eye health care in remote Cape York.

Mr Rofe is Apunipima Cape York Health Council's new Eye Health Coordinator and will coordinate the eye health program from Yarrabah to Mapoon.

With 13 years of experience in the health industry and more than a decade of that time specialising in eye health, Mr Rofe is passionate about eyes.

"You need to look after your eyes because you can't go and buy another pair from the shop," he said.

"People can look after their eyes and protect them by wearing sunglasses when they are outside."

Refractive error would be the most common issue with people's eyes, and are usually corrected by wearing glasses (myopia – near sightedness, and Hyperopia – far sightedness, are just two of many). Pterygiums, a slow growth that develops on the white part of the eye, and cataracts are the main

**"Good eye health is important and that's why we actively visit communities and ensure everyone is looking after their health as best they can because eye health is part of the wider picture when it comes to chronic disease."**

**– Eye Health Coordinator Noel Rofe**



problems that people present with in the community.

Most eye treatment can be conducted in the patient's community. Eye surgery can be done in Weipa where necessary so people do not need to leave the Cape.

Mr Rofe will be instrumental in

coordinating eye clinics and mentoring to drive home the message that prevention of eye health is the key for good eyesight.

He said about one in five people between the ages of 25 and 40 has some sort of eye health issue in Cape York.

Mr Rofe travels to 13 communities with an optometrist and ophthalmologist as part of a wider team to carry out eye health screenings.

"Eye health technology can allow us to intervene before such things like diabetes, cataracts and other associated eye problems cause blindness," he said.

"Instead of watching the world go by, someone's life can be changed through good eye care and healthy lifestyle habits.

"Good eye health is important and that's why we actively visit communities and ensure everyone is looking after their health as best they can because eye health is part of the wider picture when it comes to chronic disease."

Poorly controlled diabetes has the potential to cause vision loss and ultimately, blindness. Early detection, timely treatment and appropriate follow-up care of eye disease can protect against vision loss.



# Qld sets sights on ear health

**A**N initiative aimed at tackling ear disease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Queensland has been launched by the State Government.

The Deadly Kids, Deadly Futures – Queensland’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Ear and Hearing Health Framework 2016-26 targets the high rate of middle-ear disease in Indigenous children.

Health and Ambulance Services Minister Cameron Dick said middle-ear disease affected many Indigenous children.

“Australia has one of the highest recorded rates of middle-ear disease in the world for its First Nations peoples,” he said.

“If left untreated, the hearing loss associated with middle-ear disease impacts on health, educational outcomes and contributes to long-term social disadvantage.

### “Best opportunity”

“We want to make sure every child is afforded the best opportunity to listen, learn and reach their full potential.

“Through this initiative we aim to upskill doctors and nurses, provide training for teachers across Queensland and strengthen relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders health services and communities.”

Queensland Education Minister Kate Jones said that while considerable improvements had been made in Indigenous ear health, more work needed to be done to close the gap by 2030.



At the launch of the initiative, from left, ear, nose and throat surgeon Dr Kelvin Kong, Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council chair Lizzie Adams, Deadly Ears Program director Matthew Brown, academic Professor Cindy Shannon, Queensland Health Minister Cameron Dick and Department of Education and Training assistant director-general Selwyn Button.

“The implementation of this framework is a vital step towards achieving the health, early childhood development and education Closing the Gap targets,” she said.

Deadly Ears program director Matthew Brown said that since launching the

statewide service, the team had conducted more than 12,200 assessments of children at clinics and provided ear-health training to more than 1000 local service providers across Queensland.

“We are delighted to continue this important work under the new framework.

We’ve made good progress but more needs to be done,” he said. “Our key priorities include prioritising health promotion and prevention and implementing effective early intervention approaches to break the cycle of the disease as early and as soon as possible.”

# Culturally appropriate end-of-life care for Indigenous Australians

**P**ALLIATIVE care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people needs to be delivered with cultural awareness and respect, says Palliative Care Australia (PCA) CEO Liz Callaghan.

Ms Callaghan says quality palliative care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people occurred in some parts of the country, where services have worked with the community organisations to develop appropriate models of care, but there are many parts of Australia where this is not the case.

“Palliative care, like the rest of the health system, is not one-size-fits-all. It should recognise the individual and that includes acknowledging the needs of an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander person,” she said.

“For many Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, returning to country to die is important, as is telling the story of their life.”

Ms Callaghan says the Implementation Plan for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023 was significant.

“This plan takes forward the vision for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023 but the focus for palliative care is limited to older Aboriginal and Torres Strait



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should have access to culturally appropriate care at the end of life. Image: Regien Paassen/Shutterstock.com

Islander people, their families and carers. There are no key performance indicators for palliative care,” she said.

“While some aspects of palliative care are recognised in the Health Plan, we would like to see measurable goals put in

place to drive change where it is needed.”

According to Ms Callaghan, the latest Close the Gap report

shows improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but there is still some way to go.

“This is reflected in palliative care,” she said.

“While the report does not examine palliative care, we know anecdotally that culturally appropriate care is not done well everywhere in Australia. Some parts of the county offer exceptional levels of care, but we need to see that good work spread.

“Culturally inappropriate care at the end of life can cause unnecessary suffering and distress for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, their families and communities.”

Ms Callaghan says it is important that non-Indigenous health-care workers develop culturally safe practices through education, ongoing training and appropriate engagement with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

“Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have one or multiple chronic illnesses, particularly as they age.

“These people should have access to culturally appropriate care at the end of life that will help them to manage the symptoms of their illness so they can continue to live their lives well,” Ms Callaghan said.



## CERVICAL CANCER

**You can prevent cervical cancer.**

Cervical cancer screening, also known as a Pap smear test, can pick up early warning signs which can be treated before cervical cancer develops.

### 1 Who should have a Pap smear test?

If you are over 18 and have ever had sex you should have regular Pap smear tests every 2 years.

### 2 Who should have a Human Papillomavirus vaccine? (HPV)

A HPV vaccine which can help prevent cervical cancer is available through the school vaccination program for girls and boys aged 12-13.

### KNOW YOUR BODY.

It is important to know your own body. Have you noticed:

- unusual bleeding
- unusual discharge
- pain

If you have, then don't feel shame; see a doctor or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker as soon as possible.



# Yarning scheme for better cancer outcomes in Indigenous Women

**O**N Close the Gap Day, Cancer Australia released a Community Education Resource to support the delivery of Women's Business workshops to improve gynaecological and breast cancer outcomes for Indigenous women.

While Australians experience some of the best cancer survival rates in the world, Indigenous Australians continue to experience significantly poorer outcomes.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer and the second leading cause of death in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. Indigenous women are also almost 70% more likely to be diagnosed with gynaecological cancers than non-Indigenous Women.

Cancer Australia CEO Professor Helen Zorbas explained: "Indigenous women are less likely to participate in screening programs and are more likely to be diagnosed with cancer that has progressed to an advanced stage compared with non-Indigenous Australians."

"It is important that we work with the Indigenous community to address this disparity in outcomes through improved knowledge and raised awareness of cancer."

"It is our hope that by taking this knowledge directly to Indigenous communities we can improve cancer outcomes for Indigenous Australians."

The Women's Business workshops use yarning – face-to-face storytelling – to increase understanding of the risk factors and symptoms of breast and gynaecological cancers and promote the importance of breast screening, cervical screening and HPV vaccinations.

The workshops also aim to break down barriers and misconceptions like shame and

## Workshops to be held nationwide

guilt about breast and gynaecological cancers, encouraging women to actively take part in the prevention and detection of cancer.

Participants will leave the workshop with the positive message that they can make lifestyle changes to reduce their cancer risk; no one knows their body like they do; they can find cancer early and survive; and it's important that they share what they have learnt with their family and friends.

Up to 30 Women's Business workshops will be delivered across all states and territories in Australia in partnership with a peak community controlled health organisation the Aboriginal Health Council South Australia.

Health professionals who wish to run their own workshops can order printed copies or download the Women's Business Community Education Resource from Cancer Australia's website.

The resource includes presenter resources to organise and facilitate the workshop and health education materials for attendees. Visit: [www.canceraustralia.gov.au/affected-cancer/ATSI](http://www.canceraustralia.gov.au/affected-cancer/ATSI).

## THE INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S HEALTH YARNING PLACE ON THE AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS HEALTHINFO NET IS NOW LIVE!



The Women's Health Yarning Place has been developed by Edith Cowan University's Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet in partnership with the Monash Centre for Health Research and Innovation (MCHRI), Monash University supported by funding from the Potter Foundation. The free on line yarning place will facilitate closer connection for those working across the country in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's health in a variety of settings including health promotion, clinical care, health research and policy. It provides a space to share stories, successes and learnings.

We currently have 42 members and are aiming for 100 by this June. We would love this to be a great national network that enables lots of sharing and talking so please join up, forward to your friends, 'like' the Women's Health yarning place and start sharing your stories at <http://yarning.org.au>

### PCOS APP

Are you over 18 years of age with a confirmed diagnosis of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS)? Are you interested in technology and how it can be used to help women with PCOS manage their health? If so, we need your help!

The Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation is developing a mobile phone application for women with PCOS. In order to create the best app we possibly we can, we need your opinions and feedback. We have created a short, 10 minute survey on technology and healthcare apps, and will use this information to design an app that best suits the needs of women with PCOS. All survey responses are anonymous, and everyone who finishes the survey will have the opportunity to go into the draw to win a \$100 Coles Myer Gift card!



For more information and to fill out the survey, use the link below [www.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?BF9BF7EFBCF8E9EEBF](http://www.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?BF9BF7EFBCF8E9EEBF)

### How can I get to know the normal look and feel of my breasts?

You don't need to be an expert or know a special way to check your breasts. You can do this as part of everyday activities such as dressing, looking in the mirror, or showering.

All women should do this regularly; daughters, mothers, aunts and grandmothers.

### What changes should I look out for?

There are a number of changes you should look out for:

- A new lump or lumpiness
- A change in the size or shape of your breast
- A change in the nipple
- Discharge from the nipple
- Any unusual pain
- A change in the skin of your breast

### What should I do if I find a change?

Most breast changes are NOT due to cancer. If you find a change in your breast that is new or usual for you, visit your local health centre without delay.

### Where do I go to have a breast screen?

BreastScreen Australia provides free breast screening for women 50-74 years and has services in all states and territories. To find out more call 13 20 50.

**FIND IT EARLY AND SURVIVE.**



[canceraustralia.gov.au](http://canceraustralia.gov.au)  
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LBB 9/16



# NACCHO Ochre Day in Perth this September

NACCHO is pleased to announce this year's annual NACCHO Ochre Day will be held in Perth during September.

This year the activities will be run by the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) in partnership with both the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia (AHCWA) and Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service Inc.

Beginning in 2013, Ochre Day is an important NACCHO Aboriginal male health initiative.

As Aboriginal males have arguably the worst health outcomes of any population group in Australia, NACCHO has long recognised the importance of addressing Aboriginal male health as part of Close the Gap by 2030.

NACCHO welcomed over 180 delegates to all of the activities held in Adelaide as part of last year's Ochre Day. This included, for the first time, the registration and 'Ochre Day hoodies' presentation night, and the traditional NACCHO Ochre Day male-only breakfast, held last year at Adelaide Oval, which was followed by a short walk to the South Australian Indigenous War Memorial to allow for all delegates to pay their respects.

This was then followed by a walk under police escort through the main street of Adelaide (King William St) to Victoria Square – known as Tarndanyangga to the Kurna people – where speeches, presentations and lunch were held.

With the drug 'ice' being the focus of the male-only workshop held on day two, the discussions included how health workers have been trying to work with their communities in attempting to come up with what is the best approach in dealing with this issue. Delegates were also willing to share their personal stories on how 'ice' was becoming an issue within their own families.

There was a change to the program last year, with the NACCHO Ochre Day Jaydon Adams Memorial Oration Dinner held on the final night at the Port Power Football Club in Alberton (Adelaide).

Everyone was warmly Welcomed to Country by Uncle Lewis O'Brien.

There were two speakers. Delivering last year's Jaydon Adams Memorial Oration was Aaron Ken, who spoke about his life journey. Following his speech, Aaron was presented with a plaque by Mark and Lizzy Adams, the proud parents of Jaydon.

The speaker before Aaron was AFL legend Gavin Wanganeen, who talked for almost an hour about his spectacular football career as well as responding to questions from the audience.

Throughout the two days, delegates had the opportunity to also listen to some impressive speakers including Troy Combo (Bulgarr Ngaru Medical Aboriginal Corporation, Casino Clinic), Mark

## Acknowledgement of Country

THE opening of last year's NACCHO Ochre Day in Adelaide included a Welcome to Country by Taikurtinna Palti who also delivered a smoking ceremony and Ochre Day dedication ceremony at the conclusion of day one. NACCHO would like to again respectfully acknowledge that NACCHO Ochre Day 2015 was held on the lands of the Kurna Peoples of the Adelaide Plains. NACCHO also pays our respects to your Elders past, present and future and upholds your culture while on your beautiful Country.

and Lizzy Adams (Jaydon Adams Memorial Foundation), Matthew Cooke (NACCHO Chairperson), Frank Campbell and Patrick Johnson (AMSANT), John Singer (AHCSA Chair), our NACCHO Ochre Day Patron Uncle Philip Matsumoto (Broome, Western Australia), Uncle Tauto Sansbury (National NAIDOC Lifetime Achievement Award 2015), Damian Rigney (Aboriginal Health Worker/Nurse), Dwayne Bannon-Harrison (Ngaran Ngaran Culture Awareness) and Emrhan Sultan (Oxfam).

**Aboriginal Male Health Report Card:** This year NACCHO is looking forward to launching the first ever Aboriginal Male Health Report Card.

It is anticipated that this important document will give anyone who is working in the area of Aboriginal male health more than a snapshot of what is actually happening.

As with previous years, information regarding speakers, venues and associated activities will be posted on the NACCHO website, along with information on how to register for this event.

Finally, to all NACCHO Ochre Day Delegates from prior years, we thank you for your past and continuing support of NACCHO's initiatives to Close the Gap in Male Health.

See you at Ochre Day in Perth this September.



Ochre Day 2015 participants at the Adelaide Oval.



Narungga Elder Tauto Sansbury and NSW Aboriginal Health Worker Troy Combo during last year's panel discussion.

# NACCHO OCHRE DAY

## An important Aboriginal Male Health Initiative

For further information please contact Mark Saunders on 0409 959 191

### 15th and 16th September 2016 Perth WA



# Stroke Foundation call for more stroke awareness

**T**HE Stroke Foundation is calling for increased stroke awareness initiatives in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Stroke Foundation CEO Sharon McGowan said better education about the risks and signs of stroke was crucial to help close the unacceptable health gap which threatens the lives of thousands of people each year.

"We know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are up to three times more likely to have a stroke than non-Indigenous Australians," she said.

"The good news is most strokes are preventable and treatable. However, communities need to be empowered to protect themselves from this insidious disease.

"Stroke is a serious medical emergency which requires urgent medical attention. However, too many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are unable to recognise the signs of stroke.

"We believe everyone deserves the chance to lead a healthy life. More must be done to educate people about stroke prevention and awareness in the community.

"We are calling on the Federal Government to fund a national

How do you know if someone's having a **stroke**? Think...

## F.A.S.T.

Think F.A.S.T. Act FAST! CALL 000

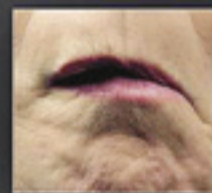
[www.strokefoundation.com.au](http://www.strokefoundation.com.au)



**FACE**  
Check their FACE.  
Has their mouth  
drooped?



**ARMS**  
Can they lift both  
ARMS?



**SPEECH**  
Is their SPEECH  
slurred? Do they  
understand you?



**TIME**  
TIME is critical.  
If you see any of these  
signs, call 000 now!



campaign to increase awareness of the signs of stroke and how people should respond."

The Stroke Foundation has a simple acronym to help people remember the signs of stroke:

**Face** – has their mouth drooped?

**Arms** – can they raise both of their arms above their head?

**Speech** – is their speech slurred? Can they understand what you're saying?

**Time** – Call triple zero (000) immediately. Do not delay.

Ms McGowan said it was vital that more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were able to recognise these signs in themselves and their family members.

### "Sudden interruption"

"Stroke is a sudden interruption of blood flow to the brain. Without the blood to deliver oxygen, the stroke-affected parts of the brain start to die. This can lead of death or significant disability for those who survive a large stroke," she

said. "Unfortunately, awareness of the signs of stroke in Indigenous communities is low. It is vital that people can recognise the signs of stroke and know to call triple zero immediately.

"With stroke every minute counts – the sooner you get treatment when you're having a stroke, the better the chances of a good recovery.

"It is unacceptable that stroke continues to claim the lives of twice as many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians

than non-Indigenous Australians.

"A campaign to increase awareness is the first step in closing the stroke gap which is claiming the lives of too many Indigenous people.

"Equal access to healthcare is a basic human right. It is time our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities get the care and support they need and deserve."

More information about the signs of stroke is available at [www.strokefoundation.com.au](http://www.strokefoundation.com.au)

# Election 2016 – it's time to encourage all political parties to focus on Aboriginal health

## ● From page 1

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's Healthy Futures Report Card (2015) also highlights ACCHOs' continued improvement in other areas that measure good practice in primary health care.

Those improvements include increasing the proportion of regular patients who are recorded as having an MBS health assessment; patients with existing conditions who are immunised against influenza; and, patients with Type 2 Diabetes receiving MBS General Practice Management Plans and MBS Team Care Arrangements.

"The fact is, Aboriginal people prefer health care that is holistic and provided in a culturally sensitive environment and that's why our service delivery model works," Mr Cooke said.

"Too many Aboriginal people have experienced racism and judgement in the mainstream health system, along with a very clinical approach to health care that doesn't recognise connections to community and country.

"The holistic approach to health that

operates in the Aboriginal Community Controlled sector takes a broader look, considers the range of complex issues affecting health and includes educating patients and preventative measures.

"And it works."

Mr Cooke said he'd like all parties to commit to a roadmap to extend the reach of Aboriginal health services to ensure more Aboriginal people in more areas can access Aboriginal Community Controlled health

**"The holistic approach to health that operates in the Aboriginal Community Controlled sector takes a broader look, considers the range of complex issues affecting health and includes educating patients and preventative measures. And it works." – NACCHO Chairperson Matthew Cooke**

care. "Our services are struggling to meet the demand," Mr Cooke said.

"We know many Aboriginal people are driving many kilometers, often past several mainstream service providers, to access the culturally safe care offered by our services.

"Many miss out altogether as they don't have access to a service where they live.

"Expanding the Aboriginal community

controlled network would help improve the health outcomes for Aboriginal people.

"It would mean refocusing the health system a bit – and a better allocation of the funding pie, ensuring long-term funding certainty, fairer tendering processes and faster decision making by government departments."

"I believe there'd be real rewards in terms of better health outcomes for Aboriginal people for that effort."

Mr Cooke said that approach is confirmed by the Productivity Commission Report released at the end of last year on the National Indigenous Reform Agreement Performance Assessment 2013-14.

"That Report showed mainstream services have not proved they can deliver better outcomes than our sector," he said.

Mr Cooke said Aboriginal people would

also be looking closely at commitments around the Government's controversial Indigenous Advancement Strategy, which saw the transfer of important Aboriginal health programs to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. (See story Page 4 :Indigenous Advancement Strategy report: Abbott-era indigenous cuts went too far – Senate inquiry)

That strategy's tendering process drew heavy criticism from respondents to a recent Senate Inquiry.

"The Aboriginal controlled health sector is not afraid of contestability, in fact it welcomes it," Mr Cooke said. "Yet that was a patently unfair process that didn't consider results on the ground."

Mr Cooke said that, overall, he was optimistic about the possible outcomes an election could bring.

"There is a real opportunity in an election campaign to hear the commitments of future governments to Aboriginal people," he said.

"We are hopeful all parties will make Aboriginal health a priority and work with us toward reducing the persistent health gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people."





# Word of mouth spreads value of Aboriginal dental service

A 53% increase in client numbers in just five years indicates the success and community acceptance of Canberra's Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Services dental clinic – but according to Winnunga's CEO Julie Tongs, it tells only part of the story.

"It doesn't tell you that without this service most of our clients wouldn't access dental care – or at the very least would have to wait an inordinately long time for treatment," she said.

"The level of need was, and still is, desperate. In ever-increasing numbers our patients arrive in intense pain, not able to eat a variety of foods and unable to speak comfortably".

Despite the fact that the service is limited in what it can offer, in all areas numbers have increased.

In 2014-15, statistics showed that many patients (27%) visited for a prophylaxis (cleaning) check-up.

However, the next highest demand for a single procedure was the 26% who needed a have a tooth – or teeth – filled.

Ten per cent needed dentures, 14% a dental X-ray and 14% needed to have a tooth extracted.

Five years ago – in 2010-11 – the clinic had 587 clients. Today it's 844, and increasing.

Ms Tongs said more and more people were accessing the clinic's programs because of:

- Low income
- A referral as a result of a Health Check or Care Plan
- Anxiety or fear of public health dental service providers, and
- Extremely limited access to public health dental service providers.

The current dental health clinic includes two young Aboriginal women who are both enjoying the challenge of working within a community controlled health service, with both studying part-time to improve their qualifications.

They are 24-year-old Taeya Olsen and 28-year-old mother-of-two Kylee Shea.

Taeya, a Wiradjuri woman born in Canberra and brought up for some time in Bateman's Bay but mostly in Canberra, quietly mentioned that she was the first person in her family to complete a Year 12 certificate, in her case in Canberra. Before joining Winnunga in 2014, Taeya said she had worked in a variety of capacities at Canberra Hospital.

"At various times I was a ward clerk and PA to a paediatric doctor while also having worked in the gynaecological and antenatal wards," she said.

Since arriving at Winnunga two years ago, she has been praised by management for continuing to study part-time at Canberra Institute of Technology, recently having gained her Certificate 3 Dental qualification.

"I am thinking of enrolling for the final, Certificate 4 Dental Assistant program," Taeya said,

"It's a year-long course and I know that if I enrol I can handle the workload."

Taeya is even thinking longer term and the challenge of studying to be a dental hygienist.

"Working in an Aboriginal, community controlled environment has been really rewarding," she said.

"Everyone has been wonderfully supportive and from day one Winnunga



Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Services dental staff Kylee Shea, Padma Yarlagadda, Lynne Davis and Taeya Olsen.

has encouraged me to continue my studies. Without that help I probably wouldn't have got as far as I have."

The same sentiment was echoed by Kylee Shea, who has been with Winnunga for 12 months.

Kylee has now begun her year-long Certificate 3 course.

A Ngunnawal person, her grandmother is Agnes Shea, one of Canberra's most

but at a much lower rate than when I joined four years ago," she said.

"That's reflected in the year-by-year increase in patient numbers.

"Clearly, patients welcome and appreciate the benefits of what they think of as their own dental service.

"They genuinely and sincerely welcome the fact that such a clinic exists."

Longest serving of all staff is part-time

upon the type of treatment required).

"But what is beyond doubt is the fact that we need a second dental chair to help alleviate the ever-growing waiting list.

"Between us, myself and our other part-time dentist, Aradhna Rastorgi, who is also from India, we represent one fulltime position.

"Winnunga has been trying for some time for one-off funding to redesign the dental clinic area to accommodate the second chair – so far without result.

"In the meantime, we prioritise treatment options to reflect need. The level of need is incredible and you quickly appreciate just

how much appreciated the clinic is."

In response, CEO Julie Tongs emphasised that what funding Winnunga was receiving was down to the ACT Government.

"This funding means the difference between having a service or no service at all," she said, adding that it was deeply appreciated.

"But we have still asked the Government for extra funding to remodel the clinic so that we are able to accommodate a second chair.

"Although we have not been successful to date, we will go on trying.

"We know that our community would expect nothing less."

**"Working in an Aboriginal, community controlled environment has been really rewarding. Everyone has been wonderfully supportive and from day one Winnunga has encouraged me to continue my studies. Without that help I probably wouldn't have got as far as I have."**

respected Elders. "I have a son and a daughter," Kylee said.

Kylee said she had her first child while at high school and was assisted by a special help program for young mothers – help that enabled her to complete her Year 12 Certificate and work at various times both fulltime and part-time in a variety of jobs before joining Winnunga's dental health team.

Team manager is UK-born Lynne Davis, 57, who has worked at Winnunga for four years and can testify to the word of mouth community endorsement of Winnunga having its own dental clinic.

"We hear it all the time – 'we didn't know Winnunga had its own dental clinic' –

dentist Padma Yarlagadda. Born in India but who has lived in Australia for 15 years and is now a citizen, Padma joined Winnunga in 2007 – just two years after the dental clinic opened.

"It is a wonderful place to work," Padma said. "The community deeply appreciates the availability of a bulk billing service – which in plain language means a free service.

"Unfortunately however, such is the demand for treatment that we now have an ever-growing waiting list.

"The reality is that if you require a full examination and treatment you might have to wait several months." (Waiting times do vary greatly depending



# New training film to promote MBS Item 715 Indigenous health checks

Dr Danielle Arabena\* writes...

**E**ACH year, the Indigenous Health Training Team from General Practice Training Qld (GPTQ) visits Indigenous registrars, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical services and key stakeholders.

Last year during these visits I was very disappointed to learn that not all GP practices offered MBS Item 715 Indigenous health checks, despite them identifying patients as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

After reviewing the curriculum for General Practice nationwide, I found there was a gap – with the importance of 715s not being formally taught as part of GP training.

With this in mind, I investigated ways GPTQ could look at closing this gap whilst improving both GP registrars' and supervisors' training, and the health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by working with the local community, Elders and Key Indigenous stakeholders (hence addressing the engagement gap).

As part of our visits to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medical Services in the GPTQ coverage area, we were able to make a fun and educational film project with Yulu Burri Ba Aboriginal Corporation for Community Health on Stradbroke Island.

We had the opportunity to involve local Aboriginal adults and children who starred in the project and we obtained a great deal of community support.

The project was created for two reasons.

Firstly, to showcase the great sense of community that comes with working in an



AMS to GPTQ registrars in the hope they may not only consider committing part of their GP training time to an AMS, but most importantly that all GP Registrars will be inspired to look further into providing Indigenous health services at a higher level than they currently may be doing.

The aim is to create a workforce dedicated to closing the gap and further develop a system that supports good patient outcomes throughout the patient's journey.

Secondly, our mission was to promote Close the Gap and present Indigenous health in a refreshing light to the wider

Australian community and those working in the health industry.

The video was launched on March 17. The film begins by asking doctors how they want to feel?

It then follows a doctor as he transitions from a non-engaging work environment to working in the vibrant and engaging world of Indigenous health.

He is taught traditional dance and interacts positively with staff and clientele. The entire film was designed to be fun and enjoyable for all who watch it.

Through partnering with local Indigenous communities, the IHT Team are always

looking at building new processes, training events and cultural immersion opportunities where staff, medical health professionals and, more broadly, GPTQ's stakeholders are able to learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and what challenges/barriers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people face when accessing health care.

Here are two initiatives currently under development:

- An Indigenous Health Training weekend, where about 50 GP Registrars and five medical educators (those not currently working in Indigenous health) will visit Indigenous communities within Queensland to engage with the Elders of the community who will share their knowledge around health/healing. The local AMSes will be highlighted for their expert knowledge on Indigenous health and will co-present a session on 715 education in conjunction with GPTQ Medical Educators. As well, GPTQ will support the local Indigenous community through holding a market stall for artists to sell artwork and where feasible use Indigenous businesses to support the weekend (ie catering, transport, functions).

- We are creating strategies to tackle perceived barriers to patients' access to the 715 health assessments at a GP practice level. One strategy involves the engagement of the local PHN to come and present a cultural education workshop to all the practice managers and staff at our annual conference so all practices in GPTQs territory are able to be signed up to close the gap.

\* Dr Danielle Arabena is a GP and Indigenous health educator with GPTQ

## Strategy is working at WAMS

**W**ALGETT Aboriginal Medical Service (WAMS) has been providing health services to the local community since 1986.

WAMS is also one of the largest employers of Aboriginal people in the north-west of NSW.

The organisation has always been proactive in recruiting Aboriginal people, and over 50% of employees at WAMS are Aboriginal.

A recent innovation, the implementation of a Recruitment and Retention Strategy in collaboration with the (NSW) Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AH&MRC) has been successful in recruiting Aboriginal people into a range of traineeships at WAMS.

