

# NIT

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS TIMES



## Seizing power

Exhibition keeps on changing lives

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Mona Lisa Smith and Jacinta Rose "Cindy" Smith were like "sisters".  
Picture: National Justice Project



## Coroner probes police investigation into crash

# PLEA FOR THE TRUTH

**DECLAN BRENNAN**

*Warning: This story contains distressing details.*

A coronial inquest into the deaths of two Indigenous girls in northern NSW 36 years ago has heard detectives failed to properly secure evidence and didn't acknowledge racial tensions in the region.

The disturbing deaths of Jacinta Rose "Cindy" Smith, a 15-year-old Kunja Budjiti and Wangkumara girl, and her cousin Mona Lisa Smith, a 16-

year-old Murrawarri and Kunja girl, outside of Bourke were examined from November 27-December 2 in front of State Coroner Teresa O'Sullivan.

The two