The Strategy, supported by funding from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, provides a range of support to Aboriginal people who have no health qualifications to apply for a job and if employed undertake training in a health qualification.

Two recent success stories are Eileen Byers and Glenn Sands, who were recruited in December 2015 as trainee Aboriginal Health Workers and are undertaking Certificate III in Aboriginal and Torres Strait



Glenn Sands and Eileen Byers outside the WAMS Chronic Disease building.

Islander Primary Health Care.

**Eileen Byers** is from Casino, northern NSW, and has taken the courageous step to move to

Walgett to work at WAMS.

She has left her family and friends to take up this opportunity to study and develop

a career for herself in Aboriginal Health.

Eileen is already a role model for many people, having being

accepted into the Indigenous Marathon Project last year and completing the New York Marathon.

She says that leaving her family has been the biggest challenge for her so far in taking up the position at WAMS.

"I want to have a career in health and it was important for me and my family that I do this," she said.

"Everyone at Walgett has been fantastic and I love working at WAMS."

**Glenn Sands** was born and raised in Walgett and is a proud Yuwaalaraay/Gamilaraay man.

After a variety of jobs, including working as a self-employed sole trader and a member of the NSW Fire & Rescue, he made the decision to apply for a traineeship at WAMS.

He chose to become an Aboriginal Health Worker at WAMS because "I wanted to help my community".

One of the things he likes about working at WAMS is the training he's receiving, with the opportunity to improve his career path and reach the peak of his career.

His advice to others in a similar position as himself is: "...be proud in what you do."



# Health career is in Lisa's future

MY name is Lisa Barnes and I was born in Griffith, NSW, and lived in Leeton NSW for six months before my family moved to Canberra to follow my sister's scholarship for gymnastics.

I'm a proud Wiradjuri woman and love getting involved in anything to do with my mob.

My family are from Leeton, Cowra and Wagga Wagga but my ancestors originated from Euabalong, NSW.

I love the country and try to spend as

much time as I can visiting family, swimming in rivers, yabbing and camping as they are my favourite things to do. Being an adventurous person, I would much rather be outdoors than inside.

I always have had a passion to work and I get this from parents whose hard-working skills and work ethic has brought me

to where I am today.

I started working when I was 15 at McDonald's and ever since then I haven't been out of work – even if this means helping out at the family business.

I left school in Year 11 (2014) as I received an Indigenous traineeship in the Australian Public



NACCHO receptionist Lisa Barnes

Service. I was working as a ministerial correspondence administration officer for the Australian Border Force.

After my traineeship year ended I knew I wanted to work in an

administration role.

I now am the receptionist and administrative assistant for NACCHO.

My long-term goal is to eventually be an Aboriginal health care worker and I feel privileged to have NACCHO as my starting point as I'm only 18 and have my whole career ahead of me.

# Jodie a quality worker

MY name is Jodie Fisher and I was born in Mona Vale, NSW. My family moved to Canberra in the late 1960s.

Growing up in Canberra gave me a love of the surrounding region's mountains and rivers, and the ocean and beaches of the South Coast. I still have a great passion for the bush and beach, and spend as much time as I can walking, fishing, swimming and camping.

I didn't enjoy school all that much and left Year 11 in 1981 to start nursing. I was an Enrolled Nurse for about seven years, the last couple of years as a Community Nurse.

In 1990, I started at the University of Canberra and graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Health Education, and went on to complete a Graduate Diploma in Adult Education, graduating in 1996.

My son was born in 1991, and I was inspired to complete my studies.

As a single mum, times weren't always easy for us, but he has grown into a strong and independent man and makes me proud every day.

I started working in the mental health area after uni, moving to Outer Western Sydney for a few years to work in community development and health promotion areas focusing on alcohol and other drugs.

Returning to Canberra in 2000, I worked with the ACT Division of General Practice, developing GP continuing education programs. During this time, I was also involved in developing and rolling out the Opiate Program, providing GPs with support managing opiate addiction



NACCHO National QUMAX Coordinator Jodie Fisher

and treatment in general practice.

I supported the process for Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service to implement the Opiate Program for clients of their service.

In 2003, I starting working as a Health Promotion Officer with Winnunga. In this role, I worked with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to develop health promotion programs such as healthy eating, physical activity, diabetes education and a range of social and emotional wellbeing activities.

In 2005, I became Manager of the Muuji Regional Centre for Social and Emotional Wellbeing, working closely with Winnunga, Katungul Aboriginal Community and Medical Service (South Coast) and Riverina Aboriginal Medical and Dental Corporation (Wagga Wagga). I continued my studies through the University of Western Sydney, graduating in 2006 with a Master of Applied Science in Social Ecology.

Following my time with Winnunga, I took up a position with General Practice Education and Training (GPET) working on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health training component for GP registrars.

In 2015 it was off to Mental Health Australia to work on a project called the National Mental Health Consumer Organisation Establishment Project. The first stage of this project was completed, however following the Department's review of Mental Health Services, funding was not available to complete the final stage; the opening of a new mental health organisation.

After a very short stint (six months) with the Department of Health, I now have the honour of working for NACCHO as National Quality Use of Medicines (QUMAX) Programme Coordinator.

I started in mid-February and looking forward to working closely with NACCHO member services participating in the QUMAX Program, to continue the good work to improve health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by improving access and quality use of medications.

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST SENIOR POLICY OFFICER / POLICY OFFICER

(Full Time positions based in Canberra)

NACCHO is the peak body representing the interests of over 150 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) that deliver comprehensive primary health care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families and communities in urban, regional and remote locations across Australia.

At a policy level NACCHO takes the lead in reforming Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health policy and its delivery system through:

- review of government health policies that impact on the Close the Gap targets and, more broadly on the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; and
- develop and support adaptive responses to identified strategic priorities, including addressing: innovative models of service delivery, nationally consistent workforce strategy for ACCHOs, detailed costed service development proposals to enhance comprehensive and integrated primary health care/aged care/mental health services.

We are seeking a Senior Policy Officer and Policy Officer(s) who want to make a difference in improving the health status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian's by contributing to the development of the ACCHO sector. You will be a team player who likes working in a fast paced, high profile national organisation.



Your Key Duties will include but are not limited to:

- Providing NACCHO with robust analyses in designated areas of national policies, strategies, programs and research;
- Building and maintain effective networks with a range of stakeholder groups; and in Canberra and around the country
- Ensure that analysis advice and recommendations are evidence informed and comply with identified best practice.

You will have:

- Demonstrated skills in policy and program development and evaluation and analysis;
- Demonstrated ability to ensure that research outcomes are translated into practice
- Strong analytical skills and capability to summarise key issues and develop innovative and creative solutions.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively communicate and engage with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people
- Highly developed writing skills
- Demonstrated knowledge of and/or experience in direct service delivery and or policy/program design in one or more of the following areas, mental health, substance use, child and maternal health, population health and health financing.

A competitive salary package will be negotiated in line with experience and access to salary sacrifice

Applications are to be forwarded to the Human Resources Manager via email [hr@naccho.org.au](mailto:hr@naccho.org.au)



# Southern Dingoes take this year's NACCHO Deadly Choices Interstate Challenge title

**T**HE Southern Dingoes have taken the title of National Indigenous Rugby League champions following their 26-12 defeat of the Redfern All Blacks at the NACCHO Deadly Choices Murri vs Koori Interstate Challenge played on February 12 in Brisbane.

The Challenge saw more than 3000 fans pack the sidelines at Easts Carina Leagues Club to cheer on the Dingoes and the All Blacks, respective winners of the 2015 Arthur Beetson Murri Rugby League Carnival and the Koori Knockout Championship.

The game was broadcast on NITV and formed part of the NRL Indigenous All Stars Festival of Rugby League, which culminated in the NRL All Stars game the following night.

The Interstate Challenge was opened by Western GuGu songman Troy Brady with his song *Black DNA*, and the Indigenous All Stars were presented with their jerseys prior to their Saturday night match by rugby league greats Steve Renouf and Uncle Lionel Morgan, the first Aboriginal man to play rugby league for Australia. Australian Coach



Southern Dingoes (white shorts) and the Redfern All Blacks battle it out for the 2016 NACCHO Deadly Choices Interstate Challenge title.

Mal Meninga completed the coin toss for the clash.

The 2016 Challenge was held

in conjunction with organisations including the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health, the NRL, and

the Arthur Beetson Foundation, which was set up to continue 'Big Artie's' push to bring people

together and help people's lives. Arthur Beetson's son, Bradley, said he was proud of his father's connection to the event.

"I'm proud to extend Dad's name and Dad's influence (to the carnival), as a proud Queenslander, and a proud Murri," he said.

"It's the best of the best of Koori and Murri and it's a great connection to us as a people."

In keeping with the Deadly Choices Campaign, the Interstate Challenge was a smoke-, alcohol- and sugar-free family-friendly event.

The Institute for Urban Indigenous Health Deadly Choices team and Aboriginal Health Services from across Queensland and NSW were at the ground delivering a range of health promotion and screening activities for fans.

Institute for Urban Indigenous Health CEO Adrian Carson said the Challenge plays an important role in engaging communities to take control of their health.

"Unless our communities are encouraged and supported to stop smoking, to eat healthier food and exercise more, we will not close the gap in Indigenous health," he said.

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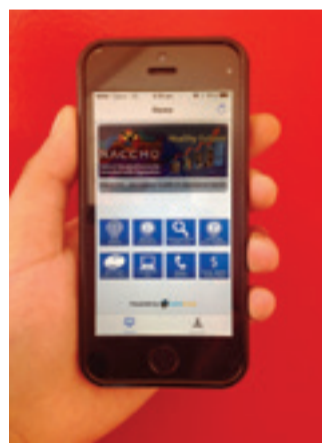


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## Aboriginal health in Aboriginal hands - for a healthy future



# 2016 Boomerang Festival



Brotherhood of the Blues perform on Good Friday at the Juke Joint, as part of Bluesfest.

# Boomerang rocks

By KEIRA JENKINS



THE Boomerang Festival within Byron Bay's Bluesfest on the NSW far north coast attracted thousands of visitors from around the world over the Easter long weekend.

The precinct featured dance grounds, a talks and ideas tent, kids' activities and a workshop tent.

The dance grounds featured East Journey, from East Arnhem Land, under the direction of Bangarra's Djakapurra Munyarryun; Queensland group Excelsior; Rotuman; Fijian and Pacific Islander dancers Rako; Malu Kiai Mura Buai from Boigu Island in the Torres Strait; NSW dance clan Jannawi; and Canadian husband-and-wife duo Digging Roots.

The talks and ideas tent featured music workshops from Torres Strait Islander musician Getano Bann and Tibetan musician Tenzin Choeygal, as well as talks on a wide range of topics. Talks covered issues including the 'Enemy Within' with Wiradjuri former NRL player Joe Williams, and 'It Began with Conversations with the Dead' with filmmaker, musician and writer Richard Frankland. There was a Manus Island drumming workshop with Manus musician John Faunt, and an 'In Conversation' with Archie Roach and festival organiser Rhoda Roberts.

## Wonderful success

Ms Roberts said this year's Boomerang was a wonderful success.

"The artists got to play to a wider audience, which many had never had the opportunity to do before," she told the *Koori Mail*.

Ms Roberts said it was unfortunate that Boomerang was no longer a stand-alone festival, but her goal is to continue to showcase Indigenous arts, whether it is at Bluesfest or a separate festival.

"We need to support cultural events, otherwise if we don't, we, as Aboriginal people, will find ourselves in a dire situation," she said.

"Festivals are expensive to run and you can see how many have had to fold because the arts don't get the support that sports do."



Festival director Rhoda Roberts with young dancers. All pictures: Naomi Moran, Keira Jenkins and Tegan King

**More pictures from the Boomerang Festival on the next three pages**

# 2016 Boomerang Festival



One of the Dhinawan Dreaming dancers.



All the dance groups joined together for a final performance at Boomerang.



Candice and Corrine Butler at the festival.



Nathaniel Blackman, Lisa Blackman and Harry Huntres.



Soul queen Emma Donovan.



Getano Bann performs.



Young activist Nayuka Gorrie at Boomerang.



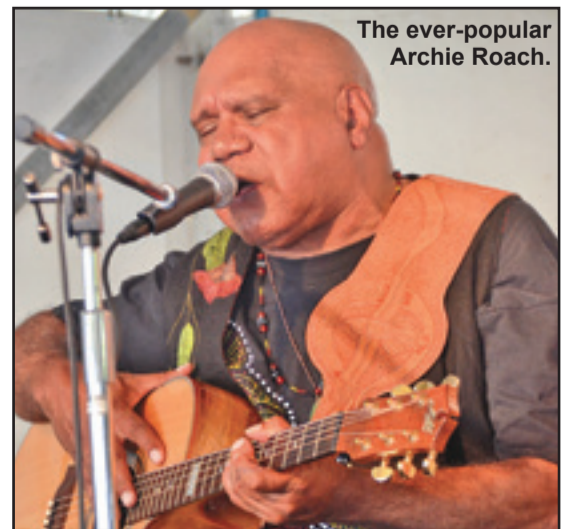
Shawn Niuqila with his daughter Mia.



Weaving workshops proved popular at the Boomerang Festival.



Carmen Campbell and Kathy Hammond.



The ever-popular Archie Roach.

# 2016 Boomerang Festival



NSW's Jannawi Dance clan entertained the crowd with their contemporary and traditional performances.



NRL star turned boxer Joe Williams, who gave a talk on the 'Enemy Within', is with musician Troy Brady.



Rotuman, Fijian and Pacific Islander dancers Rako.



Celebrity chef Clayton Donovan catches some of his cousin singer Emma Donovan's set.



Indigenous actors Shari Sebbens and Nakkiah Lui speak in the talks and ideas tent at Boomerang.

# 2016 Boomerang Festival



Queensland dance group Excelsior draws a crowd.



Alan John Kerinauia, from the Tiwi Islands, Brian Fisher, from Cherbourg, and Shannon Cook enjoy the Boomerang precinct.



Rodney Kelly and Rhiannon Clark.



East Journey, from East Arnhem Land, perform on the Crossroads stage as part of Bluesfest.



Arakwal Dancer Brian Kelly and his wife Dorothy.



Sisters Sheryl and Lorraine Togo.



Young members of Torres Strait Islander dance troupe Malu Kiai Mura Buai.



Mitch King, from Lismore.



Excelsior dancers Kyel Dancey, Michael Maza and Jeremy Ambrum.



Bec Couch, Leweena Williams, Rob Appo and Gerina Appo at the festival.



# Cardiac program is reaching out



Rohan Corpus checks Aunty Maureen Eggmolesse during an Indigenous Cardiac Outreach Program clinic at Nhulundu Wooribah Health Clinic in Gladstone, central Queensland.



QUEENSLAND'S Indigenous Cardiac Outreach Program (ICOP) is helping to address high Indigenous death rates from cardiovascular disease. The program offers early diagnostics, point of care and consultative services to 35 sites across rural and remote Queensland.

Metro North Hospital and Health Service provides cardiologists and cardiac scientists, while Indigenous staff manage and organise the clinics. ICOP staff say culturally competent and sensitive methodology has been a critical element in the program's success.

Director of cardiology at the Prince Charles Hospital Professor Darren Walters is a key driver of the program. He believes it is essential to work with Indigenous communities in promoting a primary prevention model of sickness.

### Best strategy

Prof Walters says the best strategy for Indigenous health equity by 2030 – the prime target of Closing the Gap – is to address fundamental issues and build capacity of communities to help them manage their own health agenda.

"I would like to see more Indigenous doctors, nurses and healthcare workers providing services locally by the community, for the community," he said.

Director of cardiology at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Dr John Atherton says closing the gap means reducing inequity – "whether it be access, procedural or mortality rates".

In addition to his ICOP visiting cardiologist role, Dr Atherton has been involved in a project training nurses to scan for heart disease.

A goal of the program is the "upskilling" of Indigenous healthcare workers to screen patients and monitor previously diagnosed cases.

# Trachoma research pays off



RESEARCHERS are giving new hope to people suffering from trachoma. The world's leading infectious cause of blindness, trachoma is prevalent in Indigenous communities across northern Australia.

New research has completed genome sequencing on a bacteria responsible for the disease, *chlamydia trachomatis*.

Researchers from Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin and the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in the United Kingdom have discovered that genes can move from *chlamydia* strains in the eye to sexually transmitted (STI) strains of *chlamydia*, allowing them to then infect the eye and cause trachoma.

They say that trachoma re-emergence may be more likely than previously thought, particularly if sexually transmitted *chlamydia* remains common.

Menzies senior research officer Patiyan Andersson said the study involved resuscitating bacteria that had been frozen for 30 years.

It was previously believed that the different version of *chlamydia*

that caused trachoma were a completely separate lineage from those that cause STIs. This research has proven otherwise.

Menzies associate professor Phil Giffard and Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute professor Nick Thomson led the study.

"The sequences of these strains were the biggest surprise of my scientific career to date – they were completely different to how they 'should' have been," Prof Giffard said. "Surprises are what every scientist hopes for."

The team found that just one or two gene variations in the bacteria can change an STI-causing strain into a trachoma-associated strain.

"Genomics has not only unified scientists across the world, it has also challenged commonly held beliefs that make us rethink how we are tackling important diseases that have dogged humankind for centuries," Prof Thomson said.

"Trachoma is a neglected tropical disease and one where the clear benefits of a combined skill set, using both classical and cutting edge techniques, have provided novel insights that are of immediate importance for tackling this disease."

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NSW Health Minister Jillian Skinner, left, and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Leslie Williams, right, with Aboriginal student midwives Emma Falkner (Westmead Hospital), Arana Thompson (Royal North Shore Hospital), Alana Loveridge (Blacktown Hospital), Tiffany Cattermole (Broken Hill Hospital), Janaya Lewis (Port Macquarie Hospital) and Krystal Fairfield (Fairfield Hospital).

## They're set to deliver

**NSW** THE largest group of Aboriginal student midwives to start work in NSW public hospitals has been congratulated by Health Minister Jillian Skinner. At NSW Parliament House, Mrs Skinner was joined by Aboriginal Affairs Minister Leslie Williams and local MPs to meet six of the nine

Aboriginal student midwives starting postgraduate midwifery training at Blacktown, Royal North Shore, Westmead, Port Macquarie, Lithgow, Nepean, Fairfield, Wagga Wagga and Broken Hill hospitals. The student midwives successfully applied for the training positions through the Midwifery Student Application for Recruitment and Training

(MidStART) webpage. "We are committed to increasing the Aboriginal nursing and midwifery workforce even further through our Aboriginal Nursing and Midwifery Strategy," Mrs Skinner said. "I hold all our nurses and midwives in the highest esteem for choosing two of the most rewarding careers in the public health sector."

Mrs Williams said providing support to Aboriginal student midwives creates a culturally competent and safe workforce, which helps drive improvements in the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal mothers and babies. "As a former nurse, I understand the invaluable role they play in their local communities," she said. As well as the Aboriginal

postgraduate students, more than 2000 graduate nurses and midwives – including 40 Aboriginal graduates – have this year started careers at 132 NSW hospitals and health services, with just over a quarter working in rural and regional hospitals. For more information on the MidStART program, visit <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/nursing/>

## Staff unite to mark World Kidney Day

**NSW** STAFF from the Centre for Kidney Research at The Children's Hospital at Westmead joined with the Orange Aboriginal Medical Service World to mark World Kidney Day on March 10. Aboriginal people are 10 times more likely to develop chronic kidney disease than other Australians and they are also likely to develop the disease on average about 12 years earlier. With about 10% of people worldwide having some form of kidney damage, it is now recognised by the World Health Organisation as a global public health issue. Children were the focus of this year's theme for World Kidney Day, with many youngsters not always showing symptoms and kidney disease becoming evident in adulthood, often occurring in people with risk factors that can be detected in childhood. A long-term study, started in 2001 by the Centre for Kidney Research at The Children's Hospital at Westmead, is investigating kidney disease differences in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal participants from

childhood through to adolescence and early adulthood. The Antecedents of Renal Disease in Aboriginal Children and young people (ARDAC) study chief investigator, Dr Elisabeth Hodson, said researchers' work would help develop programs to reduce the likelihood of Aboriginal Australians developing chronic kidney disease. "The study shows early markers of kidney disease become more common in Aboriginal young people as they get older compared with non-Aboriginal people," she said. "Programs aimed at Aboriginal adolescence could lower the likelihood of developing disease and prevent complete kidney failure requiring dialysis or transplants." Orange Aboriginal Medical Service chief executive Jamie Newman encouraged people to be involved in screening programs for early detection. "It is critically important for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to take responsibility and show leadership for improving the kidney health of our community," he said.

## Courtney keen to help her people

**INDIGENOUS** woman Courtney Ryder has just returned from a fact-finding mission determined to transform the next generation of health professionals into culturally competent practitioners. It started in 2013 when Ms Ryder was awarded a Churchill Fellowship from the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust to help with the development of a curriculum framework for best practice simulation teaching in Indigenous health. The aim of the trust is to provide an opportunity for Australians to travel overseas in search of new ideas, innovation and excellence. Ms Ryder spent four weeks learning from practitioners, with a focus on learning about meeting the needs of Indigenous patients and communities globally. She went to New Zealand, the United States and Canada, examining how simulation technologies can be used to improve teaching and awareness of Indigenous health care. Ms Ryder says her travels have allowed her to develop a network of contacts in tertiary institutes and indigenous communities in these countries. "This project will assist the development of a best practice curriculum framework for all

health professional programs wanting to teach and assess Indigenous health and culturally safe care, an area that many institutes all over the world are struggling with," she said. Now back in Australia, Ms Ryder said she will use the knowledge and experience she gained into a best practice curriculum framework for simulation in Indigenous health. "I feel so fortunate to have been given this opportunity and have undertaken this journey," she said. "It still seems so surreal. My journey took me from discussing the struggles and challenges the Wampanoag (people) face at Martha's Vineyard, to Elders in Sudbury sharing openly with me their family stories and struggles. "I was able to present on clinical blind spots to hospital administrators and health professionals in Sudbury, and learn from inspiring Maori academics in Christchurch. "I have been afforded an opportunity beyond what I could have imagined, with memories and relationships which will remain a lifetime." More than 100 fellowships at an average of \$25,000 each are awarded annually to people who have extraordinary ideas. Applications for 2016 Churchill Fellowships are open now. For more information visit [www.churchilltrust.com.au](http://www.churchilltrust.com.au)

# Top student looks to engineering

Aidan Train started his Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) at USQ this semester.



AIDAN Train, an Indigenous student from outback Queensland, says he is ready to thrive in a higher-education environment. He finished Year 12 at Spinifex State College in Mt Isa, Queensland, last year and started at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) in Toowoomba this semester, studying a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil).

Mr Train was awarded the 'Highest Achievement by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Student' from the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA).

To be in the running for this award, he had to obtain an OP1, which is the highest tertiary admission rank in Queensland, as well as score an A on the Queensland Core Skills Test and attain an A standard of achievement in 20 authority subjects.

"When I was notified that I had received the award, I was absolutely surprised," he said.

"To be honest, the fact that I had gotten an OP1 still seems unreal."

Mr Train was presented with the award from USQ vice-chancellor Professor Jan Thomas and met with USQ's College of Indigenous Studies, Education and Research (CISER) Professor Tracey Bunda.

"It cemented my decision on choosing the university and made me

even more excited to get my tertiary study under way," he said.

Mr Train said he was proud to receive the award as an Aboriginal man and on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the education sector.

"My parents have always emphasised the importance of my heritage and where we came from," Mr Train said.

"I hope I can be a role model to young indigenous students. My parents placed a strong emphasis on education which was a vital part of my success.

"Without support from family and friends it would have been impossible for me to realise my potential."

Mr Train said he chose USQ because he didn't want to move to the city.

## "Close-knit community"

"I wanted a more personal feel to my classes, where I could get to know the other students in my degree and be part of a close-knit community," he said.

At the end of his degree Mr Train hopes to join a major construction firm.

"It is my goal to apply my mathematical and scientific knowledge in practical ways to expand and develop Australia's infrastructure," he said.

Mr Train had the following advice for high school students and those starting out at university: "Follow a schedule. It is really good to seek feedback from your teachers and lecturers. Always be polite, but ask questions."

# Two receive land council scholarships



A NURSING student from Bowraville and a social work student from

Mungindi are this year's winners of the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council's Freddy Fricke scholarship.

Maddison Smart and Peter Prince, both students at the University of New England's School of Health, will use the scholarships to help pay for university fees, text books and other course-related expenses.

Ms Smart, a Gumbaynggir woman in her second year at university, said she was inspired to study nursing by the Close the Gap campaign. "Completing this nursing course is very important to me and the community in which I grew up in, which has one small doctor's surgery with one doctor practising around the clock," she said.

After finishing her degree, Ms Smart plans to gain work experience in rural and remote areas of the Northern Territory, but also intends to work back in



**Maddison Smart**

her community of Bowraville.

"I would love to make a difference in closing the gap when my degree is completed," she said.

Like Ms Smart, Gomeroi man Peter Prince is keen to use his professional qualifications to help his community. "I'd love to go back to Mungindi and help young Aboriginal kids to follow their dreams," he said.

Mr Prince is the seventh of 10 children and, despite obstacles



**Peter Prince**

throughout his education, is the first person in his family to attend university.

NSWALC chairperson Roy Ah-See said Ms Smart and Mr Prince showed why investment in Aboriginal education is so important.

Since 2002, 43 Aboriginal university students have been awarded Freddy Fricke Scholarships.

Applications for the program will reopen later this year.



## INDIGENOUS SCHOLARSHIPS APPLICATIONS OPEN

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# SCU program proving popular

By KEIRA JENKINS



THE Doctor of Indigenous Philosophies program at Southern Cross University (SCU) in Lismore on the NSW north coast has grown significantly since it started in 2013.

The course has 11 students, with four enrolling this year, but classes are often attended by people not undertaking the doctorate program.

Research director Shawn Wilson said the class is an open space for discussions.

"We're about creating knowledge, not hoarding it, so we often get extra people to the classes," he said.

Fifteen people gathered around a long table equipped with pens, laptops, coffee and snacks to discuss research topics as diverse as the people in the room.

Student Darlene Rotumah's study is centred on Indigenous people in the workforce; the treatment of people, and the 'survival' of workers.

"I'm actually a Sydney University student. I come here because I need a safe place to work and discuss my research," she said.

Tali Abraham is working on an app which he wants



Honours and doctorate students at Southern Cross University, Lismore, on the NSW north coast, discuss their research projects with Gnibi staff, from left, Patricia Macbeth, Kath Fisher, Nicole Tujague, Darlene Rotumah, Tandy Lubbet (seated), Shawn Wilson, Carmen Parter, Stuart Barlo, Adrian Keefe, Shae Brown and Kylie Day.

to empower Aboriginal communities, "bringing language back into their hands".

He was worked with Bundjalung Elders in designing the app.

"My research is about how technology circumvents the work of linguists and therefore can start language revitalisation and giving it to communities," he said.

There was silence among

the group only in the 15 minutes of writing time, otherwise the room was filled with discussion and banter.

The doctorate joins the Bachelor of Indigenous Studies and the Bachelor of

Trauma and Healing courses run through the Gnibi College of Indigenous Australian Peoples.

More courses are due to be offered by the college next year.

## Department gives reminder over study assistance



THE Department of Human Services is reminding Indigenous students and

their parents not to miss out on government study assistance.

General manager Hank Jongen said Centrelink's Abstudy payment helps Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with the costs of studying or doing an apprenticeship.

"The payment amount depends on the customer's specific circumstances, and can assist in covering study costs such as uniforms, text books, excursions and stationery," he said.

"For students who need to live away from home to study, it helps with the cost of rent or board, and travel between their permanent home and place of study.

Mr Jongen reminded students already receiving Abstudy to keep the department updated on any changes to their circumstances, to ensure they

receive the correct payment amount.

"If the new study year has brought changes your way, like a change of address, a different course, or if you've picked up more work, make sure you let us know as soon as possible," he said.

Mr Jongen also reminded students who are eligible for the Relocation Scholarship that payments are being made automatically with their regular student payment, in the first fortnight they are eligible.

"If you haven't received the payment, but think you are eligible, make sure your home address and your study details lodged with the department are up-to-date, using online services," he said.

"There's no need to call, as we will continue to assess your eligibility each fortnight.

"If you do qualify, it will be paid to you automatically."

Mr Jongen said the best way for customers to check their eligibility is to visit the website [humanservices.gov.au/abstudy](http://humanservices.gov.au/abstudy)

# NT inmates graduate



A RECORD number of prisoners graduated from certificate courses run by Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE) at Northern Territory correctional centres last month.

A total of 83 certificates were awarded in graduation ceremonies at the Darwin Correction Centre (DCC) and the Alice Springs Correctional Centre (ASCC), representing a 30% increase from the previous graduation, in December 2015.

The Northern Territory Government says the record number of prisoners graduating from vocational courses demonstrates its focus on rehabilitating prisoners and equipping them to start new, productive lives when they leave prison. The courses, ranging from

kitchen skills to business and visual arts, are given by BIITE staff at purpose-built teaching centres in the correctional centres.

The certificates to be awarded include qualifications in Resources and Infrastructure Operations, Construction, Indigenous Environmental Health,

much more for their own salvation than all of the good intentions of a welfare-based approach," he said.

"We know that when a prisoner participates in Sentenced to a Job, recidivism rates plummet."

A total of 57 DCC inmates received their graduation

certificates recently. A further 19 prisoners, who were among the current cohort earning qualifications, have already been released from prison after completing their sentences.

Among the DCC graduates are four female prisoners

who all received Certificates in Visual Arts.

Seven prisoners at ASCC received awards for qualifications in Family Wellbeing, Conservation and Land Management and Visual Arts, at their graduation ceremony, which was held last month.

**"A work-ready person can do much more for their own salvation than all of the good intentions of a welfare-based approach."**

Visual Arts, Agrifood Operations, Kitchen Operations, Engineering and Business.

Northern Territory Attorney-General John Elferink said that from the outset the Territory Government had determined to make prisoners work-ready.

"A work-ready person can do

# Debut album for Arnhem Land singer



**SINGER** and performer Stanley Gawurra Gaykamangu (pictured), from East Arnhem Land, is releasing his debut single this week, under his stage name Gawurra.

"I am proud and happy to be releasing my first album. It's surprising, but I am proud that the media want me to go on radio and TV," the Gupapungu man told the *Koori Mail*.

The title track *Ratja Yali Yali* has been picked up by ABC radio stations around the country, as well as Double J, and will be played as part of Qantas and Virgin's inflight entertainment music.

"My family and friends can't wait to buy the album. I get people from my community ringing to ask when it is coming out because they are happy for

me and supportive and they've always pushed me to do well," Gaykamangu said.

"I started playing music when I was 12 in my homeland. I started singing and sharing songs with my community."

Now based in Melbourne, Gaykamangu was inspired as a child by his brothers, playing guitar with them and learning from them.

"I said to them, 'How do you write a song?' and they told me, 'When you are older you will write a song. One day you will grow up,'" he said.

"Since then I have been following my heart and following my dream to bring my music to the country and to the world.

"I want people to know me and to be able to connect with me and my music."



## NT funding to help develop arts attraction



AN Indigenous arts organisation will receive a Northern Territory Government tourism infrastructure grant to help revitalise a cultural precinct that aims to develop and promote Indigenous arts from the Katherine and Arnhem regions of the Top End.

Member for Stuart Bess Price said the \$24,420 Tourism Infrastructure Development Fund grant would assist Djilpin Arts convert the previous culture centre into a permanent museum attraction.

"The organisation is in the process of revitalising its cultural precinct and a new permanent museum attraction will be established that will house the full Blawasi collection of paintings which are said to be the finest collection of West Arnhem art," she said.

"In addition, an 'augmented reality' tour will detail the cultural traditions behind the Blawasi paintings.

"The project will provide new training, employment opportunities and business growth within the local community.

"It will also promote Indigenous culture and the Katherine and Arnhem Land regions through providing a rich, on-country cultural experience to visitors."

# Telstra Award judges named



LEADING artist Vernon Ah Kee, curator Kimberley Moulton and philanthropist and fine art picture framer Don Whyte have been named as this year's

Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award (NATSIAA) judges.

Ms Moulton is curator of the South Eastern Aboriginal Collection at Museum Victoria, and she has also curated an exhibition for the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection in the US state of Virginia.

The Yorta Yorta woman was the inaugural National Gallery of Australia Westfarmers Arts International Fellow and, in 2013, was selected to take part in the British Council's Accelerate program in the United Kingdom.

"I feel so privileged to be part of NATSIAA. I'm really taking it seriously because it's such an important award," she told the *Koori Mail*.

"To be able to sit on the same judging

panel as a deadly artist like Vernon Ah Kee – that's so exciting."

Ms Moulton said she is excited to see what's out there and what stories people are telling through their artworks.

"I'm really interested to see how people communicate the current issues like sovereignty and treaty in their art," she said. "I'm excited to see what people are

framing and delivery of hundreds of NATSIAA entries.

Ms Moulton said NATSIAA is a great opportunity for artists to get their work seen. "It's an experience where you get to talk about your work and describe and share your inspirations," she said.

"It's a good experience to have. NATSIAA has been running for a long time and it's about supporting the success of Indigenous artists."

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) director Marcus Schutenko said the gallery is proud to be hosting the award.

He said the judges were selected for their knowledge of contemporary Indigenous art.

"We are looking to exhibit the very best Indigenous art produced across the country in the past year," he said.

"The awards remind us all of the perpetual evolution of contemporary Indigenous art and the significant contribution it continues to make on the Australian cultural landscape."

**"NATSIAA has been running for a long time and it's about supporting the success of Indigenous artists."**

putting in and what emerging artists we have."

Vernon Ah Kee, who is a member of Brisbane's proppaNOW collective, has exhibited at the 14th Istanbul Biennale.

Don Whyte, who has worked with artists and art centres across the Top End for 30 years, has been instrumental in the

# Film fest in Katoomba



THE first Aboriginal Film Festival to be held in the Blue Mountains is set for April 8-9 in the city of Katoomba. The

Goodombah Aboriginal Film Festival will be held at the Old Library Katoomba, Cafe88 and GalleryOne88.

Blue Mountains City Council Aboriginal men's and youth project officer Jamie Murray said the free event aims to promote work from Aboriginal filmmakers.

"We want to get the kids involved in a cultural event and spread reconciliation through the community," he told the *Koori Mail*.

"We hope it will be something that will

continue, because Katoomba is a festival city. "Hopefully it will run again and we can showcase Aboriginal talent, and the kids who get involved will have a reference for future work."

The festival will be launched with live dance and music performances.

Mr Murray said audiences could expect short feature films from a range of artists.

"They can expect a great cultural experience and fantastic entertainment from a vast array of talent," he said.

"I'm an artist myself and I've dabbled in film so I thought this would be a good way to get Aboriginal movies out there because there are so many."

One of the filmmakers featuring in the

festival is Gary Lonesborough who entered two films – one about the bombing of Darwin in World War II and the other a survival film set in post-apocalyptic Australia.

"It's exciting to hear that there are Aboriginal film festivals. I wasn't aware if there were any in the Blue Mountains, so I'm excited about being part of the first one," he said.

"Growing up we always had a movie on so I always wanted to make one. I love telling stories."

Lonesborough is also hoping the film festival continues into the future.

"I'd definitely enter again. It's something that needs to keep going and it's

encouraged me to make more films," he said.

"It'll be great to see other filmmakers. I've always been interested in film."

There is also an opportunity for Indigenous teenagers to work through the film festival.

Mr Murray said young people would have the chance to help design the festival.

"They'll get to have a say in what we need to do, helping to look after catering and things like that," he said.

"It'll be a great opportunity for kids who are interested in managing events."

For more information visit [www.facebook.com/Goodombah-Aboriginal-Film-Festival-1742955169257884](http://www.facebook.com/Goodombah-Aboriginal-Film-Festival-1742955169257884)



Jenny Crompton and her award-winning *Sea Country Spirits* at the Lorne Sculpture Biennale in Victoria.

## Sea Country Spirits a winner for Crompton



BELLBRAE artist Jenny Crompton has taken out the major Sculpture Trail Award at the Lorne Sculpture Biennale in Victoria for her piece *Sea Country Spirits*.

The winners of the awards, which recognise contemporary sculpture in all forms, were announced at the opening of the festival last month.

Now in its fifth year, the Lorne Sculpture Biennale has had more than 100 entries this year, with five artists receiving awards.

Crompton won \$25,000 for her 32-piece artwork.

The Wadawurrung woman said it took her eight months to make the artwork using a range of natural and human-made materials including recycled copper wire, tree grass stems, kangaroo bones, feathers and seaweed

holders to represent the spirits and the totems.

She said she was honoured to receive the Sculpture Trail Award.

"I broke into tears when they announced the award – it was such a wonderful feeling," Crompton told the *Koori Mail*.

"It was a labour-intensive piece. I nearly passed out when I won. The judges' comments were so wonderful."

### Sense of place

Crompton said her work has focused on a sense of place since she found out about her Wadawurrung heritage eight years ago.

Her process for making a sculpture includes gathering natural items, like the cockatoo feathers she had been collecting for five years, and sourcing human-made materials.

"I knew what I wanted to do,

generally, once I saw where it would be," she said.

"The hardest part was sewing the copper wire to make the spirit frames.

"I was aware of what objects I needed. I knew I wanted the totems to represent the sea, land and sky and I'd have the spirits connected to these elements."

Crompton is now entering the Craft Victoria awards while she recovers from the Biennale. She said her hands took a beating from creating *Sea Country Spirits*, but it was worth it so hear the beautiful comments from the judges and visitors to Lorne.

"The piece was about an awareness of country and valuing land, and from the things I've heard being said about it, I think I've created something beautiful," she said. "The work is about listening and trusting the feelings you have about the land."



The painting *Sunset Series #6*, by Indigenous artist Emma Stuart.

## Area's beauty on display in exhibition



CONTEMPORARY artist Emma Stuart launched her first solo exhibition at the Araluen Art Centre in Alice Springs last week.

Araluen Cultural Precinct director Mark Crees said he is delighted to host *Hidden Arrernte*, which showcases the natural beauty of the landscape around Alice Springs.

"Artists have been responding to the natural environment of central Australia for thousands of years and we are excited to present this contemporary artist and her response in *Hidden Arrernte*," he said.

In *Hidden Arrernte*, Stuart aims to capture the beauty of tributaries and riverbed banks, clay pans and sites such as Honeymoon, Emily and Simpsons gaps.

The exhibition is a continuation of Stuart's exploration of the "solitary life of the tree", seeing them as living beings, symbols of strength and faith and anchors of sorts, holding both earth and air in their roots and branches.

The exhibition will continue at Araluen until May 8.

**We welcome items for our National Calendar of Events. Keep them short and include a daytime telephone contact number. Send them to any of the addresses in the panel on page 23.**

## National

**Upcoming:** The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) will run workshops in Hobart, Sydney, Brisbane and Darwin that tackles the questions 'Can we do better than 'I treat everyone the same'? Details: [www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/](http://www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/) to register or contact Salome Pinto on (03) 8699 0528.

**Ongoing:** Lifeline – saving lives, crisis support, suicide prevention. For assistance call 13 11 14.

**Ongoing:** Carer Line is a free national telephone information and support service for and about carers that provides access to information, emotional support and referrals to a range of services for carers.

Call 1800 242 636, Monday to Friday.

**Ongoing:** Care Leavers Line.

Contact 1800 994 686 from Mon-Fri, 9am-4.30pm or email [CareleaversLine@facns.gov.au](mailto:CareleaversLine@facns.gov.au)

**Ongoing:** Indigenous Marathon Project (IMP) is seeking Indigenous Australians aged 18-30 for its program and to complete a Certificate III in Fitness. To apply visit [www.imp.org.au](http://www.imp.org.au) or telephone (02) 6162 4750.

**Until April 17:** *Streets of Papunya: The re-invention of Papunya Painting* exhibition. Highlighting the work of senior and emerging women artists, it will be held at Flinders University City Gallery, State Library of SA, Adelaide from Tues-Fri, 11am-4pm, Sat and Sun noon-4pm. Free entry. Details: (08) 8207 7055 or [www.flinders.edu.au/](http://www.flinders.edu.au/)

**Until May 6:** *Nan And A Whole Lot of Trouble* short film screening.

To be held at locations including Bowraville, Broome, Katherine, Alice Springs, Darwin and other regional communities.

Details: Lois Randall on 0427 875 299 or visit

[www.flickerfest.com.au/tour](http://www.flickerfest.com.au/tour)

**April 16-May 29:** National

Trust Heritage Festival 2016: Details: (02) 9258 0143 or email [heritagefestival@nationaltrust.com.au](mailto:heritagefestival@nationaltrust.com.au) or visit [www.nationaltrustfestival.org.au](http://www.nationaltrustfestival.org.au)

## NSW-ACT

**Ongoing:** ACE Community College Aboriginal driver training. Held at ACE Community College, 59 Magellan Street, Lismore. Details: (02) 6622 1903 or text 0429 423 116.

**Ongoing:** TeleYarn, a Red Cross project that provides phone calls to Indigenous people across NSW who would benefit from a regular yarn. Details: Kerrie on 0429 151 112.

**Until April 10:** Kitty Napanangka Simon's *Making Memories* exhibition. Held at Cooee Aboriginal Art Gallery, 31 Lamrock Ave, Bondi, Tues-Sat, 10am-5pm. Details: (02) 9300 9233 or visit [www.cooeeart.com.au](http://www.cooeeart.com.au)

**Until April 24:** *The Most Gaoled Race on Earth* exhibition. An exhibition by artists Blak Douglas and Adam Geczy that speaks to racism and

the cultural repression and misrepresentation of Indigenous Australians. Held at The Lock-Up Art Gallery, 90 Hunter St, Newcastle, Wed-Sat, 10am-4pm, Sun, 11am-3pm. Details: (02) 4925 2265.

**Until April 30:** *Djuwin* exhibition, featuring a collection of works by Aboriginal men from the South Coast of NSW. Held at Bundian Way Gallery, 66a Bombala Street, Delegate, Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm. Details: (02) 6458 8388 or Nat Bateman on 0404 289 475.

**Until May 4:** Moree Reconciliation Gala Awards 2016 nominations open. The awards recognise individuals, businesses, community organisations and initiatives advancing reconciliation and respectful relationships in Moree in more than 15 categories. Details: Mijay Birray on (02) 6752 6038 or AES on (02) 6752 3422 or email [glen@miyaybirray.ngo.org.au](mailto:glen@miyaybirray.ngo.org.au) or Jess Duncan at [jess@be.org.au](mailto:jess@be.org.au)

**Until May 22:** *Punuku Tjukurpa* touring exhibition, celebrating the stories and law of Anangu culture told through carvings and artefacts. Held at

Penrith Regional Gallery and The Lewers Bequest, 86 River Road Plains, Emu Plains, open daily from 9am-5pm. Free. Details: (02) 47351100 or visit [www.penrithregionalgallery.org](http://www.penrithregionalgallery.org)

**Until May 22:** *Celebrating Philanthropy* exhibition. The works on display have been selected from a total of 52 Aboriginal works donated by Robin Gurr under the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program. Held at Penrith Regional Gallery and The Lewers Bequest, 86 River Road Plains, Emu Plains. Free. Details: (02) 47351100 or visit [www.penrithregionalgallery.org](http://www.penrithregionalgallery.org)

**Until May 27:** Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-op 300 Dollar Day, seeking donations of artworks in any medium, exceeding the value of \$300. Details: Boomalli, 55-59 Flood St, Leichhardt, Sydney on (02) 9560 2541 or email [boomalliartgallery@gmail.com](mailto:boomalliartgallery@gmail.com) or visit [www.boomalli.com.au](http://www.boomalli.com.au)

**Until August 31:** *Munuk Zugubal 'Saltwater Songlines'* exhibition. Brings together

● **Continued next page**

# Seed to hold summit



Members of Seed spread their message.



**INDIGENOUS** youth climate network Seed will hold a Protect Country summit in Sydney from April 29-May 2.

Seed is Australia's first Indigenous Youth Climate Network, aiming to build a strong movement

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people "working to make climate justice real for our people".

Seed runs campaigns to protect country, while also building the capacity of young people to be a part of creating positive change.

Participants will be selected based on the following criteria:

- identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and/or South Sea Islander;
- aged between 15-35;
- committed to learning about climate justice; and

● committed to taking action with Seed.

Applications close on Monday April 11 To register, go to <http://goo.gl/forms/gb4sD5kWqg> All applicants will be notified no later than April 15. More details at [www.seedmob.org.au](http://www.seedmob.org.au)



Boneta-Marie Mabo with her work *Your Label #1, 2015*, made of velvet, canvas, foam and resin. Image courtesy of SLQ

## Black Velvet exhibition at State Library



A NEW exhibition at the State Library of Queensland will celebrate identity and image through larger-than-life portraits of

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

Minister for Innovation Leeanne Enoch launched *Black Velvet: your label*, a solo exhibition by inaugural kuril dhagun artist in residence Boneta-Marie Mabo.

*Black Velvet* features four oil painting portraits of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Islander women, alongside five life-sized sculptures of women emerging from black velvet, a metaphor for Indigenous women escaping labels placed on them.

Rather than reclaiming or endorsing the derogatory term 'black velvet', Mabo aims to build awareness, and calls for acknowledgement, hope and change.

Ms Enoch said the exhibition

drew attention to ongoing contemporary issues for Indigenous women in Queensland and across Australia. "Through her artwork, Boneta-Marie honours the self-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, giving them a voice that was historically denied," she said.

The new body of works showcased in *Black Velvet* was developed after Mabo's 2015 residency in kuril dhagun, where she worked with the theme, 'unsettled'.

State Librarian Sonia Cooper said Mabo's work demonstrated the potential of the artist in residence program.

"SLQ is proud to be able to offer this level of support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and to work with them in this way," she said.

*Black Velvet: your label* is free and on display in kuril dhagun at State Library of Queensland until May 29.

### From previous page

artworks that express the traditional knowledge of songlines explaining land marks, rock formations, watering holes, rivers, trees and seas during the Dreamtime.

Held at Australian National Maritime Museum, 2 Murray Street, Darling Harbour, Sydney daily from 9.30am-5pm. Details: (02) 9298 3777 or visit [anmm.gov.au](http://anmm.gov.au)

**April 8-9:** Goodomah Aboriginal Film Festival. Aims to promote joyful and positive examples of work by Aboriginal filmmakers from across Australia. Includes dance and rap performances. Held at The Old Library, Café 88 and Gallery One88. Details: Jaimie Murray on (02) 4780 5462 or 0434 306 144 or email [Jmurray@bmcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Jmurray@bmcc.nsw.gov.au)

**April 9-June 12:** *With Secrecy and Despatch* exhibition. Marks the 200th anniversary of the Appin Massacre, reflecting the country's parallel colonial histories. Includes symposium. Held at Campbelltown Arts Centre, 1 Art Gallery Road, Campbelltown, open daily 10am-4pm. Details: (02) 4645 4100 or visit [www.campbelltown.nsw.gov.au](http://www.campbelltown.nsw.gov.au)

**April 13:** Yarning About Crystal Methamphetamine (ice) Community Conversations. In response to concerns regarding the impact of ice use in northern NSW communities and services. Held at Jubullum Stadium, Tabulam from 10am-2pm. Details: Kim Gussy on 6627 3300 or email [kgussy@ncphn.org.au](mailto:kgussy@ncphn.org.au)

**April 17:** Appin Massacre 200th Anniversary. Remembering, healing, reconciliation. Held at Cataract Dam Picnic area, Appin, from 11am. Details: Uncle Ivan Wellington on 0447 581 306 or Ann Madsen on 0408 026 997.

### Queensland

**Until April 8:** *If you can see me* exhibition of new paintings by Jack Wilkie-Jans. Held at UMI Arts Gallery, 335 Sheridan Street, North Cairns, Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm. Includes official launch on March 10 at 6pm. Details: (07) 4041 6152 or visit [www.umiarts.com.au](http://www.umiarts.com.au)

**Until April 8:** *UMI you an' me* exhibition. An annual exhibition showcasing works by new and existing member artists of UMI arts. Held at UMI Arts Gallery, 335 Sheridan Street, North Cairns from Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm. Details: (07) 4041 6152 or [www.umiarts.com.au](http://www.umiarts.com.au)

**Until May 29:** *Black Velvet: your label* exhibition, exploring a range of social, political and cultural issues affecting Indigenous women, through a showcase of works by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artist Boneta-Marie

Mabo. Held at Kuril Dhagun, Level 1, State Library of Queensland, Cultural Precinct, Stanley Place, South Bank, Brisbane, daily from 10am-5pm. Details: (07) 3842 9061 or visit [slq.qld.gov.au/whats-on](http://slq.qld.gov.au/whats-on)

**Until April 9:** *Brutal Truths* exhibition. Showcasing three major installations encompassing drawings, paintings, text works and videos. Held at Griffith University Art Gallery, Qld College of Art, 226 Grey St, South Bank, Tues-Sat, 11am-4pm. Free. Details: Lauren on 0418 799 544 or visit [www.griffith.edu.au/visual-creative-arts/](http://www.griffith.edu.au/visual-creative-arts/)

**April 9 and 16:** Kreative Kuril workshops. Held at Kuril Dhagun, Level 1, State Library of Queensland, Stanley Place, South Brisbane from 9.30am-12.30pm. Ages 15+ Cost: \$25 a person. Details: (07) 3842 9061 or (07) 3842 9824 or visit [www.slq.qld.gov.au/whats-on](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/whats-on)

**April 17-May 21:** *Heroes Too* exhibition, highlighting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in the Australian Defence Force. Held at Queensland Military Memorial Museum, 28 Church Street, Fortitude Valley, on Sundays, 12-4pm. Cost: Family \$10, adult \$5, child \$2. Official opening on April 17 at 1pm. Details (07) 3852 3565 or visit [www.qmmm.org](http://www.qmmm.org)

**May 21-August 28:** Major Sally Bagori retrospective exhibition of more than 50 artworks by the late Bentinck Island and senior Kaiadilt woman, Mirdidingkingathi Juwarnda Sally Gabori. Held at Queensland Art Gallery, Gallery of Modern Art, Stanley Place, South Brisbane, daily from 10am-5pm. Free entry. Details: (07) 3840 7303 or visit [www.qagoma.qld.gov.au](http://www.qagoma.qld.gov.au)

### Victoria

**Until May 15:** *Ngujarn and Nakun: belonging in the other* exhibition, showcasing four generations of the Mullett family. Held at Koori Heritage Trust, Level 1 and 3, Yarra Building, Federation Square, Melbourne, daily from 10am-5pm. Details: (03) 8662 6300 or visit [www.kooriheritagetrust.com](http://www.kooriheritagetrust.com)

**April 8:** School Holiday workshop: Create your own wood-burned wangim (boomerang). Held at Koori Heritage Trust, Level 3, Yarra Building, Federation Square from 10.30am-12.30pm. Cost: \$10, bookings essential. For ages 12-16. Details: (03) 8662 6336 or visit [www.trybooking.com/191578](http://www.trybooking.com/191578)

**April 9:** Narana Aboriginal Cultural Centre's Narana Unplugged II Event. A day of music, art and culture, with performances by Yirmal, Josh Seymour, Jayden Lillyst and more. Held at Narana Aboriginal Cultural Centre, 410 Surfcoast

Highway, Grovedale, from noon-6pm. Tickets Adult \$20, kids under 12 free. Details: (03) 5241 5700 or [www.narana.com.au](http://www.narana.com.au)

**April 15:** VACCHO celebrating 20 years in Victorian Aboriginal Health. Includes a launch of the VACCHO building anniversary mural and installation of the VACCHO 2016-30 time capsule. Held at VACCHO, 17-23 Sackville St, Collingwood, from 11am-1pm. Details: (03) 9411 9411 or [rsvp@vaccho.org.au](mailto:rsvp@vaccho.org.au) for catering purposes

**April 18-May 27:** Victorian Statement on Self-Determination forums: Involves discussions on issues around self-determination for Aboriginal people, constitutional recognition and treaty. Forums held at Mallee District Aboriginal Services, Mildura, on April 18; Grains Innovation Park, Horsham; on April 19; Eastbank Centre, Shepparton; on May 3; Bairnsdale RSL, Bairnsdale; on May 10; and Melbourne, location to be set, on May 26-27. Details: [www.consult.aboriginalvictoria.vic.gov.au](http://www.consult.aboriginalvictoria.vic.gov.au)

**April 19:** In Conversation: Making Family Art – Visual, Performative and Historical perspectives. Involves a conversation about making art and telling family stories, across generations. Held at Koorie Heritage Trust, Level 3, Yarra Building, Federation Square from 6.30-7.30pm. Free, but bookings essential. Details: (03) 8662 6336 or visit [www.trybooking.com/191578](http://www.trybooking.com/191578)

**April 20-21:** Koorie Youth Summit 2016. To be eligible, people must be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, aged 16 to 28 and living in Victoria. Held at Mantra Bell City, 215 Bell Street, Preston. Cost: \$0-\$89. Details: Jirra Harvey on 0475 230 880 or email [Jirra@kalinya.com.au](mailto:Jirra@kalinya.com.au)

### Western Australia

**Until April 15:** Kapululangu's 2016 Culture Camp Program registrations open. The program consists of Aboriginal women's culture camps in the Australian Desert and includes the annual women's law camp on May 19-25 and the Dreaming Track trek on June 2-8.

Twenty positions available. Details: Email [kapululangu.women.centre@gmail.com](mailto:kapululangu.women.centre@gmail.com) or visit [www.kapululanguculturecamps.com](http://www.kapululanguculturecamps.com)

### Northern Territory

**Until May 8:** *Hidden Arremte* exhibition. A first solo exhibition by Emma Stuart showcasing the natural beauty of the landscape around Alice Springs.

Held at Araluen Art Centre, 61 Larapinta Drive, Alice Springs, Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm, Sat-Sun, 11am-4pm. Entry fees apply. Details: (08) 8951 1120 or visit [www.artsandmuseums.nt.gov.au/araluen](http://www.artsandmuseums.nt.gov.au/araluen)



# Employment

EXECUTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • POSITIONS VACANT



Former AFL great Andrew McLeod with Intract workers at Buley Rockhole, south-west of Darwin.

## McLeod makes a mark



A CONSTRUCTION crew working in Litchfield National Park, 100km south-west of Darwin in the Northern Territory, has had a special visit by Australian football legend Andrew McLeod.

The five Intract Indigenous contractors have been undertaking works on the \$1.3 million Buley Rockhole upgrade, including the relocation and sealing

of the carpark, and new shaded shelters and footpath.

The project forms part of the \$10.43 million allocation by the Territory Government to improve facilities at locations in the national park.

Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT chief executive Andrew Bridges said he was looking forward to the finished project at Buley Rockhole, as it, along with all the upgrades at Litchfield National

Park, would help enhance the visitor experience at the park.

"Litchfield National Park is one of the Territory's most popular tourist attractions and it plays a key role in supporting, building and enhancing the Territory's tourism industry and the Territory's reputation as a must-see destination," he said.

Intract Indigenous Contractors is a majority Indigenous-owned, -managed

and -controlled company providing long-term employment for Indigenous people across the civil, construction and mining industries.

Mr McLeod, a company director, has been visiting the Top End to act as a role model for its contractors working in remote and regional communities.

During his time in the NT Mr McLeod also ran football clinics with school children in remote areas.

**It's your guide to employment**

Welcome to the *Koori Mail's* Indigenous Job Opportunities section. Each edition we publish scores of employment advertisements from around the nation. To be part of this section, simply give our advertising staff a call on (02) 66 222 666, email [advertising@koorimail.com](mailto:advertising@koorimail.com) or see our website – [www.koorimail.com](http://www.koorimail.com)

*Koori Mail – Our ABC audit means our readership is guaranteed. No other newspaper aimed at the Indigenous market can offer this!*

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who provide prizes for competitions or reader offers. If you would prefer that we do not do this, please write to us at: [admin@koorimail.com](mailto:admin@koorimail.com) or phone (02) 66 222 666, or fax (02) 66 222 600. Mail can be sent addressed to General Manager, Budsoar Pty Ltd, PO Box 117, Lismore NSW 2480.

## BOGAL LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (Attractive Remuneration Package Negotiable)

The Bogal Local Aboriginal Land Council (BLALC) is seeking applications from experienced and motivated people interested in a rewarding career undertaking a new and challenging role of Chief Executive Officer.

This position holder will provide an extensive range of assistance and support to the elected Board through the day-to-day management of the BLALC's affairs in accordance with delegated authorities; the provision of sound and accurate advice and the implementation of the Board's resolutions in a timely and appropriate manner.

Applicants are required to meet the selection criteria. All applicants must obtain a copy of the recruitment package containing the Position Description and selection criteria and address the selection criteria for their application to be considered.

To obtain a recruitment package contact the Contact Officer – Craig Craigie on (02) 66591200 or email [craig.craigie@alc.org.au](mailto:craig.craigie@alc.org.au)

Applications marked "Confidential" and posted to:  
The Chairperson  
Bogal Local Aboriginal Land Council  
PO Box 72  
CORAKI NSW 2471  
Applications close Friday 22nd April 2016  
**Aboriginal people are encouraged to apply.**



Health  
Justice Health &  
Forensic Mental Health Network

### Endorsed Enrolled Nurse (EEN1-5) PPT 16 hpw (Aboriginal Identified)

Classification: Nurses and Midwives/Enrolled Nurse  
Location: Nowra  
Employment Status: Permanent Part-Time  
Salary: \$22,536.75 – \$23,968.19 pa  
Enquiries: Jennifer Fogarty (02) 4424 6202  
Reference No: 308625  
**Closing Date: 17 April 2016**

To apply for this position please visit  
[nswhealth.erecruit.com.au](http://nswhealth.erecruit.com.au)

Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network is committed to Work Health & Safety, Equal Employment, Ethical Practices, and the Principles of Cultural Diversity, Personal criminal records checks will be conducted. Prohibited persons as declared under the Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998 are not eligible to apply for child-related employment.

Z09607

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

Department of  
National Parks, Sport and Racing

### Senior Project Officer Aboriginal Identified

Queensland Parks And Wildlife Service, Partnerships  
(Identified - Applicants must identify as being Aboriginal)

Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing

Salary: \$87 746 - \$93 882 p.a.

Location: Brisbane City

REF: QLD/208100/16

**Key Duties:** Manage and coordinate projects both autonomously and as part of a multi-disciplinary team to enable coexistence and co-management in Queensland's protected areas.

**Skills/Abilities:** Support strategic direction by identifying the relationship between the organisational goals and operational tasks and identifying broader influences that may impact on the team's work objectives.

Enquiries: Kai Yeung 07 3199 7623

To apply please visit [www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au](http://www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au)

Closing Date: Friday, 29 April 2016



Blaze089732

Department of Justice and Regulation

### Aboriginal Wellbeing Officer Melbourne Assessment Prison



- Great opportunity to make a difference in the community
- Ongoing, full-time position
- Salary range \$60,551 - \$73,521 plus superannuation

Located in West Melbourne, the Melbourne Assessment Prison is a maximum-security facility providing state-wide assessment and orientation services for all male prisoners received into the prison system.

As the Aboriginal Wellbeing Officer, you will provide ongoing welfare, advocacy and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners, including assisting in the access of appropriate pre- and post-release programs and entitlements to assist with their reintegration into the community.

As our ideal candidate, you will have:

- a demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the Victorian Aboriginal (Koori) community
- excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- superior problem solving skills.

For further information on this position and to submit your application, please visit [careers.vic.gov.au](http://careers.vic.gov.au)

Applications close on Sunday 17 April 2016.

This is an Aboriginal Designated Position, classified under 'special measures' of section 12 of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010. Only Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are eligible to apply.



Health  
Justice Health &  
Forensic Mental Health Network

### Community Integration Team Clinician (HM1) Aboriginal Identified TFT up to 03/07/2016

Classification: Health Managers Award  
Location: Grafton  
Employment Status: Temporary Full-Time  
(up to 03/07/2016)  
Salary: \$67,408 – \$90,676 pa  
Enquiries: Jeanette Toole, 0408 163 583  
Email: [jeanette.toole@justicehealth.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jeanette.toole@justicehealth.nsw.gov.au)  
Reference No: 312458  
**Closing Date: 13 April 2016**

To apply for this position please visit  
[nswhealth.erecruit.com.au](http://nswhealth.erecruit.com.au)

Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network is committed to Work Health & Safety, Equal Employment, Ethical Practices, and the Principles of Cultural Diversity, Personal criminal records checks will be conducted. Prohibited persons as declared under the Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998 are not eligible to apply for child-related employment.

Z09685

NSW Health Service: employer of choice



Office of  
Environment  
& Heritage



### Field Officer, EBMP (Aboriginal)

Glenbrook  
Field Officer Grade 1/2  
Vacancy Ref: 0004BXA  
Temporary Full-time  
(1 role available up to 9 months)

**Duties:** As part of the Enhanced Bushfire and Management Program (EBMP) field team the role is primarily involved in bushfire fuel reduction activities, by both mechanical means and prescribed fire and, during periods of high bushfire activity, may be required to participate in bushfire suppression or other bushfire response functions. The role also participates in advanced firefighting duties.

Undertake works and maintenance duties, contributing to the organisation's obligations and aims with a focus on fire management, within the Region, in terms of the enhancement and preservation of natural resources and natural and cultural heritage. Operate and maintain plant and equipment.

**Total Remuneration package:** \$54,978 pa Package includes salary (\$45,178 pa – \$49,597 pa), employer's contribution to superannuation and annual leave loading.

**To Apply:** Applications are to be lodged online at [www.jobs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.jobs.nsw.gov.au)

Enquiries: Vera O'Donovan – (02) 4784 7313

Applications Close: Tuesday, 12 April 2016, 11.59 pm

Z09823



### CLERICAL ASSISTANT

Aboriginal targeted position  
Police Armoury, Counter Terrorism & Special Tactics  
SURREY HILLS  
Clerk Grade 1/2  
Permanent Full-Time  
Jobs.NSW Requisition No.00004CQI

**Salary Package:** \$70,404. **Salary:** \$58,687 – \$63,801. Package includes annual salary, employer's contribution to superannuation and annual leave loading.

#### Job Description:

The position of Clerical Assistant provides administrative and clerical support in the delivery of financial, personnel and human resource services to the Police Armoury. This position provides a wide range of executive, administrative and clerical functions to support the Commander of the Unit.

#### Job Notes:

- This position is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants only in accordance with the NSW Police Force Employment Strategy. Applicants for this position must satisfy the Aboriginality criteria.
- **Applicants must:**
  - o be willing and able to work with firearms, weaponry parts and ammunition.
  - o be willing to consent to a security vetting process that includes background, integrity and criminal history checks.
- **For your application to be considered, you must:**
  - o Addressing each of the selection criteria in the areas provided in the online application.
  - o Attach an up-to-date Resume/CV to your application.
- **Applications can only be submitted electronically online via the I Work for NSW website ([iworkfor.nsw.gov.au](http://iworkfor.nsw.gov.au))**

Enquiries: Chief Inspector Rick Steinborn on (02) 9265 4061

For the selection criteria, a full downloadable position description, information package and to apply, please go to [I Work for NSW \(iworkfor.nsw.gov.au\)](http://I Work for NSW (iworkfor.nsw.gov.au)) and search for Requisition Number 00004CQI

Applications Close: Sunday 17 April 2016

Z09916

## Wingara Mura Leadership Program



### Expressions of Interest

Academic Teaching and  
Research Positions  
Level A and B

Closing date: 24 April 2016



For more information and to submit your expression of interest, please visit [sydney.edu.au/recruitment/wingara-mura](http://sydney.edu.au/recruitment/wingara-mura)

The Wingara Mura – Bunga Barrabugu strategy ensures and confirms the University of Sydney as a place where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are able to pursue academic interests of personal pride and purpose.

We are seeking expressions of interest from Level A and B early career academics who are interested in joining the Wingara Mura Leadership Program, and are keen to contribute to teaching and research in the faculties and centres at the University of Sydney.

As a member of staff, you will have access to an academic staff supervisor and be assigned a Wingara Mura sponsor for additional support. You will also participate in workshops and activities designed to enhance career development and leadership.

If you are interested in developing an academic career and are currently enrolled in, planning to commence, or have recently completed your PhD, please submit an Expression of Interest for consideration.

CRTCOS00026A

# Australian General Practice Training

Applications for the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program open at **10:00am (AEST\*) Monday 11 April** for medical doctors who wish to specialise in a career in general practice and/or rural and remote medicine in Australia.

The AGPT program delivers the vocational training program of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

Training commences in early 2017.

## What does the AGPT offer?

- Regionally-based flexible training
- Dynamic, team-based medicine
- Access to a salary while you train
- Financial incentives for eligible doctors

Successful applicants will train towards a fellowship of ACRRM and/or RACGP which leads to specialist (general practitioner) registration.

## Interested?

Visit the AGPT website ([agpt.com.au](http://agpt.com.au)) and download the 2017 AGPT Applicant Guide, which contains detailed information on eligibility and how to apply.

## For Further Information

Email: [AGPTSelection@health.gov.au](mailto:AGPTSelection@health.gov.au) or phone 1800 DR AGPT (37 2478) Monday to Friday 8:30am – 5:00pm (AEST\*).

Please Note: Certain eligibility criteria apply. Applicants must be Australian or New Zealand permanent residents or citizens to apply and hold general medical registration with the Medical Board of Australia.

## Applications Close

10:00am (AEST\*) Friday 9 May 2016.

\*Australian Eastern Standard Time

# AGPT



Australian Government  
Department of Health

16/05/16



## Executive Vacancy Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Cooperative (GEGAC)

Gippsland & East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-Operative Ltd (GEGAC) is based in Bairnsdale Victoria. Bairnsdale is the gateway to Australia's Lake District and High Country. East Gippsland is part of the traditional land of the Gunaikurnai people and is rich in Aboriginal culture.

GEGAC has been proudly serving the Aboriginal and wider East Gippsland communities for over 30 years. We manage around 40 programs and have approximately 150 staff.

Our services and programs include Medical and Dental, Finance and Business Administration, Child, Youth and Family Services, HACC, Elders & Disability, Alcohol & Drug Services, Early Childhood Services, Youth Accommodation, Women's Shelter, Cultural Services and The Keeping Place (Krowathunkoolong).

GEGAC wishes to fill this exciting new Executive Management position:

## Executive Operations Manager (EOM)

Full Time Fixed Term - (2 years)

The EOM is to be responsible to the CEO for the operational management of GEGAC. This involves building and improving organizational systems across all operational areas in order to promote High Performance.

This role will also screen the CEO from operational matters and provide operational support to the Executive Management Team

All interested persons should contact GEGAC reception on 0351 500 700 or email [hr@gegac.org.au](mailto:hr@gegac.org.au) for a position description.

Applications must address the Key Selection Criteria in the position description on a separate attachment page along with a covering letter and a current resume that includes the names of three professional referees. (3 documents in total) Applications without this information will not be considered.

All applications are strictly confidential. If you wish to discuss this position in more detail please contact Mike Ford, HR Coordinator 0351 500 700.

Applications can be emailed to [HR@gegac.org.au](mailto:HR@gegac.org.au) or addressed in writing to:

Human Resources  
Gippsland & East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative  
PO Box 634  
Bairnsdale Vic 3875

Aboriginal people with relevant qualifications and experience are strongly encouraged to apply.

GEGAC is an Equal Opportunity Employer

The closing time and date for applications for this position is:  
**Close of Business -5:00pm Monday April 18 2016.**



Health  
Western NSW  
Local Health District

## Aboriginal Primary Health Care Worker

Classification: Health Service Aboriginal Health Workers' (State) Award  
– Aboriginal Health Worker

Salary: \$941 – \$1,386.50 per week

Employment Status: Permanent Full-Time

Location: Coonabarabran, Baradine

Enquiries: Lesa Towers, (02) 6826 6132

Email: [lesa.towers@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lesa.towers@health.nsw.gov.au)

Reference Number: 311173

**Closing Date: 6 April 2016**

### Purpose of Position:

The Aboriginal Primary Health Care Worker will work with health service providers to increase access to health treatment and prevention services for Aboriginal people. The Aboriginal Primary Health Care worker will have a strong focus on the prevention, intervention and management of Chronic Disease with a focus on improving the Aboriginal Patient Journey within their community and the District.

## Aboriginal Health Worker

### – Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Service

Classification: Health Service Aboriginal Health Workers' (State) Award

– Aboriginal Health Worker

Salary: \$24.77 – \$36.49 per hour

Employment Status: Permanent Part-Time

Location: Condobolin

Enquiries: Anthea Hawley, (02) 6890 1536

Email: [anthea.hawley@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:anthea.hawley@health.nsw.gov.au)

Reference Number: 307281

## Aboriginal Health Worker

### – Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Service

Classification: Health Service Aboriginal Health Workers' (State) Award

– Aboriginal Health Worker

Salary: \$941.40 – \$1,386.50 per week

Employment Status: Permanent Full-Time

Location: Bathurst

Enquiries: Vicki Gransden, (02) 6330 5677

Reference Number: 305122

**Closing Date: 13 April 2016**

### Purpose of Positions:

- The Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Service (AMIHS) has been implemented in NSW to improve the health of Aboriginal women during pregnancy and decrease perinatal morbidity and mortality for Aboriginal babies.
- AMIHS acknowledges and builds on the awareness, knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal families and communities about pregnancy and child health and its relationship to lifelong health.
- The AHW works in partnership with Midwives, families and communities to enable the delivery of holistic culturally sensitive and accessible services for Aboriginal women and women having Aboriginal babies.
- The AHW acts as an advocate for Aboriginal families and communities in regards to their health needs, assists them in accessing and navigating the health system and provides advice to strengthen the cultural capability of services for Aboriginal women and families.

Please apply online by visiting: [yotmakeityou.com.au](http://yotmakeityou.com.au)  
(click on **Our Vacancies**)

NSW Health Service: employer of choice

20/06/16



CATHOLIC EDUCATION  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## ABORIGINAL STUDENT BURSARIES 2017

Applications are invited from Aboriginal families who would like their children to receive a Catholic secondary education.

Bursaries will assist with the cost of tuition fees and will be provided at the schools listed below.

**Bursaries do not cover boarding fees.** The bursaries are intended to recognise commitment to schooling by Aboriginal students as well as assist Aboriginal students who might be denied a Catholic secondary education because of financial circumstances.

<b>Aranmore Catholic College</b> Leederville	9444 9355	<b>Mercedes College</b> Perth	9323 1323
<b>Bunbury Catholic College</b> Bunbury	9721 0000	<b>Mercy College</b> Koondoola*	9247 9247
<b>Catholic Agricultural College</b> Bindoon	9576 5500	<b>Nagle Catholic College</b> Geraldton	9920 0500
<b>Chisholm Catholic College</b> Bedford	9208 2500	<b>Newman College</b> Churchlands*	9204 9444
<b>Christian Brothers' College</b> Fremantle	9336 2700	<b>Prendiville Catholic College</b> Ocean Reef	9307 2000
<b>Clontarf Aboriginal College</b> Waterford	9251 0666	<b>Sacred Heart College</b> Sorrento	9246 8200
<b>Corpus Christi College</b> Bateman	6332 2500	<b>Servite College</b> Tuart Hill	9444 6333
<b>Emmanuel Catholic College</b> Success	9414 4000	<b>Seton Catholic College</b> Samson	9314 1816
<b>Iona Presentation College</b> Mosman Park	9384 0066	<b>St Brigid's College</b> Lesmurdie*	9290 4200
<b>Irene McCormack Catholic College</b> Butler	9562 2400	<b>St Joseph's College</b> Albany*	9844 0222
<b>Kolbe Catholic College</b> Rockingham	9592 1500	<b>St Joseph's School</b> Northam*	9621 3500
<b>La Salle College</b> Middle Swan	9274 6266	<b>St Luke's College</b> Karratha	9144 1081
<b>Lumen Christi College</b> Martin	9394 9300	<b>St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic School</b> Carnarvon*	9941 1328
<b>MacKillop Catholic College</b> Busselton	9752 7400	<b>St Mary's College</b> Broome*	9194 9500
<b>Mandurah Catholic College</b> Mandurah*	9531 9500	<b>Trinity College</b> East Perth*	9325 3655
<b>Mater Dei College</b> Edgewater	9405 4777		

\*School has a primary section as well as secondary.

Applicants must be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and have a desire to be educated in the Catholic education system. It is expected that applicants have established strong foundations for learning and aspire to complete Year 12. Parents/guardians of eligible students are invited to lodge an application early as the number of bursaries is limited in each school. Information and application forms are available from the principal at any of the above schools.

Expressions of interest should be made by **Friday 6 May 2016.**

## Employment opportunities with Moree Plains Shire Council

### Manager – Dhiyaan Aboriginal Centre (DAC) Moree – 35 hpw

Forming part of the Corporate Services Team, working within the Dhiyaan Aboriginal Centre (DAC) the Manager is required to assist the DAC to make the transition to an independently constituted organisation with the support of the Moree Plains Shire Council, the State Library of NSW, the NSW Government and Kamilaroi representatives.

To be successful in this position you will have a current Class C Driver's Licence, hold tertiary qualifications in a relevant discipline and/or extensive job related experience.

Salary and conditions will be in accordance with the Local Government (State) Award 2014: From Band 3, Level 3, Grade 16, Step 1: \$1,450.60 to Step 3: \$1,559.40 per 35-hour week, with the final salary determined considering level of qualifications and experience.

Applications must be made online ONLY, at [www.mpsc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.mpsc.nsw.gov.au) and will be accepted up until 4pm on Wednesday, 20 April 2016.

Further information regarding the online application process may be obtained by contacting Council's Recruitment Officer, Natasha Hook on (02) 6757 3215 or via email [jobs@mpsc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jobs@mpsc.nsw.gov.au)

Moree Plains Shire Council considers that being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a genuine occupational qualification for this position under section 14 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW).

**Moree is: Positive Attitude. Drive. Service. Community. Learning. Development. Growth.**

Ethical Leadership.  
Country.  
Lifestyle.  
Choice.  
Join us!

Go to: [www.mpsc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.mpsc.nsw.gov.au)  
Click: Employment  
or call 02 6757 3215.  
Email: [jobs@mpsc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jobs@mpsc.nsw.gov.au)

Scan this for full details.



## GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OFFICER

Aboriginal targeted position  
Barwon Local Area Command, MOREE  
Clerk Grade 1/2  
Permanent Full-Time  
Jobs.NSW Requisition No.00004C8L

**Salary Package:** \$70,404. **Salary:** \$58,687 – \$63,801. Package includes annual salary, employer's contribution to superannuation and annual leave loading.

### Job Description:

The General Administrative Support Officer provides support within the Barwon Local Area Command, focusing on quality advice and high-level customer service to members of the public as well as other members of the NSW Police Force. The General Administrative Support Officer also provides administrative, clerical and keyboard support at various NSW Police Force locations, including the workings of the Local Courts system.

### Job Notes:

- This position is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants **only** in accordance with the NSW Police Force Employment Strategy. Applicants for this position must satisfy the Aboriginality criteria.
- Applicants **must** hold a current driver's licence with no traffic offences recorded on their driving history within the last six (6) months.
- This position operates under the non-continuous shift award with rostering undertaken in accordance with Flexible Rostering Guidelines. The position will generally be rostered to perform work in business hours on weekdays and may be rostered to perform afternoon shifts and weekend shifts on the front counter.
- For your application to be considered, you must:**
  - Addressing each of the selection criteria in the areas provided in the online application.
  - Attach an up-to-date Resume/CV to your application.
- It is a requirement to obtain and maintain a security clearance as determined by the NSW Police Force at the level appropriate to the position held and/or information/data accessed.
- The successful applicant will be subject to a rigorous National Police Check (criminal history) prior to commencement.
- Applications can only be submitted electronically online via the I Work for NSW website ([iworkfor.nsw.gov.au](http://iworkfor.nsw.gov.au))**

Enquiries: Kylie Von Drehnan – Local Area Manager on (02) 6757 0801

For the selection criteria, a full downloadable position description, information package and to apply, please go to [I Work for NSW \(iworkfor.nsw.gov.au\)](http://iworkfor.nsw.gov.au) and search for Requisition Number 00004C8L

**Applications Close: Monday 25 April 2016**

### Please Note:

A Recruitment information session will be held on Thursday 14 April at Moree Police Station (58 Frome Street, Moree) commencing at 10am.

This session will provide an excellent opportunity for any person interested in applying for this role to seek information about the recruitment process and what it is like to work for the NSW Police Force.

If you wish to attend, please register your interest and please call:

Kylie Von Drehnan on (02) 6757 0801 or Kerrie Shepherd on (02) 8835 9093

Z09914

**For all your advertising needs**

**email: [advertising@koorimail.com](mailto:advertising@koorimail.com)**

**or call**

**02 6622 2666**



**Health**  
Hunter New England  
Local Health District

Applications can be lodged online at [liveandworkhnehealth.com.au/work/opportunities-for-aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-people/](http://liveandworkhnehealth.com.au/work/opportunities-for-aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-people/)  
Application Information Packages are available at this web address or by contacting Aboriginal Employment – Workforce on (02) 4985 3286.

### Aboriginal Health Education Officer

Moree

Enquiries: Margaret Hayes (02) 6757 0251

Reference ID: 314611

**Closing date: 14 April 2016**

This is an identified Aboriginal Position. Applicants must be of Aboriginal descent. Exemption is claimed under Section 14d of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977*. Applicants must be female. This is a genuine qualification under Section 31 of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977*.

Salary and conditions in accordance with relevant award. Hunter New England Health promotes the values of Collaboration, Openness, Respect & Empowerment and is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer.

**NSW Health Service: employer of choice**

Z09858



**Health**  
South Western Sydney  
Local Health District

### Aboriginal Targeted Position

**Administrative Officer (Level 2) –  
Emergency Department at Macarthur  
Health Services, F/T and/or P/T**

Ref: 310131

Salary: \$25.41 – \$26.31 ph

Enquiries: Kellie Lamont (02) 4634 3239

**Closing Date: 19 April 2016**

This is a targeted position in accordance with Part 9A of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977*, Aboriginal people are encouraged to apply and greater consideration will be given to suitable Aboriginal applicants, in order to improve access to employment and career opportunities. Aboriginal applicants must demonstrate Aboriginality in addition to addressing the selection criterion.

Please apply online by visiting:  
[nswhealth.erecruit.com.au](http://nswhealth.erecruit.com.au)

**NSW Health Service: employer of choice**

Z09830



**Family &  
Community  
Services**

### Aboriginal Child Protection Caseworker

NSW Family and Community Services aims to transform the lives of vulnerable children by recruiting and developing outstanding individuals to be leaders in Child protection practice.

As an Aboriginal Child Protection Caseworker you will be working with vulnerable children and young people who are at risk of abuse and neglect, communities, interagency partners and peers, to be agents of change in the lives of children.

**Being a Child Protection Caseworker is tough. It takes a special kind of person. But the rewards are huge.**

We are looking for people with a strong commitment to children, families and community capacity building, people who possess a high level of resilience to become part of a team of skilled and dedicated professionals.

**Do you identify as Aboriginal and have two years experience working with Aboriginal children, young people and families or communities?**

**If so apply now! Please visit [www.jobs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.jobs.nsw.gov.au) and enter job reference no: 0000410M**

Join a team of dedicated and professional Child Protection Caseworkers in your area and benefit from:

- professional support and training
- flexible working conditions
- great career opportunities

**Note: Aboriginal Caseworker must identify and be recognised as Aboriginal.**

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information visit

[www.facs.nsw.gov.au/careers/caseworker](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/careers/caseworker)

The *Child Protection (Working with Children ) Act 2012*, requires persons engaged in children related work to have Working with Children clearances. If successful in this role you will be required to provide a Working with Children Check clearance number prior to commencing in the role.

Z08830



**NATSIC  
Community Transport  
Network**

NSW Aboriginal Transport Network (NSWATN), is a representative body, for addressing the issue of transport disadvantage for Aboriginal people. This will be done by promoting the efficient use of transport resources that exist within the community and ensuring that transport options are delivered in a culturally sensitive manner. The NSW ATN will work with stakeholders in the NSW transport industry on best practice for cultural service; and will educate service providers on delivering culturally safe service and environment; and will advocate for culturally appropriate and accessible transport for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in NSW. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation, Community Transport Network (NATSICCTN) is currently seeking to employ a Executive Officer for the office located in Parramatta NSW.

### We are looking for an individual who;

- Can liaise effectively with both government and non-government departments.
- Undertake market research, compile service gap analysis and structured reports.
- Identify and address transport issues within community.
- Engage with key stakeholders including Executive committee and community.
- Identify opportunities for service growth and participate in development.

The position is an identified Aboriginal position. Aboriginality is a genuine qualification authorised under Section 14(d) of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977*.

If you are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent and feel that you can offer your skills to this position, or you would like further information, then please email Hayley Browne [hayley@natsic.com.au](mailto:hayley@natsic.com.au) for an application package and salary conditions.

**Applications Close 25.04.16**



**Australian Government  
Aboriginal Hostels Limited**

**Various Hostel  
Management  
Positions, APS 3  
and APS 2**

### NSW and VIC Hostels

Aboriginal Hostels Limited (AHL) is seeking to engage motivated people who can fill various positions across the network of hostels in South Eastern Australia. To be successful in these roles, you will need to be hard working, have boundless energy and show empathy, patience and respect for the people you work with. You will manage day-to-day operations of the Hostel, supervise staff, and organise work in a service delivery environment.

- Biala Hostel (Sydney, NSW)
- Grey Street Hostel (Dubbo, NSW)
- Kirinari Sylvania Hostel (Sydney, NSW)
- Durungaling Hostel (Newcastle, NSW)
- William T Onus Hostel (Melbourne, VIC)

**Salary:** \$47,097 - \$58,163

**Vacancy:** Non-Ongoing with the possibility of becoming Ongoing

**Further information and how to apply:**  
<http://www.ahl.gov.au/?q=employment>

**Position Contact:** Karen Brown (02) 9043 9500

**Closing date:** 11:30pm (AEST) Friday 15 April 2016

This is an identified position.

One APS Career ... Thousands of Opportunities

[www.ahl.gov.au](http://www.ahl.gov.au)



GT20632A

**Aboriginal Mental Health Trainee**

Classification: Aboriginal Health Worker  
Location: Blacktown  
Employment Status: Temporary Full-Time (up to 28/02/2019)  
Salary: \$49,121 – \$72,346 pa  
Enquiries: Vera Labuzin, (02) 9881 8888  
Email: vera.labuzin@health.nsw.gov.au  
Reference No: 297942  
**Closing Date: 11 April 2016**

Please apply online by visiting:  
[nswhealth.erecruit.com.au](http://nswhealth.erecruit.com.au)

**NSW Health Service: employer of choice**

Z09787



**Community Support Worker**

**Location: Hunter, NSW**

We're looking for people to support our Indigenous customers in their recovery journey in community outreach and centre based settings. These are permanent part-time opportunities 20 hours per week.

**To be successful you will have:**

- Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Passion for the sector and supporting vulnerable people
- Technical literacy with proven ability to use Microsoft Office and systems for reporting
- Minimum Cert IV in Mental Health or Disability or equivalent industry experience
- A current NSW drivers licence and willingness to travel between suburb location
- Willingness to obtain an Australian Federal Police Check, WWCC and first aid certificate that meet New Horizons employment criteria prior to commencing with us.

If you are interested in the position visit our New Horizons careers website <http://applynow.net.au/jobs/N49266-aboriginal-community-support-worker> to complete the online application.

**Applications close COB 12 April 2016.**

**Integrated Care Coordinator (HM1)**

**Aboriginal Identified**

Classification: HSM1

Location: Ermington

Employment Status: Permanent Full-Time

Salary: \$67,408 – \$90,676 pa

Enquiries: Shahana Ali, (02) 9700 3269

Reference No: 315217

**Closing Date: 14 April 2016**

To apply for this position please visit [nswhealth.erecruit.com.au](http://nswhealth.erecruit.com.au)

Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network is committed to Work Health & Safety, Equal Employment, Ethical Practices, and the Principles of Cultural Diversity. Personal criminal records checks will be conducted. Prohibited persons as declared under the *Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998* are not eligible to apply for child-related employment.

**NSW Health Service: employer of choice**

Z09945



The advertisement for **CQI MANAGER** at the **Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service** was incorrectly placed in the March 23 edition. This position is currently not available and, as such, no applications will be accepted. The Koori Mail apologises for the error.

**Manning Valley Neighbourhood Services Inc. Taree, NSW**

We are seeking to employ a part-time worker for 12 months to:

- Establish & implement an information, referral & court support program for people living with a mental health issue by:
  - Linking them to needed legal/mental health & other services, and/or
  - Supporting them to navigate the criminal justice & housing tribunal systems at Taree Court
- Coordinate & lead a team of volunteers to support the above

**Interested applicants should go to [www.mvns.org.au](http://www.mvns.org.au) & follow the steps outlined in the application package.**



Join Australia's leading collecting, research and publishing institution on the cultures and histories of Indigenous Australians.

Over its 50-year history, AIATSIS has evolved into a national authority on Indigenous studies. It is a hub for collaborative, ethical collecting and research and develops Indigenous staff and researchers. AIATSIS Collections are one of the world's leading collections of printed, audio and visual materials on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history and societies.

**Director – Executive Unit (Executive Level 2)**

Ongoing - fulltime  
Salary \$106,861 - \$119,411pa

*This is a Special Measures and Identified position*

This position will be filled using the Special Measures provision, which allows for the targeted recruitment of Indigenous Australians into the Australian Public Service. The vacancy is only open to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people. The filling of this employment opportunity is intended to constitute a special measure under section 8(1) of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975.

**The role**

Working closely with the rest of the management team, the Director of the Executive Unit provides policy and strategy support to the CEO and Deputy and provides whole-of-agency coordination. This role leads and coordinates AIATSIS' corporate strategy, planning, performance measurement and reporting. Portfolio and other government liaison and coordination is also part of this role, along with general government accountability and obligations such as privacy, freedom of information, public interest disclosure etc. The Executive Unit includes secretariat to the AIATSIS governing Council, Audit and Assurance Committee and AIATSIS' membership.

**Closing Date:** 5 pm Wednesday 20 April 2016

**Want more information and how to apply:**

Obtain the information pack from our website: <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/about-us/work-us/current-vacancies> and provide no more than two page 'pitch', explaining why you would be the best person for this job. Attach your resume, covering your personal details, education and qualifications, work and other relevant experience and the names and contact details of at least two referees.

For enquiries please contact Lyndall Osborne on (02) 6246 1110 or email [lyndall.osborne@aiatsis.gov.au](mailto:lyndall.osborne@aiatsis.gov.au)

*The Institute values a skilled and diverse workforce to meet the needs of the organisation in the promotion of knowledge and understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures, past and present. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply.*



**Executive Officer Opportunity at the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership and Strategy**

The Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership and Strategy is a newly formed office that develops, leads and monitors Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander initiatives at the University of Canberra.

**About The Role**

The Executive Officer has a direct role in assisting the Dean of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership and Strategy on campus wide Education, Research and employment initiatives. This is a full time, continuing UC10 position. The salary range is \$115,465 - \$119,465 pa, plus 17% Super. This is a designated position, and we invite applications from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander candidates only.

**About The University of Canberra**

The University of Canberra is committed to enhancing the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in higher education. The University of Canberra strives to be both an educational provider of choice and an employer of choice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. To this end, we aim to align our policies, procedures, strategic and operational planning and our activities with the goal of making the University a welcoming and culturally safe place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff. We have big plans, and we welcome you to be a part of our future.

We are a recognised employer of choice offering excellent conditions and benefits including generous superannuation and an environment that is safe and welcoming.

**Interested?** If so, you are invited to submit your resume, along with an optional covering letter (of no more than 2 pages).

**For job specific information:** please contact Ms Tamara Posch (Executive Assistant to the Dean) on 02 6201 5894, or email [Tamara.Posch@canberra.edu.au](mailto:Tamara.Posch@canberra.edu.au)

**To apply and for the Position Description:** Please click on the URL below which will redirect you to the University of Canberra website:

<http://www.canberra.edu.au/about-uc/work-at-uc/vacancies/all>

**Closing Date:** 11:59pm, Wednesday 13 April, 2016

**Department of the Premier and Cabinet  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
Employment Pools**

*Looking for a career in South Australia's public service? We're looking for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to take on roles that may arise in:*

**Admin/Customer Support**

Salary range:  
\$49,576 - \$69,036

**Roles may include**

- Customer Service Officer
- Administration Officer
- Payroll Officer
- Accounts Payable or Receivable Officer
- Project Officer
- Executive Assistant

**Project/Policy**

Salary range:  
\$73,590 - \$90,481

**Roles may include**

- Customer Service Centre Manager
- Team Leader
- Business Analyst
- Technical Analyst/Officer
- Senior Project Officer
- Senior Policy Officer
- Senior Consultant

**Strategic Planning/Policy**

Salary range:  
\$94,106 - \$112,260

**Roles may include**

- Principal Consultant
- Principal Policy Officer
- Principal Advisor
- Project Manager

**Location:** Adelaide CBD/Various across SA

**To register:** [www.dpc.sa.gov.au/ATSI-pool](http://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/ATSI-pool)

**For more information, contact:**

**Jade Morellato:** Project Officer, Organisational Development

**Email:** [JobsatDPC@sa.gov.au](mailto:JobsatDPC@sa.gov.au)

**Phone:** (08) 8226 2745



\*Artwork by Murray and Kanginy George, Courtesy Better World Arts, commissioned by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.\*

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## Senior Aboriginal Health Worker (Clinical Services) Ballina, NSW.

- \* **Make a sea change to this picturesque coastal town!**
- \* **Attractive salary circa \$65k + salary sacrifice options up to \$15,950!**



Bullinah Aboriginal Health Service is growing, and as a result is seeking a **Senior Aboriginal Health Worker** to join the Clinical Services team.

The Senior Aboriginal Health Worker will supervise a small Aboriginal Health Worker team which provides clinical care support services and which delivers programs that enhance the health and well-being of clients and community in the Ballina and surrounding regions.

**On offer is an attractive remuneration package circa \$65,000 plus salary sacrifice options up to \$15,950! Enjoy a great work/life balance with structured hours and advance your career with ongoing training and support!**

**EMPLOYMENT OFFICE** Apply Online  
[ApplyNow.net.au/Job77475](http://ApplyNow.net.au/Job77475)



## NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Mines and Petroleum, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Mining Lease	36/685	CREW, Christopher CREW, Ross Frederick	166.02HA	33km NE'ly of Leinster	Lat: 27° 45' S Long: 120° 58' E	LEONORA SHIRE

**Nature of the act:** Grant of mining leases, which authorises the applicant to mine for minerals for a term of 21 years from notification of grant and a right of renewal for 21 years.

**Notification day: 6 April 2016**

**Native title parties:** Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to applications. The 3 month period closes on **6 July 2016**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100. The mining tenements may be granted if, by the end of the period of 4 months after the notification day (**i.e. 6 August 2016**), there is no native title party under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* in relation to the area of the mining tenements.

For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Mines and Petroleum, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

adcorp WG14573



## NOTICE TO GRANT AMALGAMATION APPLICATIONS NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Mines and Petroleum, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following amalgamation applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Exploration No.	Applicant	Amalg No	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
27/410	EMPIRE RESOURCES LIMITED BRIMSTONE RESOURCES LTD	482513	5.75HA	45km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 29' S Long: 121° 50' E	KALGOORLIE- BOULDER CITY
59/875-1	ACCENT RESOURCES NL	483149	49.72HA	65km SW'ly of Paynes Find	Lat: 29° 27' S Long: 117° 3' E	PERENJORI SHIRE, YALGOO SHIRE
59/2076	ENTERPRISE GOLD PTY LTD	482833	42.60HA	13km N'ly of Yalgoo	Lat: 28° 14' S Long: 116° 42' E	YALGOO SHIRE
74/400-1	GALAXY LITHIUM AUSTRALIA LIMITED	483044	19.60HA	6km N'ly of Ravensthorpe	Lat: 33° 31' S Long: 120° 2' E	RAVENSTHORPE SHIRE
74/558	SILVER LAKE RESOURCES LIMITED	480681	147.11HA	13km E'ly of Ravensthorpe	Lat: 33° 36' S Long: 120° 9' E	RAVENSTHORPE SHIRE
74/559	SILVER LAKE RESOURCES LIMITED	480682	194.54HA	11km E'ly of Ravensthorpe	Lat: 33° 35' S Long: 120° 9' E	RAVENSTHORPE SHIRE
74/559	SILVER LAKE RESOURCES LIMITED	481658	8.02HA	11km E'ly of Ravensthorpe	Lat: 33° 34' S Long: 120° 8' E	RAVENSTHORPE SHIRE
77/2258-1	BULLSEYE MINING LIMITED	482942	119.19HA	8km S'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 31° 19' S Long: 119° 19' E	YILGARN SHIRE
77/2301-1	WEST AUSTRALIAN PROSPECTORS PTY LTD	483191	3.66HA	74km NW'ly of Koolyanobbing	Lat: 30° 14' S Long: 119° 8' E	YILGARN SHIRE

**Nature of the act:** Grant of amalgamation applications which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals.

**Notification day: 6 April 2016**

**Native title parties:** Under Section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to the applications. The 3 month period closes on **6 July 2016**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth, WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100.

**Expedited procedure:** The State of Western Australia considers that these acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure. Each amalgamation application may be granted unless, within the period of 4 months after the notification day (**i.e. 6 August 2016**), a native title party lodges an objection with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of the licence is an act attracting the expedited procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth, or GPO Box 9973, Perth, WA 6848, telephone (08) 9425 1000.

For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Mines and Petroleum, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

adcorp WG14574



### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation  
Location: Condobolin NSW

The Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation (WCC) is a progressive and resourceful community organisation that aims to improve the wellbeing of local Indigenous people through economic, social and cultural development.

WCC is seeking a Chief Executive Officer to oversee all aspects of its operations.

The Chief Executive Officer will be responsible for ensuring the organisation achieves its strategic objectives in accordance with the WCC's strategic plan. The CEO will report to the WCC chairman and will reside in Condobolin.

#### Key Responsibilities will include:

- Overseeing the management of the Financial, Legal and the Administrative functions of the WCC
- Managing the commercial contracts undertaken by WCC parties
- Liaising with Government agencies and ensuring program compliance
- Managing the Human Resource requirements of the WCC and related programs
- Promoting the WCC and its facilities to the local and broader community
- Managing the control and maintenance of the centre and related assets
- Creation of partnerships that will ensure the long term future of the WCC.
- A 'hands on' approach to the administrative requirements of the organisation

#### The successful applicant will have:

- Credible financial and administrative experience with system software experience
- Strong people management experience/ skills
- An understanding of current political, economic, social and cultural issues related to Indigenous Australians
- Sound analytical, interpretive and problem solving skills
- Effective interpersonal, written and verbal communication skills
- Advanced computer literacy experience
- Excellent organisational and time management skills and MYOB would be an advantage

Applications to be submitted to 'The Chairman' WCC, P.O Box 194, Condobolin NSW 2877 or email to [wiradjuri\\_condo@bigpond.com](mailto:wiradjuri_condo@bigpond.com) by 15th April 2016. If you have any enquiries, please call Ally Coe on 02 6895 4664



## Save the Children

### OPERATIONS MANAGER

Seeking a full-time, one-year maximum term Operations Manager to join us in our Darwin office. You will support the effective and efficient running of our programs by providing leadership and support to our NT Leadership Team through coaching for high performance, recruitment, financial management, and continuous quality improvement.

#### You will make an impact by:

- Overseeing the operational requirements of the Territory's programs
- Leading teams that deliver well-designed, quality programs
- Developing a high performing and emotionally intelligence leadership team
- Transitioning the provision of clinical services internally

You are a highly relational professional who has great respect for all cultures and backgrounds. You have strong financial literacy, project management, and organisational skills, and have experience leading successful teams.

#### This role requires:

- Strong leadership and people management experience
- Senior leadership planning experience in complex environments
- Extensive experience designing and managing new programs
- Frequent intrastate travel

For more information, visit [www.savethechildren.org.au/about-us/careers](http://www.savethechildren.org.au/about-us/careers) or contact Craig Kelly, NT State Manager, on 0409 347 529. Apply through our website by 8 April 2016.

**We know diversity makes a positive difference, and we encourage people from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and other diverse backgrounds to apply.**

## Notice of an application for determination of native title in the state of Queensland



## National Native Title Tribunal

**Notification day: 20 April 2016**

This is an application by a native title claim group which is asking the Federal Court of Australia (Federal Court) to determine that the group holds native title in the area described below.

A person who wants to become a party to this application must write to the Registrar of the Federal Court, PO BOX 9973, SYDNEY, NSW, 2000 on or before **19 July 2016**. After **19 July 2016**, the Federal Court's permission to become a party is required.

Under the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* there can be only one determination of native title for a particular area. If a person with native title rights and interests does not become a party to this application, there may be no other opportunity for the Federal Court, in making its determination, to take into account those native title rights and interests in relation to the area concerned.



**Application name:** Wangkamahdla Nation  
**Federal Court File No:** QUD52/2016

**Date filed:** 20 January 2016

**Registration test status:** The Native Title Registrar has **accepted** this application for registration.

**Description:** The application area covers about 29,256 sq km and is located approximately 100 kilometres west of Boulia.

**Relevant LGA:** Boulia Shire Council, Diamantina Shire Council

For assistance and further information about this application, call Dianne Drake on freecall 1800 640 501 or visit [www.nntt.gov.au](http://www.nntt.gov.au).

GT20629

*Shared country, shared future.*

**NSW OFFICE OF WATER  
DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES  
UPPER MURRAY GROUNDWATER WATER SOURCE**

An application to amend a current COMBINED WORK APPROVAL has been received from **COLIN BARBER** for an additional bore proposed to be on Lot 49 DP753754 or Lot 50 DP753754 for irrigation purposes. (A007879)

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to DPI Water, PO Box 829, Albury NSW 2640, within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address and specify the grounds of objection.

Any queries please call (02) 6024 8852, David Finimore, Water Regulation Officer.  
Z09800

**NSW OFFICE OF WATER  
DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES WATER  
NSW MURRAY DARLING BASIN FRACTURED ROCK GROUNDWATER SOURCE**

An application for a WATER SUPPLY WORKS APPROVAL has been received from **PERILYA BROKEN HILL LIMITED** for an excavation (existing mine shaft) on Lot 7313 DP 1185108, Parish of Picton, County of Yancowinna for the purpose of dewatering the North Mine.

Objections to the granting of this approval must be registered in writing to DPI Water, PO Box 363, Buronga NSW 2739 within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address to specify the grounds of objection. (A7890)

Any queries, please call (03) 5051 6218, Don Reid, Water Regulation Officer.  
Z09818

**NSW OFFICE OF WATER  
DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES WATER  
LACHLAN FOLD BELT GROUNDWATER SOURCE**

An application for a new WATER SUPPLY WORK APPROVAL has been received from **ISOKIND PTY LIMITED** and **ACELIGHT PTY LIMITED** for two existing bores on Lot 6336 DP 769222 for mining purposes, Parish of Kaloogleguy, County of Robinson (Ref: A007788).

Objections to the granting of the approval(s) must be registered in writing to NSW Office of Water, P O Box 717, DUBBO NSW 2830 within 28 days of this notice. The objection must include your name and address to specify the grounds of objection.

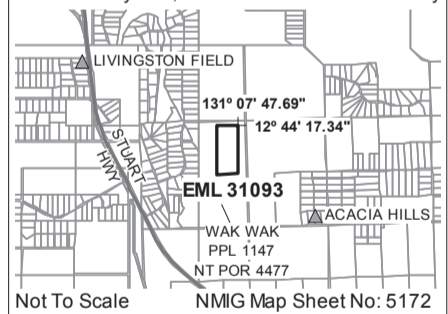
Any queries please call (02) 6841 7414, Richard Wheatley, Senior Water Regulation Officer.  
Z09890

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF  
AN EXTRACTIVE MINERAL LEASE  
NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29**

The Honourable David William Tollner MLA, the Northern Territory Minister for Mines and Energy, C/- Department of Mines and Energy, GPO Box 4550 DARWIN NT 0801, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth) of his intent to do an act(s) namely to grant the following extractive mineral lease application.

**The application to which this notice applies:**

Extractive Mineral Lease 31093 sought by Gossan Resources Pty Ltd, ACN 161 395 964 over an area of 100 Hectares depicted below for a term of 10 years, within the Noonamah locality.



**Nature of act(s):** The grant of an extractive mineral lease under the *Mineral Titles Act* authorises the holder to extract or remove (whether by quarrying or other means) from, on or below the natural surface of the land, extractive mineral(s) for a term not exceeding 10 years and to seek renewal(s). The term for which it is intended to grant the extractive mineral lease/s referred to in this notice commences from the date of grant. Further information about the act may be obtained from the Department of

Mines and Energy, GPO Box 4550, Darwin NT 0801 or Centrepoint Building 48-50 Smith Street Darwin NT 0800, telephone (08) 8999 5213.

**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, GPO Box 9973, Melbourne VIC 3001, or telephone (03) 9920 3000.

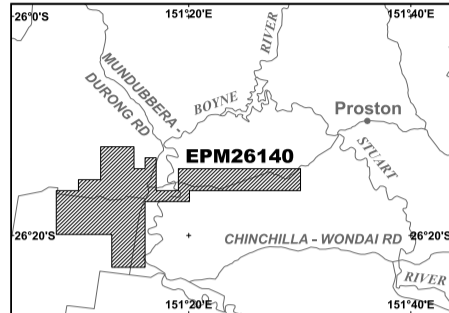
**Notification Day:** 6 April 2016

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF EXPLORATION PERMITS FOR MINERALS AND A MINERAL DEVELOPMENT LICENCE**

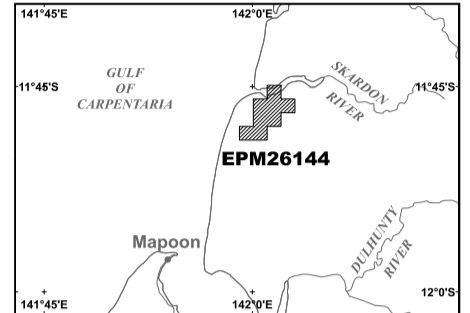
**NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29**

The Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) of the proposed grant of the Exploration Permits for Minerals and the Mineral Development Licence shown below under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld).

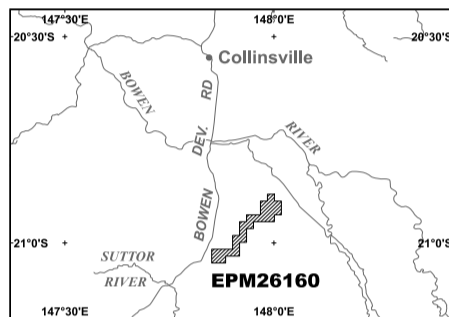
Exploration Permit 26140 sought by Eastern Exploration Pty Ltd, ACN 124 088 857, over an area of 86 sub-blocks (276 km<sup>2</sup>), centred approximately 30 km South West of Proston, in the localities of the South Burnett Regional Council and Western Downs Regional Council.



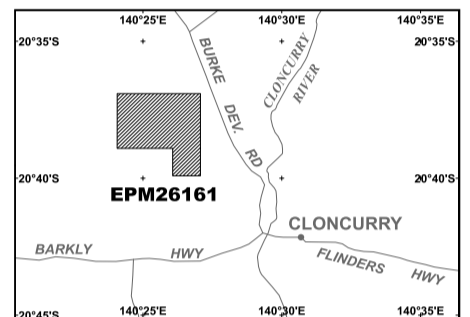
Exploration Permit 26144 sought by Cape Alumina Pty Ltd, ACN 107 817 694, over an area of 8 sub-blocks (26 km<sup>2</sup>), centred approximately 23 km North East of Mapoon, in the locality of the Cook Shire Council.



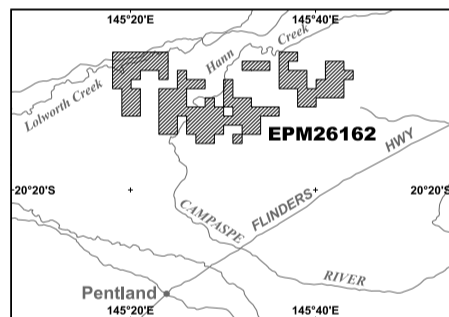
Exploration Permit 26160 sought by Symbolic Resources Pty Ltd, ACN 604 407 427, over an area of 23 sub-blocks (74 km<sup>2</sup>), centred approximately 45 km South of Collinsville, in the locality of the Whitsunday Regional Council.



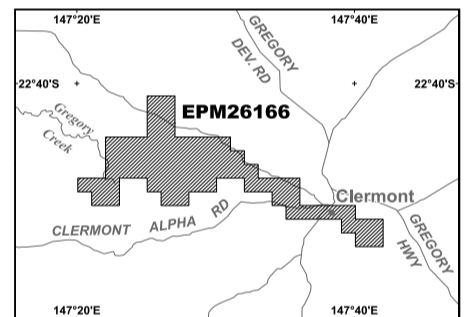
Exploration Permit 26161 sought by Cloncurry Industrial Minerals Pty Ltd, ACN 609 084 022, over an area of 7 sub-blocks (22 km<sup>2</sup>), centred approximately 12 km North West of Cloncurry, in the locality of the Cloncurry Shire Council.



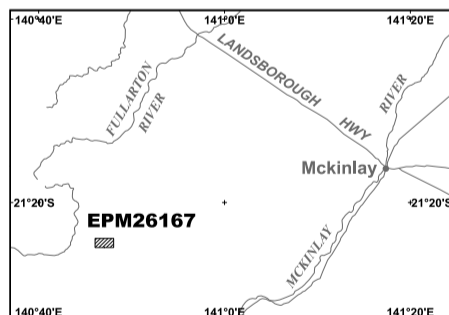
Exploration Permit 26162 sought by Toombax Pty Ltd, ACN 609 317 857, over an area of 100 sub-blocks (321 km<sup>2</sup>), centred approximately 42 km North of Pentland, in the locality of the Charters Towers Regional Council.



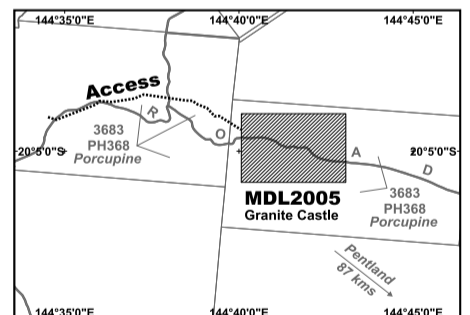
Exploration Permit 26166 sought by ITS Resources Pty Ltd, ACN 610 767 694, over an area of 64 sub-blocks (202 km<sup>2</sup>), centred approximately 10 km West of Clermont, in the locality of the Isaac Regional Council.



Exploration Permit 26167 sought by MRG Metals (Exploration) Pty Ltd, ACN 147 419 350, over an area of 2 sub-blocks (7 km<sup>2</sup>), centred approximately 55 km West South West of Mckinlay, in the localities of the Mckinlay Shire Council and Cloncurry Shire Council.



Mineral Development Licence 2005 sought by Mantle Mining Corporation Pty Ltd, ACN 107 180 441, over an area of 1935.4200 ha, centred approximately 87 km North West of Pentland, in the locality of Flinders Shire Council.



GSD\HANTS\KAL EPM26140(8)

**Nature of Act(s):** The grant of an Exploration Permit under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld), authorises the holder to explore for minerals specified for a term 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 Native Title Protection Conditions Version 3, June 2014.

Grant of a Mineral Development Licence under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) authorises the holder to do all things that were or are authorised under the Mineral Development Licence over the area of the application and carry out activities leading to the evaluation and economic development of the ore body subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld). It is proposed to grant the Mineral Development Licence for a term not exceeding five (5) years, with the possibility of renewal for a term not exceeding five (5) years and also subject to the Native Title Protection Conditions for Mineral Development Licences Version 3, June 2014, pursuant to s. 194(1)(j) of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld) and s. 194AAA of that Act.

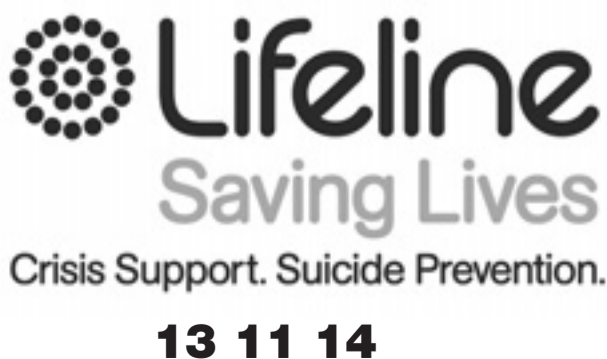
**Native Title Parties:** Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) any person who is a "native title party" is entitled to certain rights in relation to the proposed grant of Exploration Permits and Mineral Development Licences. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), persons have until three (3) months after Notification Day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries in relation to filing a native

title determination application may be directed to the Federal Court, Brisbane Registry, Level 6, Commonwealth Law Courts, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3248 1100 or Email: qldreg@fedcourt.gov.au

**Expedited Procedure:** The State of Queensland considers the grant of each Exploration Permit and Mineral Development Licence to which this notice applies is an act attracting the Expedited Procedure. Each individual Exploration Permit and Mineral Development Licence may be granted unless, within a period of four (4) months after the Notification Day a native title party lodges an objection in respect of the individual Exploration Permit or Mineral Development Licence with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of that Exploration Permit or Mineral Development Licence is a future act attracting the Expedited Procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3307 5000 or 1800 640 501.

**Further Information:** Further Information about the proposed grants may be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, 61 Mary Street, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000. Telephone: (07) 3008 5742.

**Notification Day:** 27 April 2016

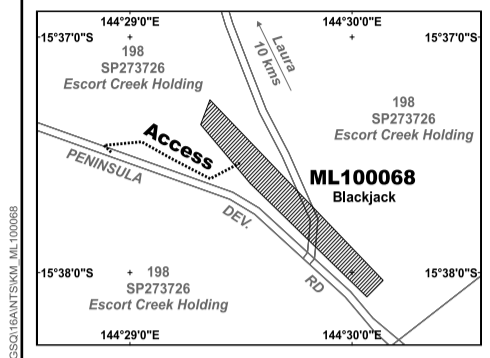


# NOTICE OF PROPOSED GRANT OF A MINING LEASE

## NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002, hereby gives notice in accordance with section 29 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) of the proposed grant of the Mining Lease shown below under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld).

Mining Lease 100068 sought by Patrick Daniel Michael O'Shane (50%) and Hamish William Bergerson (50%), over an area of 40.1800 ha, centred approximately 10 km South East of Laura, in the locality of Cook Shire Council.



**Nature of Act(s):** The grant of Mining Lease under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld), authorises the holder to mine and carry out associated activities subject to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld), for a term not exceeding fifteen (15) years, with the possibility of renewal for a term not exceeding fifteen (15) years.

**Name and address of person doing acts:** It is proposed that the Mining Lease be granted by the Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, PO Box 15216, City East, Queensland, 4002.

**Further Information:** Further information about the proposed grant of the Mining Lease, including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the Mining Lease Application may be obtained Department of Natural Resources and Mines, 61 Mary Street, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000, Telephone: (07) 3008 5742 or from Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Mineral Assessment Hub, Level 9, Verde Tower, 445 Flinders Street, Townsville, Queensland, 4810, Telephone: (07) 4447 9230.

**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 Mining Lease. Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), persons have until three (3) months after Notification Day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to this notice. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application may be directed to the Federal Court, Brisbane Registry, Level 6, 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 5, 119 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000, Telephone: (07) 3307 5000 or 1800 640 501.

**Notification Day: 27 April 2016**



# NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS

## NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Mines and Petroleum, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area*	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Exploration Licence	15/1482	WOODS, Mitchell Stanley	1BL	19km E'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 57' S Long: 121° 21' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	15/1501	FITZPATRICK, Michael John	1BL	67km E'ly of Koolyanobbing	Lat: 30° 55' S Long: 120° 12' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	16/484	GOLDSTAR RESOURCES (WA) PTY LTD	12BL	47km NW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 41' S Long: 120° 46' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	25/537	DOBAJ, Elizabeth Virginia	3BL	45km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 2' S Long: 122° 6' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	27/558	MILFORD RESOURCES PTY LTD	14BL	26km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 39' S Long: 121° 43' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	27/559	EVOLUTION MINING (MUNGARI) PTY LTD	34BL	26km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 38' S Long: 121° 42' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	37/1231	TALISMAN NICKEL PTY LTD	3BL	61km NW'ly of Leonora	Lat: 28° 26' S Long: 120° 59' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	38/3090	DUKETON MINING LTD	4BL	54km W'ly of Cosmo Newberry Mission	Lat: 27° 58' S Long: 122° 21' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	38/3100	MAGNETIC RESOURCES NL	7BL	14km SW'ly of Laverton	Lat: 28° 44' S Long: 122° 19' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	38/3102	MATSA RESOURCES LTD	1BL	27km E'ly of Laverton	Lat: 28° 42' S Long: 122° 39' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	39/1912	ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI AUSTRALIA LIMITED	2BL	72km S'ly of Laverton	Lat: 29° 16' S Long: 122° 16' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	39/1913	ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI AUSTRALIA LIMITED	7BL	81km S'ly of Laverton	Lat: 29° 21' S Long: 122° 18' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	40/356	SHIPARD, Paul Jeffrey	1BL	46km S'ly of Leonora	Lat: 29° 16' S Long: 121° 29' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	45/4413	DUMPNA PTY LTD	3BL	29km SW'ly of Port Hedland	Lat: 20° 33' S Long: 118° 29' E	PORT HEDLAND TOWN
Exploration Licence	45/4662	GOLDSTONE HOLDINGS PTY LTD	113BL	148km SE'ly of Telfer	Lat: 22° 53' S Long: 122° 53' E	EAST PILBARA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	45/4664	FMG PILBARA PTY LTD	9BL	81km SW'ly of Marble Bar	Lat: 21° 39' S Long: 119° 9' E	EAST PILBARA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	46/1087-1	BROCKMAN EXPLORATION PTY LTD	2BL	55km E'ly of Newman	Lat: 23° 18' S Long: 120° 16' E	EAST PILBARA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	46/1099	SHEFFIELD RESOURCES LIMITED	85BL	112km SW'ly of Telfer	Lat: 22° 18' S Long: 121° 21' E	EAST PILBARA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	46/1106	BALX PTY LTD	70BL	37km S'ly of Nullagine	Lat: 22° 13' S Long: 120° 5' E	EAST PILBARA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	47/3403	FMG PILBARA PTY LTD	35BL	38km NW'ly of Newman	Lat: 23° 3' S Long: 119° 33' E	EAST PILBARA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	47/3406	FMG PILBARA PTY LTD	70BL	20km E'ly of Paraburdoo	Lat: 23° 15' S Long: 117° 51' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	51/1712 & 51/1723-4	GRAZ PTY LTD	191BL	143km NW'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 25° 47' S Long: 119° 43' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	51/1732	STELLA RESOURCES PTY LTD	67BL	124km E'ly of Meekatharra	Lat: 26° 12' S Long: 119° 39' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	51/1733	STELLA RESOURCES PTY LTD	37BL	95km E'ly of Meekatharra	Lat: 26° 22' S Long: 119° 25' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	51/1734	STELLA RESOURCES PTY LTD	24BL	101km E'ly of Meekatharra	Lat: 26° 29' S Long: 119° 30' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	52/3344	MARINDI METALS OPERATIONS PTY LTD	101BL	78km SW'ly of Newman	Lat: 23° 52' S Long: 119° 13' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	52/3345	MARINDI METALS OPERATIONS PTY LTD	42BL	61km S'ly of Newman	Lat: 23° 53' S Long: 119° 35' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	52/3362	MARINDI METALS OPERATIONS PTY LTD	30BL	104km W'ly of Newman	Lat: 23° 31' S Long: 118° 44' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	53/1879	WARREN, Phillip Winton	3BL	96km E'ly of Meekatharra	Lat: 26° 51' S Long: 119° 25' E	WILUNA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	59/2166	ERIKSSON, Arne Olavi	70BL	48km S'ly of Yalgoo	Lat: 28° 46' S Long: 116° 34' E	YALGOO SHIRE
Exploration Licence	66/95	ATRIPLEX PTY LIMITED	70BL	48km S'ly of Yalgoo	Lat: 28° 46' S Long: 116° 34' E	YALGOO SHIRE
Exploration Licence	66/95	LITHIUM AUSTRALIA NL	16BL	33km NE'ly of Geraldton	Lat: 28° 37' S Long: 114° 54' E	CHAPMAN VALLEY SHIRE, GERALDTON CITY
Exploration Licence	70/4793	STRATEGIC SANDS PTY LTD	4BL	8km SW'ly of Busselton	Lat: 33° 43' S Long: 115° 18' E	BUSSELTON CITY
Exploration Licence	70/4805	STRATEGIC SANDS PTY LTD	5BL	18km N'ly of Augusta	Lat: 34° 9' S Long: 115° 8' E	AUGUSTA-MARGARET RIVER SHIRE
Exploration Licence	70/4807	STRATEGIC SANDS PTY LTD	3BL	12km NE'ly of Augusta	Lat: 34° 14' S Long: 115° 15' E	AUGUSTA-MARGARET RIVER SHIRE
Exploration Licence	70/4809	METALICITY LIMITED	150BL	27km NE'ly of Bridgetown	Lat: 33° 51' S Long: 116° 24' E	BOYUP BROOK SHIRE, BRIDGETOWN-GREENBUSHES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	70/4811	LITHIUM AUSTRALIA NL	4BL	30km SW'ly of Cunderdin	Lat: 31° 53' S Long: 117° 5' E	YORK SHIRE
Exploration Licence	70/4812	LITHIUM AUSTRALIA NL	15BL	22km E'ly of York	Lat: 31° 54' S Long: 117° 0' E	YORK SHIRE
Exploration Licence	70/4813	K S GOLD PTY LTD	16BL	19km NE'ly of Moora	Lat: 30° 30' S Long: 116° 8' E	MOORA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/2329	PEMBERY PROSPECTING PTY LTD	19BL	102km N'ly of Koolyanobbing	Lat: 29° 55' S Long: 119° 17' E	MENZIES SHIRE, YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/2347	DAKOTA MINERALS LIMITED	70BL	126km S'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 23° 51' S Long: 119° 24' E	MENZIES SHIRE, SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/2351-1	BULLSEYE MINING LIMITED	4BL	15km SW'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 31° 18' S Long: 119° 12' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6002	FOCUS MINERALS LTD	10.00HA	20km SW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 3' S Long: 120° 59' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6007	AUSIM MINES PTY LTD	38.74HA	11km NE'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 53' S Long: 121° 14' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/2927	ROWE, John Henry	174.59HA	42km NW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 38' S Long: 120° 54' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	24/4961	ASR RESOURCES PTY LTD	4.84HA	35km N'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 26' S Long: 121° 21' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5044	BROWN, Michael John	195.38HA	67km S'ly of Menzies	Lat: 30° 16' S Long: 120° 56' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	28/1283	STEHN, Anthony Paterson	198.05HA	74km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 28' S Long: 122° 10' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	37/8646	MALATESTA, Nathan	116.04HA	40km NW'ly of Leonora	Lat: 28° 36' S Long: 121° 3' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	37/8647	STEHN, Anthony Paterson	113.94HA	41km NW'ly of Leonora	Lat: 28° 34' S Long: 121° 5' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	37/8648	STEHN, Anthony Paterson	98.28HA	5km N'ly of Leonora	Lat: 28° 50' S Long: 121° 19' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	37/8649	STEHN, Anthony Paterson	148.03HA	12km NE'ly of Leonora	Lat: 28° 47' S Long: 121° 23' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	37/8650	STEHN, Anthony Paterson	116.01HA	8km NE'ly of Leonora	Lat: 28° 50' S Long: 121° 23' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	37/8651	STEHN, Anthony Paterson	192.52HA	13km NE'ly of Leonora	Lat: 28° 48' S Long: 121° 25' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	37/8652-3	STEHN, Anthony Paterson	308.99HA	6km NE'ly of Leonora	Lat: 28° 51' S Long: 121° 22' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	37/8654	PILKINGTON, Anthony Gerald	24.64HA	18km E'ly of Leonora	Lat: 28° 52' S Long: 121° 30' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	40/1383	MALATESTA, Nathan	66.55HA	45km S'ly of Leonora	Lat: 29° 16' S Long: 121° 27' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	40/1384	MALATESTA, Nathan	25.00HA	43km S'ly of Leonora	Lat: 29° 15' S Long: 121° 26' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	52/1523-1	FMG PILBARA PTY LTD	25.60HA	98km W'ly of Newman	Lat: 23° 25' S Long: 118° 46' E	EAST PILBARA SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	52/1524-1	FMG PILBARA PTY LTD	23.59HA	104km W'ly of Newman	Lat: 23° 27' S Long: 118° 42' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	52/1525-1	FMG PILBARA PTY LTD	129.20HA	53km E'ly of Newman	Lat: 23° 23' S Long: 120° 14' E	EAST PILBARA SHIRE

**Nature of the act:** Grant of prospecting licences which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term of 4 years from date of grant. Grant of exploration licences, which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals for a term of 5 years from the date of grant.

**Notification day:** 6 April 2016

**Native title parties:** Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to applications. The 3 month period closes on **6 July 2016**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100.

**Expedited procedure:** The State of Western Australia considers that these acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure. Each licence may be granted unless, within the period of 4 months after the notification day (**i.e. 6 August 2016**), a native title party lodges an objection with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of the licence is an act attracting the expedited procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth, or GPO Box 9973, Perth, WA 6848, telephone (08) 9425 1000.

For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Mines and Petroleum, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518. \* - 1 Graticular Block = 2.8 km<sup>2</sup>

adcorp WG14559



# Ready for Boston Marathon



THIS year marks 30 years since Robert de Castella won the Boston Marathon in 1986 and to celebrate, the Indigenous Marathon Project (IMP) will be represented in the 2016 event.

Nadine Hunt and Bianca Graham (2011 IMP graduates), along with Luke McKenzie (2013 graduate) will take to the start line in what will be Nadine and Bianca's fourth marathon (having finished New York in 2011, Frankfurt in 2013 and Tokyo in 2015) and Luke's second marathon (having finished the New York Marathon in 2013).

De Castella is the founder of the IMP, which has graduated 53 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island men and women since the first four Indigenous men crossed the line of the New York Marathon in 2010.

To think that prior to IMP, there were no Indigenous long-distance runners in Australia, and now there are 53 IMP graduates who have finished at least one marathon, established 15 Deadly fun runs in their communities across Australia and helped mentor and train 5000 participants in total through the Deadly Fun Run groups.

Meanwhile, the search for the next crop of IMP marathon runners is over and now the selection task has begun.

IMP head coach Mick Rees has spent the past two months travelling to all corners of the country – major cities, regional and remote Indigenous communities – searching for the next crop of 12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island men and women to tackle the New York Marathon.

The selection is set to be another difficult one, with nearly 200 applicants vying for one of just 12 spots.

Rees recently told ABC Kimberley's Vanessa Mills that selection was about more than just running.



Nadine Hunt

"We want someone who's come in and given everything physically, but also the most important part of the day is the interview," Rees said.

"It's our opportunity to find out exactly who they are, what's their purpose, what's the fire in their belly."

The 2016 IMP squad will be announced in mid-April.

## Brooke, Mariah in Hockeyroos team



INDIGENOUS players Mariah Williams (Parkes, NSW) and Brooke Peris (Darwin, NT) are in the Australian women's hockey team in the Hawke's Bay

Cup tournament in New Zealand.

Coach Adam Commens has named what he believes is the Hockeyroos' strongest squad for the Hawke's Bay Cup.

"We perceive this side to be our strongest group of 18, although there are a number of players who have missed out who are still well in contention for the Olympic Games," he said.

In Hawke's Bay, six of the eight teams competing – Australia, New Zealand, China, Korea, Japan and India – have qualified for the 2016 Olympic Games, with Canada and Ireland completing the eight-team competition. The Hockeyroos have been drawn in Pool A against Japan, Korea and Canada. Australia drew with Japan 1-1 in their first match on Saturday.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### PORT CURTIS CORAL COAST PEOPLE NATIVE TITLE AUTHORISATION MEETINGS

The Port Curtis Coral Coast People have made an application to the Federal Court of Australia (QUD6026/2001 Port Curtis Coral Coast Claim) seeking recognition of their native title rights and interests (**the PCCC application**) under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). The PCCC application covers areas extending roughly from south of Bundaberg, to Raglan Creek in the north, and from Monto in the west to the coastline in the east, as shown indicatively on **Map 1**.



Map 1

The **Port Curtis Coral Coast People** are currently described as comprising all the descendants of the following people:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Dina;   | 8. Jane;                               |
| 2. Jessie;   | 9. Besty;                              |
| 3. Dolly (mother of Johnson Matemate and George Swain);          | 10. Rosie;                             |
| 4. Sandy and Fanny;  | 11. Maggie Little;                     |
| 5. Dulhu / Doolan;   | 12. Rosie Blackman;                    |
| 6. Buller Tolsen (Norman Buller);                                | 13. Emma Jones (wife of John Broom/e); |
| 7. Nellie Murray (also known as Nellie Watcho and Alice Murray); | 14. John Hill ("Pig Pig");             |
|  | 15. Elizabeth Tan Watt / Daniels.      |

#### AUTHORISATION MEETING #1

This Notice invites all members of the **Port Curtis Coral Coast People**, as currently described above, to attend an authorisation meeting at the time and location below:

**Date of Meeting:** Sunday, 24 April 2016  
**Venue of Meeting:** Bargara Cultural and Community Centre, 160 Hughes Road, Bargara QLD 4670  
**Time of Meeting:** 9:30am, with registration from 8:30am

The purposes of Authorisation Meeting #1 are for the current claim group to:

- Consider the outcomes of anthropological and genealogical research into the following named individuals and their associations with the PCCC application area:
 

a) Fanny and Sandy, and Molly Jones;	c) Mother of Yorkie Milbong;
b) Kitty (wife of Yorkie);	d) Margaret Grant.
- Authorise the necessary amendments to the current claim group description, in the form set out below, so as to ensure that it is consistent with the best available evidence supporting the PCCC application. The proposed amendments are to:
 

a) Remove Fanny and Sandy and add and include Molly Jones instead;	c) Add and include Mother of Yorkie Milbong; and
b) Add and include Kitty (wife of Yorkie);	d) Add and include Margaret Grant.

If amendments to the current claim are authorised, the **amended Port Curtis Coral Coast People claim group description, as newly described**, will be:

"The native title claimant group comprises all the descendants of:

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Dina;  | 7. Nellie Murray (also known as Nellie Watcho and Alice Murray); | 13. Emma Jones (wife of John Broom/e); |
| 2. Jessie;  | 8. Jane;   | 14. John Hill ("Pig Pig");             |
| 3. Dolly (mother of Johnson Matemate and George Swain); | 9. Besty;  | 15. Elizabeth Tan Watt / Daniels;      |
| 4. Molly Jones;   | 10. Rosie;   | 16. Kitty (wife of Yorkie);            |
| 5. Dulhu / Doolan;                                      | 11. Maggie Little;   | 17. Mother of Yorkie Milbong;          |
| 6. Buller Tolsen (Norman Buller);                       | 12. Rosie Blackman;  | 18. Margaret Grant."                   |

(**the newly-described Port Curtis Coral Coast claim group**).

#### AUTHORISATION MEETING #2

Depending on the decisions made at Authorisation Meeting #1, a further authorisation meeting will be held for those people who fall within the amended Port Curtis Coral Coast People claim group description, as newly described above.

This notice invites all members of the **newly-described Port Curtis Coral Coast claim group** to attend an authorisation meeting at the time and location below:

**Date of Meeting:** Sunday, 24 April 2016  
**Venue of Meeting:** Bargara Cultural and Community Centre, 160 Hughes Road, Bargara QLD 4670  
**Time of Meeting:** Not before 11:30am

The purposes of Authorisation Meeting #2 are for the newly-described claim group to:

- Authorise an Applicant** (which may include re-appointing members of the incumbent Applicant) for the application in accordance with section 66B of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth);
- Consider and approve **amendments to the description of native title rights and interests asserted by the claim group**, so as the native title application can be put in a proper final form for determination by the Court.

#### Registering for the Authorisation Meetings

All members of the Port Curtis Coral Coast People are invited to contact QSNTS Community Relations Officer Richard Sporne on **free call 1800 663 693** to register their intention to be present at the meetings.

#### PORT CURTIS CORAL COAST PEOPLE INFORMATION SESSION

To fully apprise and inform PCCC claimants about matters required for decision-making at the Authorisation Meetings scheduled for 24 April 2016, an Information Session will be held at the time and location below:

#### INFORMATION SESSION

**Date:** Saturday, 16 April 2016  
**Venue:** Bargara Cultural and Community Centre, 160 Hughes Road, Bargara QLD 4670  
**Time:** 9:30am commencement

All members of the Port Curtis Coral Coast People are invited to attend the Information Session above.

QSNTS regrets that it is not able to assist with transport to or from the above authorisation meetings and information session, or with accommodation costs. However, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided to participants at the meetings and information session.



# Roberts on fire



HE insists he's not jealous, but Gold Coast rugby league coach Neil Henry would certainly have been upset with James Roberts' return to the Titans last Friday night.

It took the Brisbane flyer just three minutes to silence his former home fans at Robina by slicing through the Titans defence for the opening try of the Broncos' 24-16 National Rugby League (NRL) win.

After a week of build-up to Roberts' return to the club he left after a contract forgery scandal, his instant impact had a sense of inevitability about it.

Brisbane coach Wayne Bennett labelled the contract situation as deceitful and said Henry would be "jealous" that Roberts was now lining up against, rather than for, the Titans.

Henry laughed off that suggestion, but it was clear Roberts' opener was a deflating moment for him and his team. "That's how it is isn't it? He was

shown a bit of space and two guys had a shot at him. You need a couple there, but he's got good footwork," Henry said.

"I'm probably jealous we haven't got the two points, but not of the player."

Henry faces bigger headaches than former players heading into this week's clash with Cronulla.

Tyrone Roberts (knee) and David Shillington (hip) missed the Broncos match, while young halfback Ash Taylor took a whack to his shoulder early in the game.

## Quiet start

James Roberts made an inauspicious start to life in Broncos colours, but he's looking better with each match.

Roberts admitted it was taking longer than he thought to come to terms with coach Wayne Bennett's game plan, and said he felt he had a target on his back following his breakout season with Gold Coast last year.

"I think everyone does after a good year," said Roberts, who crossed 16

times in 24 matches for the Titans in 2015.

"I don't mind, I'd rather score no tries and win a game, as long as all the boys are happy, than score three and lose."

Teammates have defended Roberts' output over the opening games of the new season, with Darius Boyd crediting his sheer presence for attracting defenders and giving him space to score his 55th minute try against the New Zealand Warriors.

Roberts said his mind was more on improving his defence than worrying about becoming the gamebreaker the Broncos believe he can be.

"It's been a bit quiet but I'm not too worried about my attack at the moment," he said.

"We pride ourselves on our defence. Holding that right side down is my main priority for the team at the moment.

"I've just got to do my job out there and hold shape. If the ball comes, it comes, if it doesn't I just worry about my defence." – AAP

## Roberts 'right to leave Titans'

**B** R I S B A N E National Rugby League (NRL) coach Wayne Bennett says James Roberts was right to walk away from a 'deceitful' Gold Coast over an NRL contract forgery bungle.

Brisbane centre Roberts played against his former side for the first time last Friday night's NRL derby on the Gold Coast.

"It wasn't James' fault what happened – it was pretty deceitful what happened," Brisbane coach Bennett said last Thursday.

Last November it emerged a senior Titans staff member forged Roberts' signature on a re-worked clause in the player's contract, opening the door for him to leave and join fierce rivals Brisbane. – AAP

# Beale injury fears eased



KURTLEY Beale is "absolutely gutted" after being ruled out of the NSW Waratahs' Super

Rugby derby with the Melbourne Rebels last Sunday – but the prognosis could have been so much worse for the Wallabies star.

Fears that Beale could be sidelined for six weeks have been allayed by an encouraging update on his elbow injury.

Coach Daryl Gibson is hopeful the star back will return for the Waratahs' next game against the Brumbies after initial concern that Beale had dislocated his elbow during a training mishap on Tuesday.

"It started off with a worst-case scenario of six weeks," Gibson said last Friday.

"He hurt that elbow ligament, sort of subluxed the elbow joint.

"Obviously he scanned it right away and typically scans can paint a much worse picture than what it actually is.

"Since then the assessment is it's actually not too bad. It could be just a flare up of an old injury. So it's far more positive."

## Brumbies match

The Waratahs have a bye this week before hosting the Brumbies in a huge conference clash in Sydney in round seven.

"He's a definite chance for the Brumbies," Gibson said of Beale.

But the positive outlook is scant consolation for Beale, who had been set for a switch to fullback until the training mishap.

"He's gutted, absolutely gutted," said Waratahs skipper Michael Hooper.



Anthony Fainga'a charges for the Queensland Reds in their Super Rugby match against the NSW Waratahs at Lang Park, Brisbane, on March 27. The Waratahs twice came from behind to win 15-13. Devastation was obvious on the faces of the home side players at the end of an 80-minute arm wrestle that slipped from their grasp in the last 10 minutes. Bone-crunching defence from Fainga'a created turnover opportunities for Queensland. The Reds had a bye last weekend before they host 2015 champions the Highlanders at Lang Park on Saturday, April 9.

"I didn't even see the actual incident the other day at training, but you see the effect it has on the group when people start hearing about it in the locker room

because you feel for the guy. "He just wants to play rugby and he's in really good form."

Gibson had planned to start Israel Folau at outside centre for

the first time – with Beale at fullback – after Horne broke his arm in NSW's tough win over the Queensland Reds the previous Sunday.

But Beale's injury has scuppered those plans, with Gibson preferring to start Carraro rather than rookie fullback Andrew Kellaway. – AAP

# Bilney shines

By PETER ARGENT



MALLEE Park Indigenous talent Kingsley Bilney played his part in Country thrashing City by 48 points in the annual MAC Cup

Challenge at the Adelaide Oval.

Bilney was part of the creative forward line and kicked two goals and was a constant thorn in City's side.

The victory was set up by a brilliant and unanswered five-goal second term, kicking to the Torrens River end of Adelaide Oval.

The Country side led by less than a goal at the first break and were in control for the remainder of the match.

The final score was Country 13.10 (88), City 5.10 (40) in the curtain-raiser to the Port Adelaide-St Kilda AFL game on Easter Sunday.

"We had some good targets in attack, but it all started in the engine room," victorious Country

coach Barry Pilmore said.

"Equally, our back six was strong and hard at the contest.

"We didn't have a passenger in this game."

Bilney won team of the championship honours at the 2015 SA Country Football Championships in Port Augusta last July.

He was in the squad of 25 for the game against Western Australia Country in 2015, but was one of the last to be dropped from the final travelling group.

"Kingsley was a member of a pretty potent group in attack," Pilmore said.

"He has all the attributes you want in a small forward.

"Along with his natural speed, he has strong ball skills and a knack of knowing where the goals are."

Bilney said he would play again this year with Mallee Park under the guidance of former Crows great Graham Johncock.

Last summer, Bilney was a key performer in the Peckers' 2015



Kingsley Bilney takes a mark for South Australia Country against City. Picture: Peter Argent

flag, being among the best players in 11 of the 17 contests and also kicking 28 goals.

The Mallee Park Football Club, founded in 1981, won its first premiership in 1985 and has been

a dominant team in the Port Lincoln Football League.

Amazingly, the Peckers are the only team to rival Northern Territory Football League side St Mary's with continuous success in this

period with 16 premierships.

Coach Pilmore believes the side that represented SA Country last month will be the nucleus of the squad that takes on WA Country in the annual clash in July.

## Northern United 'more than a footy club'



THE Lismore-based Northern United Rugby League Club held an Indigenous Youth Sports Awards gala dinner and fundraiser at the Lismore

Workers Club.

It raised the club's profile in the local community and to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of eight young Indigenous people from the Northern Rivers region in their sporting codes.

The event was a first for the region and included guests, former NRL player and NRL One Community ambassador Nathan Merritt, master of ceremonies actor Luke Carroll.

X-Factor finalist Rochelle Pitt-Watson performed for the 120 people who attended. The club said it wanted to make the awards an annual event.

Club president Lester Moran said that without the support from the community and sponsors, the club would not have been able to create this opportunity for the region's youth.

"Northern United has always been about community, family and our jarjums," he said.

"We aren't just about playing football; we are about creating opportunities to celebrate the success of our children and families."

The club has taken on a new direction since December with a new management committee and board and believes it can play a big part in creating a sense of pride in the community and addressing the social challenges and issues affecting children and families on the Northern Rivers.

"Our mob love sport, and sport brings our mob together," Moran said.

"Through our home games, our training sessions and our club events, we can provide opportunities for our children and

families to interact together in a positive and safe way.

"We are building partnerships with service providers in the area to create better support systems for our players and their families and to create social change for our communities."

The club is in the final stages of completing its business and strategic plan that will focus on how to sustain the club and will focus on the club's community engagement. This includes taking the lead in delivering culturally engaging and appropriate events.

"Each year we aim to celebrate NAIDOC Week with a NAIDOC Week home game," Moran said.

"This year we have already locked this in for our calendar. We will also be looking at celebrating our women with a ladies' day. We acknowledge the importance of Reconciliation Week as the only Aboriginal football club in the NRRRL Group One competition. We also look forward to support White Ribbon Day and National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day activities throughout the year."

The Northern United Indigenous Youth Sports Awards were sponsored Northern Rivers Social Development Council, PCYC Lismore, YWCA Northern Rivers, Ngulingah Local Aboriginal Land Council, Ngunya Jarjum Aboriginal Child and Family Network

Winners:  
Indigenous Male of the Year, Dylan Clark  
Indigenous Female of the Year, Zoe Williams

Netball, Tywana Caldwell  
Basketball, Hezekiah McKenzie  
Athletics, Garnett Donnelly  
Rugby league, Tayden Hickling  
Rugby union, Owen Simpson  
Touch football, Natoka Brown



● LEFT: Ward recipients, back row, from left, Owen Simpson (rugby union), Tywana Caldwell (netball), Nathan Merritt, Gellan Clark (Indigenous male of the year), Hezekiah McKenzie (basketball); front, Zoe Williams (Indigenous female sports person of the year) and Garnett Donnelly (athletics).



The Northern United board of directors, back row, from left, Wayne Caldwell, Steven Roberts, Steven Kelly, Noel King, chairman Lester Moran, Laurie Mercy; front, Warren Williams, Rochelle Pitt-Watson and Peter Roberts. Peter Roberts is not a member of the board.

# Leading by example

By ALF WILSON



CLASSY Torres Strait Islanders Jonathon Reuben, Khan Ahwang and Maipele Morseu have been starring for their clubs competing in the Queensland Super Cup rugby league competition.

Reuben, of Darnley descent, has proven a try scoring success for the Townsville Blackhawks, while Ahwang, of Boigu and Badu heritage, has been in good form for the Cairns-based Northern Pride.

Badu Islander Morseu has added spark to the Rockhampton-based Central Queensland Capras playing at five-eighths.

In the Blackhawks' 46-26 win over Souths Logan Falcons in round three, Reuben scored two tries.

The following week, he also scored a double when the Blackhawks beat Wynnum-Manly 50-10.

In one of his two second-half tries against the Falcons, Reuben ran almost the length of the field, displaying blistering speed.

Reuben has a host of accolades in his short career, including being named in the NRL's 2013 Holden Cup Team of the Year when he was also the competition's leading try-scorer



Khan Ahwang, of Boigu and Badu heritage, has been in good form for the Cairns-based Northern Pride in the Queensland Super Cup rugby league competition. He formerly played with the Burleigh Bears.

while playing for the Canberra Raiders Under 20 (NYC) side.

Before heading north to Townsville where he played his junior football with the Centrals Tigers, Reuben spent a year with the Sydney Roosters and played in the NSW Cup.

Ahwang scored a try and booted two goals in round three when Northern Pride lost 28-20 to the Brisbane club Norths Devils.

The versatile back was the 2014 Super Cup's top points scorer when with the Burleigh Bears.

Ahwang, who is 196cm tall and weighs 100kg, scored 12 tries and landed 74 goals and one field goal in a 197-point season.

After round four of the Super Cup on Easter Sunday, the Blackhawks led the table from the Burleigh Bears and PNG Hunters.

Northern Pride was ninth, but had played one less game while the other North Queensland side, the Mackay Cutters, was 13th.

In round one, 24-year-old Morseu was man of the match in his first game for the CQ Capras in their 24-10 win over the Mackay Cutters.

Capras coach Kim Williams told the *Koori Mail* that Morseu dominated at number six.

"Maipele was best on the ground and also our players' best player," Williams said.

Williams has always had a high opinion of Morseu – going back to the days when Williams was coach of the Melbourne Storm under 18 side.

"He was in the Storm team and I tried to get him to sign up for the Mackay Cutters, where I coached from 2013 to 2015," Williams said.



Maipele Morseu

"This year he moved from Cairns to be with the Capras and I am glad as he is an asset."

Morseu had a knee reconstruction a few years ago and has returned better than ever.

Morseu has an impressive CV of being part of winning teams at All Blacks carnivals around the Torres Strait, Northern Peninsula Area, Cairns and Townsville.

Possessing brilliant attacking skills, Morseu also is solid in defence.

Dave Maiden is the Super Cup competitions manager and was formerly a Cairns-based QRL



Jonathon Reuben

official and was glowing in his praise of Maipele.

"Great to see Maipele playing in the Super Cup – he has always had the ability, but injuries have cost him," he said.

"He appears to be going quite well and Kim Williams is a very good coach who gets the best out of his players so Maipele should enjoy his time in Rocky."

Reuben had previously played for the Canberra Raiders under 20 side and had been with the Sydney Roosters before coming to his home town Townsville last year.

## TSI players showing the way in NRL

By ALF WILSON



PLAYERS of Torres Strait Islander descent have been shining for National Rugby League (NRL) clubs.

Cousins Edrick Lee (wing) and Brenko

Lee (centre) played for the Canberra Raiders in their 24-20 loss to Gold Coast Titans in round four.

That was the Raiders' first loss of the season and Edrick scored a try.

Edrick, of Moa and Badu descent, and Brenko had lined up for Badu side Kulpiyam at last October's Arthur Beetson Murri carnival in Redcliffe.

Brenko Lee also played for the Kulpiyam side that won the 2014 Zenadth Kes carnival on Thursday Island.

Other players of TS descent – Sam Thaiday (Yam) and Ben Barba (Boigu) – have been in good form for their clubs.

Thaiday is one of the main forwards for the premiership favourites the Brisbane Broncos while Barba is showing glimpses of his brilliant best in his favourite position of fullback for the Cronulla Sharks.

Barba was man of the match when the Sharks beat the previously undefeated Melbourne

Storm 14-6 in round four on Easter Monday.

His first half try was a great effort and showed Barba may be regaining the form that made him one of the competition's stars a few years ago when he was with the Bulldogs.

Barba had played at numerous North Queensland All Blacks carnivals for teams with family members from his home city of Mackay.

Thaiday has yet to play in a far north Queensland All Blacks carnival, but has indicated that he would like to do so a few years down the track for Yam side Magun Warriors.



Canberra Raiders cousins Brenko Lee, left, and Edrick Lee played for Kulpiyam at the last Queensland Arthur Beetson Foundation Murri carnival.



Ben Barba has possession for the Mackay Stallions at Townsville's Bindal All Blacks carnival.

# Bourne off to flying SBL start

By CHRIS PIKE



JACINTA Bourne has made a tremendous start to another State Basketball League (SBL) season with the Rockingham Flames on the back of being part of the Perth Lynx Women's National Basketball League team (WNBL) that made it all the way to the grand final.

Bourne did have one previous stint in the WNBL with the West Coast Waves, but she wasn't part of their 2014-15 team and then the Perth-based franchise underwent a major change.

The Perth Wildcats bought the licence to the club from Basketball Western Australia and went on to rebrand the team from the Waves to the Perth Lynx and to change their colours and identity to be in line with the red and black of the supremely successful National Basketball League (NBL) club.

It wasn't just a change in identity though. Suddenly, the women's team from Perth had plenty of resources behind it and money was spent to build a quality team.

They ended up putting together a group that finished the regular season as minor premiers and then advanced straight to the grand final with a thumping semifinal victory over the Townsville Fire.

It was then the Fire again they faced in the WNBL grand final, but the team from Townsville won the series in two games to make it back-to-back championships.

It was still a significant achievement for the Lynx to make it that far.

The new franchise had not only put plenty of resources into their top-end talent, they also invested significantly into their group of development players to build their future and to provide their next crop of players.

And that's where Bourne fits.

She was named one of the development players for the Lynx for the season, meaning she spent the whole campaign with the group, training full-time and developing under a new coaching structure.

Both the full-time training schedule and the focus on development without question helped her improve her game in all aspects.

She hit the floor in the WNBL briefly and managed to hit a couple of free-throws in her seven minutes, but the important thing was the development she was able to get from being in the set up with the new team that was provided with the best resources in the competition.

On the back of that, Bourne has returned to her local SBL team the Flames to try and help Rockingham to a third successive championship – she has been a key contributor in the first two along with sister Talisia.

Bourne started the 2016 season with a tremendous performance with 17 points, four steals, three rebounds and two assists in one of the best games of her career despite the Flames losing the 2015 grand final rematch to the Willetton Tigers.

Rockingham hit back with wins over the Joondalup Wolves and East Perth Eagles during the Easter break to get their tilt at a hat-trick of championships right back on track.



Jacinta Bourne in her WNBL days with the West Coast Waves.

# One more try, says Skinner

By CHRIS PIKE



ZEPHANIAH Skinner is willing to give top-line football one last crack with the former Western Bulldogs Australian Football League (AFL) excitement machine set to join WAFL club South Fremantle for the rest of the 2016 season.

Skinner has spent the past three years living back at home at Noonkanbah Station, in the north of Western Australia, having been unable to become accustomed to living in Melbourne as an AFL footballer.

However, the 26-year-old has decided that he wants to give his football career one last chance before it is too late.

He has been training locally with a team in the Fitzroy Crossing area and now has committed to making the move to Perth for the rest of the 2016 season and to play with South Fremantle in the WAFL.

Skinner is expected to arrive in Perth to begin training with the Bulldogs at Fremantle Oval in mid-April, with the hope that he will play his opening game with the club in the reserves by the end of April.

If all goes well and his form and fitness levels impress South Fremantle coach Todd Curley, himself a former Western Bulldogs AFL player, then by May Skinner could very well be seen playing top-level football again in the WAFL.

There's no reason to suggest that if he performs at such a high level that a return to the AFL is not completely out of the question, but for now, becoming accustomed to living in Perth and playing at a WAFL club is his first hurdle.

## Closer to home

And there is every chance of it working out much better than his time in Melbourne as part of the AFL.

Considering that his return home is only three hours instead of 12 hours, whenever the pull of family becomes too strong, there's every chance this will work out much more positively.

South Fremantle also has a rich history with Indigenous players and the current Bulldogs team has Aboriginal members such as Tim Kelly, Marlon Pickett, Steven Edwards, Jacob Martinez, Jordan Matera, Josh Collard, Traye Bennell, Dominic Warrell, Bailey Matera, Tere Teio-Yarran and Shai Bolton.

Skinner was originally taken by the Western Bulldogs in the 2010 AFL Draft, going on to play eight games in the big time in 2011 and 2012.

But he was not enjoying life away from home and was desperate to return to his home on the Fitzroy River between Camballin and Fitzroy Crossing with the Yungngora People. That's where he has now been the past three years.

But South Fremantle chief executive Stuart Kemp is confident the club can make sure Skinner feels a lot more comfortable away from home.

"There is still a lot of work to be done to get Zeph settled in Perth, however we are very excited about his signing," Kemp said.

"He is a bright and talented kid and we are looking forward to giving him another chance at becoming the best player he can become. He will start training in the coming weeks."

Skinner couldn't avoid the pull of going home at the end of 2012 and has enjoyed the time, particularly seeing his now three-year-old daughter Zyntoia grow up, but he does have some regret over giving up on his AFL career.

"Leaving home was the worst feeling ever and it was really hard because I had no idea what was coming," he said.

"There are no short cuts and you have to perform with the pressure on every day. And living in Melbourne is a bit freaky. I do regret leaving, but I felt like I had no choice.

"I still watch the boys and I don't like it when my little brother turns on the TV. It makes me think I should be out there with the boys and my family is still a bit pissed off at me. But at the time it was the best for my wellbeing.

"Not many blokes from the Kimberley go up to the big time so I feel proud of myself and I won't forget what I achieved.

"I got some memories for life but I do wish I stayed longer and I look forward to giving it another go, this time in Perth."



Zephaniah Skinner celebrates a goal for the Western Bulldogs during the round nine AFL match against the Geelong Cats at Etihad Stadium, Melbourne, on May 25, 2012. Picture: Getty

# Magpies reign supreme



**W**ITH the start of the AFL season down south still a week away, the focus was on the Top End on March 19-20, with the Northern Territory and Tiwi Islands grand finals. At one stage, a junior game at Marrara's second Oval was halted for a half an hour during the final quarter because of lightning strikes.

The spectacular Northern Territory Football League grand finals, along with the Tiwi Island decider the next day, had a plethora of people head north to watch more NT football history being written. *Koori Mail* correspondent Peter Argent was there for the two big days and captured the action.



The first bounce in the Tiwi grand final.



Magpies captain Roy Farmer had a big influence on the outcome.



Brother Pye Medallist Lindsay Moreen celebrates his match-sealing goal for the Magpies.



MELVILLE Island sides the Tuyu Buffaloes and Muluwurri Magpies faced off on Wurrumiyanga Oval, Bathurst Island, for

the season decider of 2016 in the northern-most Australian rules competition on Sunday, March 20.

The Tiwi Islands Football League, now in its 47th season, produced another exciting grand final, with a crowd of upwards of 2000.

Four straight goals in the opening term helped the Magpies to an important 11-point lead at the first break, and that advantage stretched to 17 points at the main break.

Despite a late surge from the Buffs, the Magpies won by 12 points, with final score being Muluwurri 11.9 (75), Tuyu 9.9 (57).

The star in this contest was seven-goal medium forward Lindsay Moreen, who was a dominant target for the entire game.

Moreen, who had NTFL experience with the Tiwi Bombers, had four majors early in the second term and added another three, including the match-sealer, in the second half.

Moreen was honoured with the Brother Pye Medal as best

player on the ground.

Muluwirri skipper Roy Farmer was an important contributor, being cool and composed at half back, while others who took the eye for the triumphant Magpies included Bradley Mungatopi, Michael Wonaeamirri and Andrew Purunatatameri.

For the vanquished Tuyu Buffaloes, Antoninus Kantilla, Angelo Orsto and Brenton Dixon were gallant.

Other Buffaloes to stand out were Donovan Puatijimi, Jack Dulla and Noel Timaepatua.



The Magpies' Annis Guy celebrates a goal.

## Tiwi girls leave their mark

**I**T was a proud moment for the Tiwi Bombers under 15 girls' team when they paraded before their home community during grand final day on Bathurst Island,

The girls created the own piece of history a week earlier when they won the Northern Territory Football League (NTFL) under 15 girls'

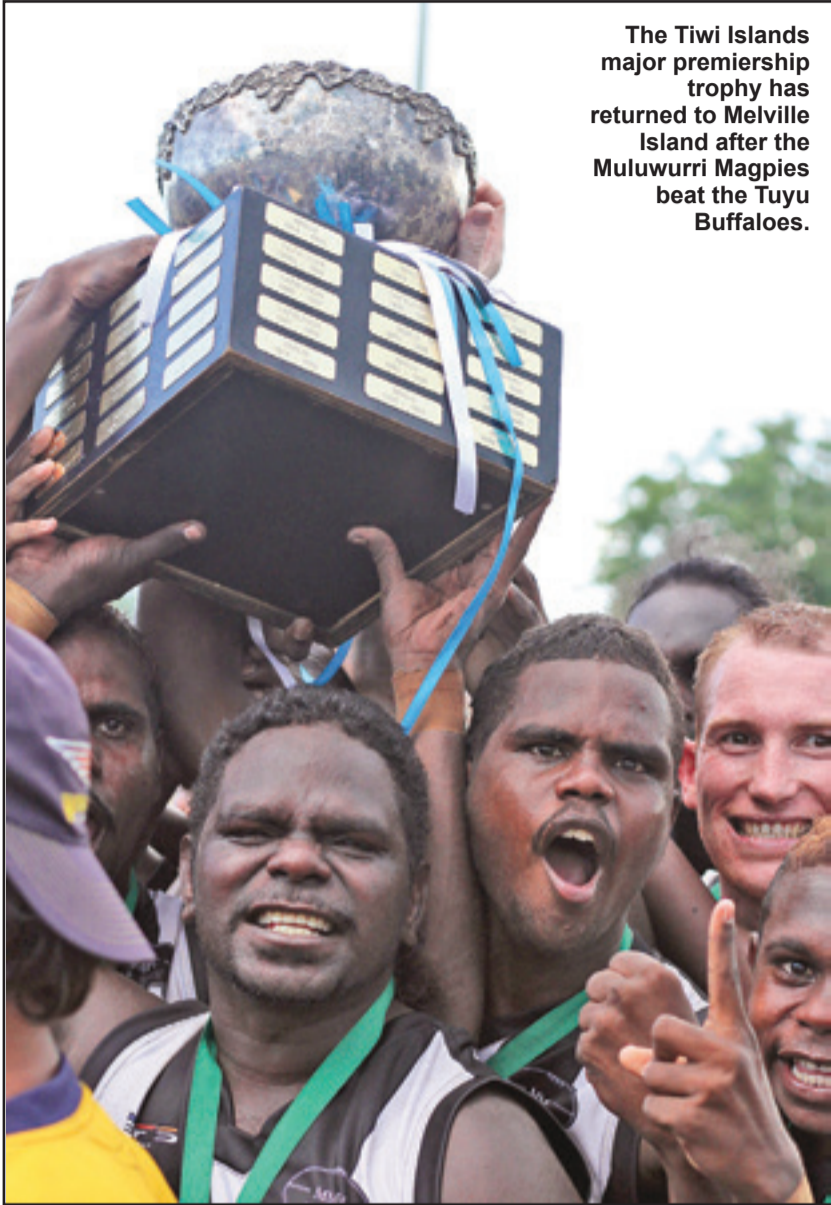
major premiership in their first year in the competition.

They had a strong win on grand final day, defeating the Buffettes 9.14 (68) to 6.1 (37).

After finishing third at the end of the minor round, the Bombers won each of their three finals in emphatic style.



The Tiwi Islands major premiership trophy has returned to Melville Island after the Muluwurri Magpies beat the Tuyu Buffaloes.



## Reality check for Indigenous team

THIS year's curtain-raiser to the Tiwi Islands grand final was a clash between the AFL's Football Means Business program, for 18-24-year-old Indigenous talents, and the Fox 8 reality program, *The Recruit*.

Coaching *The Recruit* side was AFL coaching legend Michael Malthouse, while local Northern Territory talent and 174-game AFL footballer with Melbourne Aaron Davey was in charge of the Football

Means Business squad.

He was assisted by Barry Lawrence and Central District SANFL premiership star Eddie Sansbury.

### Big margin

*The Recruit*, which has a media ban until the show starts, were far too fit and polished for their opponents, collecting a handsome 13-goal win.

Three sets of siblings will take part in the 2016 AFL

Footy Means Business – Tasmanian lads Jake and Matt Doran, along with Peter and Daniel Farmer and Harley and Beau Alec, from Western Australia.

Another Tasmanian – Zane Brown – was the outstanding player for the Football Means Business side.

*The Recruit* team was made up of a dozen contestants from the TV show, with the rest of the side filled by local Tiwi footballers.



Footy Means Business coach Aaron Davey, right, with Jerome Newchurch on Tiwi Island grand final day.



Former AFP player Eddie Sansbury was an assistant coach for Aaron Davey's Footy Means Business side.



The Tuyu Buffaloes run on to the field in the Tiwi Islands grand final.



Northern Territorian Kendrick Albert was in Aaron Davey's Footy Means Business side.



Wyndham Peachey (NSW) in action for the Footy Means Business side.



Tuyu player Clement Kerimaia in action.



● ABOVE: Tuyu player Anas Tipiungwuti handballs.  
● RIGHT: Lance Miller changes the point of attack for the Muluwurri Magpies.



Magpies supporters urge their team on in the Tiwi grand final.

# St Mary's class on



UNDERDOG status in something rarely expected when talking about the St Mary's (NTFL) grand final.

But in the 2016 clash against the reigning premiers Wanderers, they were the underdogs.

Showing a tenacity, courage and will to win against the odds, they collected the 2016 NTFL premiership flag and lifted the cup for a 31st time.

This is a record in any major competition in Australia since World War II.

In an aggressive first half full of physicality, the 'Green Machine' had the early ascendancy, but the Muk Muk Eagles arrested this during the middle terms.

At the last break, St Mary's bench had been reduced from four to one, and before the game, the club's efforts to get Ben Long's suspension overturned were in vain.

## Rioli magic

Eight points in arrears at lemons, Shannon Rioli's brilliant soccer goal to seal the game will go down in St Mary's folklore.

His freakish effort gave the 'Green Machine' an eight-point advantage in the final minutes and while the Wanderers reduced this to two points, the Saints were in front when the final siren sounded.

Defender Jack Long and Ben Rioli were strong throughout, while former St Kilda footballer Raphael Clarke and Michael Coombes won plenty of the ball around the contest.

For the vanquished, Daniel Weetra closed down his opponent at fullback, while around the ball Nathan Djerrkura and the bustling Josh Cubillo were productive in the midfield.



St Mary's players lift the NTFL trophy in triumph.



Raphael Clarke in possession for St Mary's.



Daniel Motlop drives the Wanderers forward.



Thomas Motlop looks for a Wanderers teammate. It wasn't to be his day, with Wanderers losing the NTFL grand final to St Mary's, and the Wanderers under 18 team – coached by Motlop – beaten in their grand final.

## Tracey Village victory was simply magic



Michael McLean and his son Gavin after Tracey Village won the Division I grand final.

MICHAEL 'Magic' McLean is an icon of Northern Territory football and he added to his status in the 2016 NTFL Division I NTFL grand final.

He coached the Tracey Village side to an emphatic inaugural title.

His troops set up the victory in the first half, keeping the Pints to just a single goal, and then they poured on five goals to one in the premiership quarter, with the smile on Magic's face saying it all.

The Razorbacks won this initial flag by a massive 67 points.

He enjoyed this premiership success with his son Gavin, who gave strong rebound out of defence.

Other Indigenous contributors

included Chris Kickett, who won plenty of possessions around the contest, while 56-game Brisbane Lion Anthony Corrie (one goal) and his brother Martin had their moments.

Deep forward Francis Vigona-Daniel kicked two goals, as many as the entire Pints team, while Dermott Tipungwuti showed plenty of dash from defence.

McLean was conservative in his post-game statements, suggesting his club still had further building to do before they were ready for premier league NTFL football.

He would also be a prime candidate for a role as a senior coach at that level.



Tracey Village Division I premiership players Anthony and Martin Corrie.



# show for all to see



● ABOVE: Wanderers' experienced coach Dean Rioli takes a breath during the NTFL grand final at TIO Stadium, Darwin.  
● RIGHT: St Mary's Michael Coombes and Wanderers' Shannon Motlop compete for the ball



## Talent galore in junior grades

THERE was an abundance of Indigenous talent among the junior grades on Northern Territory Football League (NTFL) grand final day.

In the under 18 boy's decider, the Nightcliff Tigers continued their winning run, collecting a third successive flag, defeating Wanderers by a convincing 40 points.

Tigers booming left-footer Byron Nabegeyo add a Haritos (best on ground) Medal to the Jeffery's Medal he collect a couple of years earlier at under 16 level.

Javadd Anderson, the younger brother of North Melbourne's Jed and SANFL Rooster Joe, kicked a pair of majors in Nightcliff's triumph.

Southern Districts enjoyed a solid 17-point victory in the under 16 Hickman (Division I) competition and also won the under 16 Leverence division in a thriller by two points, with both wins coming against Tigers outfits.

Nightcliff gained revenge in the

under 14 Gunderson (Division I) decider, winning by 28 points and keeping Southern Districts scoreless.

The victorious Hickman Cup coach was Peter Lake, who is also an assistant coach of the under 16 Thunder team and Kickstart squad.

"Michael Mummery, James Bell, Brandon Rusca and Peter Wees are all a part of the under 16 Thunder squad vying for selection at 2016 under 16 national titles," Lake said.

"Jayden Cooper Cunningham and Brandon Rusca will be a part of the 2016 Indigenous Kickstart team to play in Townsville between April 2-8."

Other Indigenous boys from Southern Districts who played in the NTFL finals and who will be a part of the Kickstart team are Brodie Lake, an under 14 who won the best on ground in the grand final, and Josh Stanton, who won a premiership with the under 16 Division II team.



St Mary's Jack Long salutes the crowd.



Shannon Rioli joins in singing the St Mary's victory song



● LEFT: Dakota Leach gets a kick away in driving rain in the under 14 Gunderson grand final. The game was held up because of the threat of lightning.  
● RIGHT: The all-Indigenous Southern Districts under 16 team won the Hickman Division I grand final by 17 points from Nightcliffe Tigers.



● LEFT: Eagles' Nicky Sattler competes with under 18 Haritos Medal winner Bryson Nabegeyo.  
● ABOVE: Bryson Nabegeyo with his under 18 Haritos Medal.

## Dylan Cooper wins Gear Medal



WHILE his team, the Nightcliff Spartans, lost a heart-stopping NTFL Division II title decider by just two points, Aboriginal talent Dylan Cooper, pictured, was judged as the best player on the ground, winning the Gear Medal.

The Waratah Warriors won 6.12 (48) to 7.4 (46).

Cooper, a Darwin lad, had recently returned from Oenpelli, about 60km north of Jabiru.

The diminutive forward

started with a spectacular goal in the first half and also set up another.

Cooper said after the game it was a "nice feeling" to be the best player in a grand final.

"I have come a long way to win this," the 22-year-old Cooper said.

"I was hoping for a victory, but we have got this far, so there a positives there."

Along with Dylan, his uncle Peter Cooper also kicked a goal.

# New brothers

## RUGBY LEAGUE



With PRESTON CAMPBELL

It was only a few months ago that everybody was talking about the potential partnership of James Roberts and his cousin Tyrone at the Titans.

Down the track and James is lining up for the Broncos and everybody on the Gold Coast is talking about the development of a new pairing for the future.

Ashley Taylor has shown that he is a star in the making and is benefiting from having Tyrone Roberts as a mentor and a brother to turn to off the field.

Although it is early days, the partnership is paying dividends and the personal chemistry between the two can only continue to develop.

Ashley Taylor has always been earmarked as a player of the future, meaning the Broncos could not stand in his way when he requested a release.

Darren Lockyer is a good a judge as anybody and he sees Ash as an investment in the Titans' future.

He gave a recent opinion that should raise the spirits of all long-suffering Titans fans.

"If one player symbolises the Titans this season, it is their boom halfback Taylor," Lockyer said.

"He is not the finished product yet, but is on the rise and his performance against the Tigers convinced me he has the ability to steer the Titans to better times.

"I watched him come through at the Broncos and the thing I liked is that when games were in the balance, Ash wanted his hands on the ball. Invariably, he took the right option under pressure.

"Taylor only turned 21 last week, but if he continues his development, I see him becoming a 10-year player at the Titans."

If confidence is the key to succeeding in the NRL, then Gold Coast youngster Ash Taylor will do just fine for the Titans in 2016.

Given Taylor's lack of

experience, many pencilled the Titans in for this year's wooden spoon as soon as Kane Elgey's fate was confirmed.

Taylor says he's revelling in the challenge of proving he can transition from highly-touted youngster to NRL starter.

"Didn't know what to think at the start, just felt sad for Kane," Taylor said.

"I'm more than confident in stepping up now ... the opportunity has come up."

Despite being let go from Red Hill, Taylor says the experience he gained as a member of the first team squad in 2015 will stand him in good stead as he gets accustomed to his new surroundings.

"I got a lot out of my season last year because I was training full-time," Taylor said.

"Obviously, Corey Parker, Ben Hunt, Anthony Milford — they're all world-class players and I got a lot out of them last year.

"At the Broncos I filled the void with Ben Hunt — now I've got to make it my own."

Tyrone Roberts has vowed to use his NRL experience to usher in the next generation of Gold Coast playmakers, starting with Taylor.

The combination between Roberts and Taylor has shown promising signs in the opening three rounds of the competition, with Roberts releasing more of the leash on Taylor with each game in the top grade.

"I've done my apprenticeship, I know that, and I've experienced ups and downs," Roberts said.

"I went through tough times and I know what's expected every week. I can talk to the young blokes coming through,

especially Ash.

"Me and Ash get along well and I know when he's having a bad day. I've been there and done that and that's what's so good at the moment. He knows what's expected and always listens to me.

"He's always at my house now so it feels like my little brother. He's just another brother.

"I've just got to teach him what I know and hopefully he can take it in. He's got some talent and it's his time to shine.

"I remember when I first started, I was just hungry and loved it and he's loving it at the moment."

Titans coach Neil Henry was measured in his appraisal of Taylor following the recent win over the Wests Tigers, with his defence on the left still an area of concern.

But for all the knocks and criticism he will inevitably receive playing in the NRL, Roberts said the key to longevity in the halves was not to dwell on past mistakes.

### "Spit out the divots"

"You've just got to spit out the divots. If we make an error, we've just got to spit it straight out," Roberts said.

"We can't carry our divots because the more we carry our divots, the more errors we're going to make and the more it's going to affect the team.

"They need us halves to be upbeat and that's what's expected from us."

To reach a century of NRL games marked a significant achievement for Roberts, who moved from Ballina at the age of

14 to further his education and rugby league opportunities in Newcastle.

Early on, he desperately wanted to return to his family, but his mother and father convinced him to stay on where he completed his schooling through until the end of Year 12 and played 97 games for the Knights between 2011 and 2015.

"Being a young person, the average is like 24 games in the NRL and once you get in the hundred club, you know you have achieved a milestone," said the 24-year-old who was reluctant to talk about his 100th game until after it was finished.

"Anyone that plays 100 games in the sport you love is something to take away.

"All that support, all the fans, you take a look back down memory lane and realise how many people supported you and looked after you growing up.

"I'm a proud Indigenous man and to move away from my family when I was 14 was really tough.

"Mum and Dad drilled it into me. They knew what was expected and what talent I had, but the main focus when I did move away was education.

"I was the first one to go to Year 12 in my family, which was the goal that I set when I moved away and the rest took care of itself."

It is this experience that Roberts can pass on to Ashley.

He is old enough to pass on the wisdom of an older brother and young enough to be his best mate.

The new brothers could be the real deal.

## Bowen name returns to NRL



THE nephew of North Queensland great Matt Bowen

followed in his uncle's famous footsteps when he made his National Rugby League (NRL) debut for the Cowboys last Saturday night.

Javid Bowen, 22, held out Matt Wright to win the race to replace centre Kane Linnett (shoulder) ahead of their home clash with St George Illawarra.

At 193cm and 91kg, Javid Bowen may appear very different to his diminutive uncle, but they share a relaxed, low-key approach.

"He doesn't get too excited about too many things," Cowboys coach Paul Green said of Javid Bowen ahead of the debut.



"I told him (of his NRL debut) over the phone, but I did detect a hint of excitement in his voice so hopefully he shows that enthusiasm at training for the rest of the week."

The Bowen name still remains synonymous with the Cowboys.

Games record holder Matt Bowen had one last hurrah in Cowboys colours at this year's Auckland Nines before taking up a development role at his beloved club.

But Green was excited that another member of the Bowen family was starting their NRL journey.

"That's the rewarding part of the job. It's a big moment of their lives and footy careers," Green said of granting an NRL debut.

"Matt Wright was in the frame given he's done the job for us in the past, but Javid has played well (at Queensland Cup level) for a while.

"He's got good speed, good footwork.

"Now's as good a time as ever to find out about him at NRL level."

Before Bowen's selection, Green had used the same 17 players in seven straight games plus February's World Club Challenge win over Leeds in England.

The previous record in the NRL era since 1998 was four straight games. — AAP



Tyrone Roberts rampages for the Indigenous All Stars against the NRL All Stars at Cbus Stadium, Gold Coast, on Friday, February 13. Picture: nrlphotos.com

# Medal to be struck



SYDNEY Indigenous Australian Football League (AFL) champions Adam Goodes

and Michael O'Loughlin will be honoured with a medal struck in their name.

The Goodes-O'Loughlin Medal will be awarded to the best-on-ground player in the Swans' Marn Grook match in the Sir Doug Nicholls Round, which was formerly known as the Indigenous Round.

The Swans board made the decision in February, and the medal will be presented for the first time in the round 10 fixture against North Melbourne.

Forward O'Loughlin was the first Swan to play 300 games, and his long-standing teammate Goodes, a dual Brownlow Medallist, set a club record of 372 games before retiring at the end of the 2015 season.

"It's a fitting tribute to two great champions," Swans chairman Andrew Pridham said at a club dinner before the Swans thumped Collingwood in the AFL opening round at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG).

Goodes announced his retirement after the Swans were eliminated from the 2015 finals and will be presented to the SCG crowd before their round three game against GWS.

## Huge honour

"This is a huge honour," Goodes said on the Swans website.

"To have the medal coincide with Sir Doug Nicholls Round makes it even more special as it's a round that has always been close to my heart."

His great mate O'Loughlin played 303 games up to 2009 and is the club's second-highest goalkicker.

"Who would have thought that after coming to the club in 1995 that I would be privileged to play 300-odd games, win a premiership and then have a medal bear my name. It really doesn't get much better," O'Loughlin said on the Swans website.

"It's an honour and a privilege, and to be able to share it with my best mate is just fantastic."

Pridham said the Swans were thrilled to play all their home games this season at the SCG, and was bullish about the club's off-field plans.



Adam Goodes and Michael O'Loughlin celebrate victory for the Swans after the round 13 AFL match against the Collingwood Magpies at Sydney's Olympic Stadium in June, 2005.

## AFL hopes to work with Goodes

**A**USTRALIAN Football League (AFL) boss Gillon McLachlan says retired great Adam Goodes would be an ideal candidate to become the league's first-ever Indigenous commissioner.

McLachlan said the AFL was looking forward to working with the Swans' dual premiership winner, two-time Brownlow medallist and former Australian of the Year in

some capacity whenever Goodes decided the time was right.

"Commission decisions are beyond my pay grade, but there's no doubt that Adam Goodes has the potential to be an outstanding candidate for a commissioner," McLachlan said after announcing Sydney would host the AFL draft for the next two years.

— AAP

"We're also very, very excited about our plans to build a \$30-40 million training and administration facility in the (Moore Park) precinct.

"I think it's going to be a real focus when we do this, not just for the Sydney Swans but for the AFL."

Collingwood president Eddie

McGuire raised some eyebrows when he called for a medal named after Goodes to be awarded annually at a clash between the Magpies and the Swans.

The pair of Swans' greats have worked tirelessly both during and after their careers to support Indigenous youth

through the Goodes-O'Loughlin (GO) Foundation.

Goodes finished a glittering career as the Swans' games record holder with 372 games at the end of last season. He is a dual Brownlow medallist, won premierships in 2005 and 2012 and was named club champion on three occasions.

The superstar is also a member of the Indigenous Team of the Century, has four All Australian jumpers and was the AFL Rising Star in 1999.

And beyond the playing field, Goodes was also the 2014 Australian of the Year.

"This football club means so much to me and it was always such a privilege to pull on the red and white jumper, so this is a huge honour," Goodes said.

O'Loughlin was Goodes' teammate in the 2005 premiership team and played 303 games for the Bloods, winning the Bob Skilton medal in 1998.

The two-time All Australian joined Goodes in the Indigenous Team of the Century and was inducted into the Australian Football Hall of Fame in 2015.

— With AAP

## AFL Diversity carnival on in Townsville



THE Australian Football League (AFL) annual under 15 national Diversity championships are on in Townsville this week at Tony Ireland

Stadium – the traditional land of the Bindal and Wilgurukaba people.

Now in its third year, the Diversity carnival has been developed to provide a supported talented player pathway that compliments the NAB AFL under 16

championships and exposes Indigenous and multicultural players, coaches, umpires, doctors, and trainers to an elite AFL program environment.

### 13 teams

The carnival featured more than 300 young Indigenous and multicultural players across 13 teams representing all states and territories.

Games are being officiated by 12 umpires who represent the National

Diversity Umpiring Academy, selected from state diversity academies based on high performance while coaches leading the squads are members of the Diversity Coaching Academy.

AFL general manager game and market development Simon Lethlean said the championships were an exciting event, combining the Kickstart and All Nations carnivals and providing the AFL with another opportunity to highlight Indigenous and multicultural footballers

and to showcase the talent from across the country.

To live stream the carnival online, head to [www.afl.com.au/Multicultural](http://www.afl.com.au/Multicultural) for All Nations games and [www.afl.com.au/Indigenous](http://www.afl.com.au/Indigenous) for Kickstart games.

"In another first, AFL club recruiters are attending the championships, offering our players the opportunity to showcase their talents in front of the best talent scouts in the game," Lethlean said.

# A ripper opening

## MAGIC'S MOMENTS



With MICHAEL O'LOUGHLIN

magic@koorimail.com

THE 2016 Australian Football League (AFL) season started with a real bang in an electric round one.

If round one taught us anything, it's that the gap between the top and the bottom has been shortened considerably.

In previous years, there has been a clear group of four or five teams that can be counted on for a weekly percentage boost, but all indicators from the opening week suggest that some of the competition strugglers have bucked up their ideas this year.

While of that group, only the Demons actually took four points home from the opening round, it was the manner of the performances that will have inspired such confidence.

Carlton was quick and hungry, St Kilda utterly frenetic at the contest, Brisbane a revelation in attack and Melbourne too strong for finals fancies GWS.

Sure, there's Essendon, but the heavily depleted Bombers aside, it looms as a season when pretty much anyone can beat anyone on any given day.

What it reinforced is that pre-season predictions mean little when the real season gets under way.

Forecasting AFL seasons in advance certainly isn't easy, and more often than not you will come off looking a fool rather than some sort of all-knowing footy expert.

But how many punters had Sydney as sliders and Collingwood as risers only last week?

A lot, make no mistake.

It took about 15 seconds on Saturday night to have that prediction blown out of the water, with the Swans devastatingly physical and impressively precise going forward, while the less said about the hapless Magpies, the better.

It was great to see Buddy back in action and playing with

the confidence and aplomb that we expect of him.

Was it only me, or does he look leaner and fitter than he has in previous years?

The most important thing is that he looked happy and that is all we hope for him.

Fremantle's showing against the Bulldogs was almost as disappointing as the Magpies' performance.

It is hard to imagine them as one of the flag favourites, but that match was the clearest sign yet that footy isn't a game won on paper.

But it was only one game and the Dockers will still be there at the end of the season.

What the round proved though was that any team can beat another on any given day and that's what makes the AFL great.

Sure, it's only a week, but the overwhelmingly positive signs from the season's first nine matches should lead every fan to be optimistic that the game is going to be thrilling to watch in 2016.

Nine of 18 teams scored more than 100 points in the opening round, with the scoring average coming to 97.1, up from 86.5 in round one of 2015.

But you don't need the stats to tell you it was better to watch; your own eyeballs could have done that for you.

Almost every team played fast, attacking stuff while still cracking in with all the physical commitment we love and expect.

There were big marks, sensational goals and a couple of cracking finishes.

### Attractive

AFL chief executive Gillon McLachlan asked for the game played in an attractive way this year, and the coaches and their players are delivering.

Another factor will be the home ground advantage enjoyed by some teams.

The round one Sunday games gave an excellent indication of how difficult it will be to beat some teams when they have the luxury of their home track.

The Western Bulldogs play their first seven games of the season at Docklands, and are currently on a 10-game unbeaten streak at the venue.

Against Fremantle, it was easy to see why – for whatever reason, the Bulldogs feel right at home on such a fast track and will be tough to beat there all year.

Likewise the Eagles at Subiaco.

West Coast were pretty rusty against the Lions, likely due to a shorter pre-season after competing in last year's grand final, but still won by nearly 11 goals.

Imagine what the Eagles will do when they play well!

And then there was Port Adelaide.

The Power were run all the

way to the end by the Saints, but had enough in the tank to run away with it in the last quarter.

With that sort of crowd behind them, that sort of charge always seemed likely despite how well St Kilda played.

Naturally, the seasons of these teams will be judged by their performances and results away from the comfort of their own backyard, but having such a factor in your favour can't be a bad thing.

Thought the excitement over the Cats' off-season arrivals was a bit over the top?

I bet you stopped thinking that by early in the second quarter of Monday's game against the Hawks.

Patrick Dangerfield was in absolutely everything, racking up

possessions in midfield and tellingly making them count.

When he burst clear from one stoppage early in the second quarter, you could hear the Cats fans stand as one. When he took that hanger in the goal square in the last, the roof came off.

### Dominant

Almost as impressive was the performance of ruckman Zac Smith, who was almost the most dominant player on the ground in the first half.

He bossed the ruck, kicked goals and laid telling tackles, showcasing all the talent that perhaps went missing for a while at Gold Coast.

Just as you wouldn't dare write off the Hawks after one game, it's too early to get

completely carried away with Geelong, but the early signs could not have been more promising.

It is an important year for Steven Motlop, who has started the year in great physical shape.

Motlop has sufficient experience to take a leadership role on the field and continue to define his own identity in a football family that has produced so many greats.

I will profile Motlop in a future column, but I am already confident that he will have a great year for the Cats.

Geelong certainly made their mark in the round. But so did plenty of others.

It was a ripper!

Until Next Time... Keep Dreaming!!!!

Steven Motlop Picture: Peter Argent



# Our best on show



FIVE tiers of Indigenous football will be on display in November with the launch of the

National Indigenous Championships as part of Football Federation Australia's National Indigenous Week.

The event will be held from November 3-5 at the South Nowra Sporting Complex, on the NSW South Coast, and will showcase the best in Indigenous talent from around the country.

The local club, Wreck Bay Sharks, will host the tournament with club president and tournament director Bernie McLeod ecstatic about the opportunity this provides for young Indigenous footballers.

"The Wreck Bay Football Club is proud to be given the opportunity to host the inaugural National Indigenous Football Championships," he said.

"This event will become more than a football tournament... it's been a people's movement from the Indigenous community, the football fraternity and government."

Matilda Kyah Simon, Soccerro Jade North, Indigenous legend Harry Williams as well as media identities Andy Harper and Craig Foster have been named ambassadors of the tournament.

"Being an ambassador for the inaugural National Indigenous Football Championships is a great honour and I hope to inspire other Aboriginal people to set goals and follow their dreams in a sport that has given me some great opportunities, friendships and experiences," Simon said.

## Opportunity

"This is a great opportunity for Indigenous people to showcase their talents and have them recognised on a larger scale.

"I hope we will have more Aboriginal people entering the W-League, A-League, and national teams."

North is renowned for his off-field work with Indigenous Australians and was pleased to be asked to be part of the concept.

"I feel privileged to have been asked to be an ambassador and represent my people for what is a great concept," he said.

"It will give all Indigenous players from across the nation an opportunity to get involved in a large tournament and showcase their talent.

"There was nothing like this



**Wreck Bay Football club president Bernie McLeod**

when I was growing up so I will be excited to see all my people come together."

Harry Williams echoed his sentiments and hailed a new age for Indigenous football.

"I'm honoured and privileged to be an ambassador for the National Indigenous Football Championships. To finally have a national football competition to select Australian Indigenous representative men and women teams to develop nationally and compete internationally will be a dream come true," Williams said.

Media identities Foster and Harper were also excited about the event.

"I'm delighted to support this tournament as part of growing the game among Indigenous communities all over Australia and look forward to seeing an enjoyable and highly competitive week of football," Foster said.

Harper said: "This event will provide Indigenous people a special platform for making dreams come true – not only to represent your family and community but an opportunity to be selected into representative teams."

Wreck Bay Sharks FC also announced The Johnny Warren Foundation as event partners.

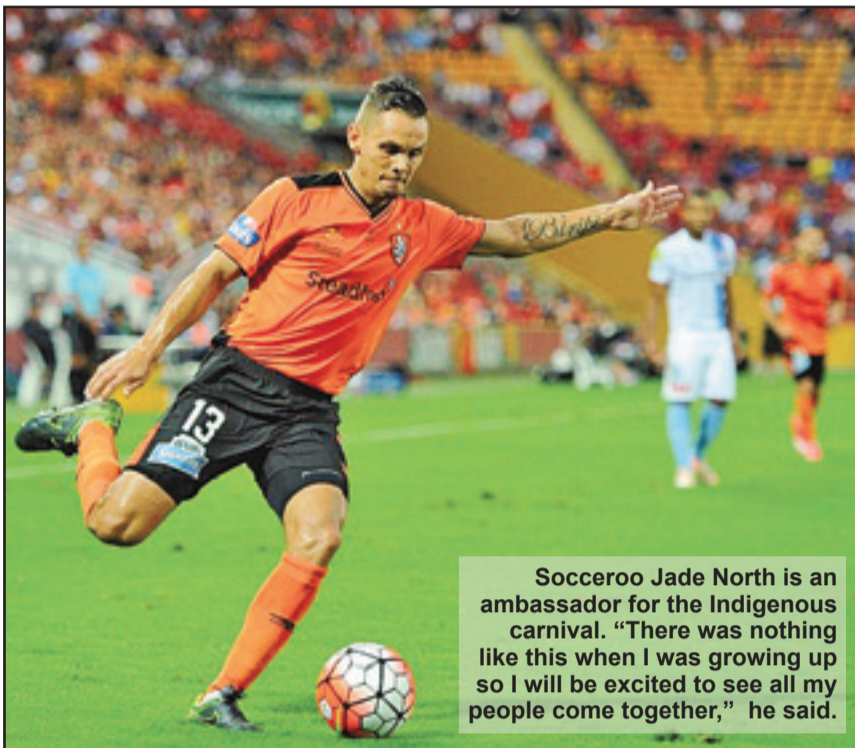
"We are very honoured and proud to work with the Wreck Bay Sharks FC and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander football communities and thank Bernie McLeod and his team for the opportunity," foundation chairman Jamie Warren said.

"We look forward to playing our part in ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander playing talent is given every opportunity to succeed just as Johnny Warren would have wanted."

Features of the tournament:

- 16 open age woman's teams competing for the national title.
- 16 open age men's teams competing for the national title.
- Johnny Warren celebrity game including featuring Aboriginal sporting role models, former Matilda and Soccerros players.
- AIA Miniros kids training and coaching clinics.
- People with a disability taking part in a football clinic.
- National Indigenous Football Championships (NIFC) gala dinner and national team announcement.

Team registration applications are available by emailing: [nationalindigenousfootball@gmail.com](mailto:nationalindigenousfootball@gmail.com)



**Soccerro Jade North is an ambassador for the Indigenous carnival. "There was nothing like this when I was growing up so I will be excited to see all my people come together," he said.**



**Ambassador Kyah Simon said the Indigenous carnival was an opportunity for Indigenous people to showcase their talents.**

## Ugle in fine touch



cricket final.

Ugle's team went on to win the grand final against Fremantle, but Ugle was not required to bat in that match.

In the two-day grand final at the WACA Ground on March 26-27, Fremantle declared at 8-198 from 45 overs and Rockingham-Mandurah replied with 2-202.

Rockingham-Mandurah also reached the final of the one-day competition, but were beaten by Claremont-Nedlands at Fletcher Park East.

Ugle scored 48 from 76 deliveries (two fours, three sixes) in that match as

Rockingham-Mandurah scored 8-247.

Claremont-Nedlands replied with a winning 3-250, with Ugle claiming 1-18 from 5 overs.

But a week earlier, Ugle, was in devastating form against Perth in the two-day preliminary final at Lark Hill.

Replying to Perth's big total of 2-353 declared off 86 overs, Rockingham-Mandurah scored 9-358 off 95.4 overs, with Ugle blasting 158 not out from 188 balls.

His innings included 16 fours and three sixes.

Meanwhile, cricket in Western Australia has a new Aboriginal programs coordinator.

He is former top cricketer and Australian rules footballer Larry Kickett.

Cricket Australia said it was excited to have Kickett in his

roll at the West Australian Cricket Association (WACA).

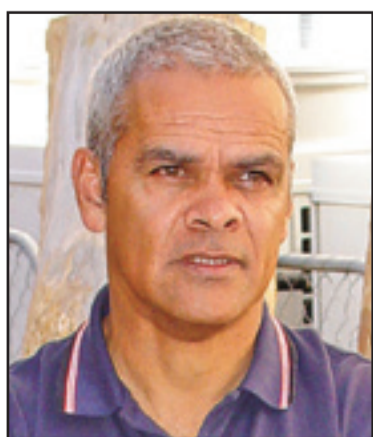
His job is to lift the participation of Aboriginal people in the game and to assist in the education of WACA staff and committees in cross-cultural awareness in working with Aboriginal people.

He has previously worked at Woodside, Rio Tinto and most recently Chevron.

As well as a distinguished sporting background, playing first grade cricket with West Perth (now Willetton) and 13 years playing WAFL at East Perth and Claremont, Kickett also has an extensive coaching background, coaching Colts for a number of years at both clubs.

He also sits on the WA Football Commission, chairing the WAFC Aboriginal Advisory Group.

**Dane Ugle talks with Northern Territory Chief Minister Adam Giles at an Imparja Cup presentation night in Alice Springs. Picture: Graham Hunt**



**Harry Williams**

# Soccer gets serious

## \$200,000 target for John Moriarty project



A GROUP of young Indigenous footballers from remote parts of the Northern Territory

walked out with the Socceroos at the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifier at the Sydney Football Stadium in Sydney on March 29.

That marked the launch of Indigenous Football Week (March 29-April 3), a major fundraising initiative for John Moriarty Football.

Supported by Football Federation Australia (FFA), Professional Footballers Australia, SBS and FOX Sports, the inaugural Indigenous Football Week highlighted the achievements of Indigenous players past and present, as well as the next generation.

The initiative aims to raise more than \$200,000 for John Moriarty Football, a not-for-profit organisation that works to improve education and life outcomes for young Indigenous footballers and their families in remote Australia, at the same time ensuring that Indigenous football succeeds in Australia.

Supporters can visit the John Moriarty Football website ([jmf.org.au](http://jmf.org.au)) to donate and can encourage family and friends to do the same by uploading and sharing a photo or video of their feet, barefoot, with a ball, or juggling or playing, to Facebook and Instagram using the hashtags #BarefootJMF and #GameChanger.

SMS donations can be made by texting GOAL to 0455 021 021.

### Who's who

Indigenous Hyundai A-League star Jade North and rising elite player Shadeene Evans joined the group of young Socceroo fans, FFA CEO David Gallop, Professional Footballers Australia chairman Craig Foster, and John Moriarty, founder of John Moriarty Football, to announce the initiative at the Sydney Football Stadium (Allianz Stadium) last week.

Gallop said Indigenous football was a powerful agent of change and an emerging source of exceptional Australian football talent.

"We've seen the rise of many inspirational Indigenous players who have brought formidable craftsmanship and skill to the game over the years, including Harry Williams, Travis Dodd, John Moriarty, the first Indigenous player selected to represent Australia, and current players such as Jade North, James Brown, Lydia Williams, Kyah Simon, and Adam Sarota, to name a few," said Gallop.

"Football Federation Australia is proud to support an initiative



Children from the John Moriarty Football Program line up with Socceroos players before the start of the FIFA World Cup qualifier against Jordan at Allianz Stadium, Sydney, last Tuesday night. *Picture: David Maurice Smith/Oculi*

which celebrates Indigenous footballers' contribution to the game, and which, through John Moriarty Football, nurtures the next generation of breakthrough Indigenous talent."

John Moriarty said that the funds raised during Indigenous Football Week would go far in furthering programs that created life-changing opportunities for young Indigenous players, opening pathways for them to make their mark on Australian football.

"Our organisation works in two remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory, employing and developing local coaches to support Indigenous families and the wider community," he said.

"We deliver more than 800 training sessions and games each year within a program that includes nutrition, mentoring and wellbeing for 300 kids aged 2 to 16.

"Indigenous Football Week will help us expand our reach to support and nurture more young Indigenous athletes with the talent and potential to succeed through sport, whether at grassroots or the highest national and international levels of the game."

### First product

Rising football star Shadeene Evans, 14, is the first elite athlete to emerge from the John Moriarty Football program.

Hailing from the Northern Territory's remote Gulf of Carpentaria, Shadeene was scouted by Matildas coach Alen Stajcic in 2015 and has moved to Sydney's Westfields Sports High School and the NSW Institute of Sport as the next step in her burgeoning football career.

"It is young players like Shadeene who are taking hold of the opportunities John Moriarty Football is creating, and we hope to support more young players just like her," said Gallop.

"We are urging football fans across Australia to get behind Indigenous Football Week and donate to John Moriarty Football to strengthen the future of Indigenous football in Australia."

SBS football analyst and former Socceroo Craig Foster said football offered a global window, a multicultural fellowship, and the widening of Indigenous Australia's horizons culturally and intellectually.

"We talk of Indigenous

athletic talent and the global opportunity that only football can offer to play on the World Cup stage and this is true, but John Moriarty Football is not about what the game can gain from engaging Indigenous Australia, but the opposite," Foster said.

### Platform

"In this century, as Australia finally awakens to our responsibilities towards Indigenous self-determination, football offers the platform to expand the world of First Australians.

"This is important for Aboriginal Australians to have the chance to show the world

what they can achieve but also for the nation.

"There is no better place to do so than in a Socceroos or Matildas shirt. This is not only about talent, it is about showcasing the beauty and wonder of indigenous Australia through the global game."

On the eve of Australia's 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifier against Jordan in Sydney, Socceroos players showed their support for Indigenous football by donating \$90,000 of their match payment to John Moriarty Football.

The Socceroos won the match 5-1 to advance to the next round of FIFA World Cup qualifiers.



Lloyd Johnston Jr, 11, shows off his skills at Allianz Stadium, Sydney, on the day of the Socceroos match against Jordan. Lloyd and other children from the Aboriginal community of Borroloola, NT were at the stadium with the John Moriarty Football Program to launch Indigenous Football Week. *Picture: David Maurice Smith/Oculi*

# Brownlow Medal to stay put in AFL



THE Brownlow Medal is off limits as the Australian Football League (AFL) overhauls its finals

schedule.

League chief executive Gillon McLachlan said there was no way he would contemplate moving the medal count from the Monday night of grand final week.

The introduction of the bye weekend between round 23 and the opening week of the finals

means the AFL is making several changes to its September calendar.

The Rising Star and All-Australian functions will move to the week before the September 2-4 bye weekend.

But McLachlan is adamant that the Brownlow, the AFL's most significant non-match event, is going nowhere.

"I don't want to move it," he said.

"It's a perfect setup for the (grand final) week, a big event.

"I think that's where it should be."

When it was put to him that the AFL would be smashed if it moved the Brownlow, McLachlan replied: "I would have smashed myself."

## Week of celebration

The AFL will market the new bye week as a celebration of football, with a series of events aimed at maintaining fan interest ahead of the finals.

The league is also looking at playing the last game of round 23

as a Monday night blockbuster.

And the first final is set to be played on a Thursday night.

Having the bye weekend will free up game scheduling, with top-eight teams having ample time to recover.

The league has introduced the bye week because of concerns about finals-bound teams resting large groups of players for dead-rubber games in round 23.

Meanwhile, the AFL could consider a twilight grand final as early as this year.

McLachlan was coy when asked if a decision had been made on when this year's game would be played.

The grand final scheduling is one of the AFL's hottest topics.

The fact that McLachlan did not definitively rule out a change from the traditional afternoon time slot this year inevitably will fuel speculation.

"We haven't even discussed it – it's not out there," he said.

"I have not had the discussion with anyone." – AAP

Isaac Dunmall (left) wins the Stawell Gift ahead of, from left, Tjimarri Sanderson-Milera (second), Ryan Bedford and Jack Hale (third) at Central Park, Stawell, on Easter Monday. Picture: AAP



# So close for Tjimarri



FORMER South Australian Tjimarri Sanderson-Milera finished a close second in the 2016 Stawell Gift on Easter Monday.

Isaac Dunmall won the 135th running of the Gift final in 12.17 seconds in a thrilling finish.

"I honestly can't put my feelings into words right now. I've wanted to win this race for so long, it means so much to me," Dunmall said after running from 6.75m.

Dunmall edged out fellow Queensland-based sprinter Sanderson-Milera after throwing himself through the finishing gates.

"I didn't know when I had it won, that's why I dipped on the line because I wanted it so bad," he said.

Hobart teenager Jack Hale set the fastest semifinal time of 12.22 seconds

and carried much of the crowd's expectations with him up the Central Park track.

After a great start, the backmarker finished third in 12.29 seconds in his last race before he attempted to qualify for the Rio Olympics at the Australian athletics championships in Sydney last week.

## Missed by 2/100th second

Sanderson-Milera ran off 4.75m in the final and clocked 12.19 seconds.

Dunmall thought he had blown his shot at Stawell Gift glory when he trailed home last in the final two years ago.

As it turned out, he got a second go on Easter Monday and this time he grabbed it with both hands.

The 22-year-old Queenslanders crashed to the turf after lunging desperately through the finishing gates, having just held off the fast-finishing

Sanderson-Milera.

"I saw Tjimarri coming towards me at the end of the last 20 and I was just like 'hold on, hold on'," Dunmall said.

"I wasn't sure I'd won because I knew he was coming close.

"I honestly can't put my feelings into words right now.

"I've wanted to win this race for so long, it means so much to me."

Hale clocked the fastest semifinal time of 12.22, but was seven hundredths of a second slower in the final.

The 17-year-old set a 100m personal best of 10.31 earlier this month in Perth.

After the race, Sanderson-Milera posted on Facebook: "Would like to thank everyone for all the support that they have given me over the last few days. At the end of the day I put everything on the line and ran the best race that I could of produced on the day. Missing 1st place by

100th of a second hurts, but breaking my watch on the finish line hurts even more."

Sanderson-Milera has moved from Adelaide to the Gold Coast to link with a new coach from the Currumbin Surf Life Saving Club.

He is seeking a job that dovetails with his training schedule.

## Form reversals

Fifteen-year-old schoolgirl Talia Martin won the women's Gift in 13.70 seconds from Tierra Exum – the sister of NBA star Dante Exum – and Sarah Blizzard.

Both Gift winners pocketed \$40,000, although Martin was docked \$2000 for showing rapid improvement.

She had been eliminated in the heats of the Ararat Gift only 12 days ago, a below-par performance she put down to the recent death of her aunt.



Long way from Borroloola – page 94



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The Voice of Indigenous Australia

# Best cricketer

## 2016 award goes to Brendan Doggett



QUEENSLANDER Brendan Doggett has been named the Lord's Taverners Indigenous Cricketer of the Year as

Cricket Australia's State Cricket Awards were announced late last month.

The right-arm fast bowler from Toowoomba was the Brisbane Heat's community rookie last season and became a consistent member of Queensland's Futures League team, claiming eight wickets at an average of 23.13.

He also took 42 wickets at average of 13 in a stellar season of Queensland grade cricket for Western Suburbs.

Further adding to his standout season, Doggett was part of the National Indigenous Squad that played the National Performance Squad during a tour of the Bupa National Cricket Centre last May, claiming five wickets.

Doggett, who has previously represented Queensland at the Imparja Cup, didn't make the trip for the inaugural National Indigenous Cricket Championships in February due to Queensland Futures League duties.

The Lord's Taverner's Indigenous Cricketer of the Year award is selected based on overall performances across all competitions throughout the season.

The Cricket Australia selection panel featured former Victoria Bushrangers and Melbourne Stars coach Greg Shipperd, CA head of community Sam Almaliki, and CA



Brendan Doggett with his Lord's Taverners Indigenous Cricketer of the Year award.

Indigenous cricket officer Paul Stewart.

NSW Breaker and Sydney Sixer Ashleigh Gardner won the award for the 2014-15 season.

Brendan Doggett's 2015-16 bowling figures are –

Queensland Futures League: 8 wickets for 185 runs at 23.13. Best figures: 3-74

Western Suburbs (Brisbane) first grade: 32 wickets for 484 at 15.13. Best figures: 4-29.

Western Suburbs T20 State Premier League: 10 wickets for 62 at 6.20. Best figures: 4-11.

National Performance Squad Series: 5 wickets for 187 at 37.40. Best figures: 4-55

Total: 55 wickets for 918 at 16.69. Best figures: 4-11.

## AFL's flying start



AS Michael O'Loughlin says in his column (page 92), the Australian Football League (AFL) could not have scripted a better opening to the 2016 season. Port Adelaide's Chad Wingard was doing his bit, producing his trademark marks in the game against St Kilda at the Adelaide Oval. Port won 20.13 (133) to 15.10 (100). Picture: Peter Argent

## Dan a winning Bushranger

DAN Christian is pictured with cricket's Sheffield Shield after Victoria beat South Australia in the final at Gliderol Stadium, Glenelg (Adelaide) last Wednesday.

Scores: South Australia 340 and 251, Victoria 399 and 3-196.

Allrounder Christian captured 3-43 in South Australia's first innings and scored 12 in Victoria's first innings.

He finished with 0-12 from eight overs in South Australia's second innings and wasn't required to bat in Victoria's second innings.

Picture: Peter Argent



● All the action from Top End grand finals – pages 86-89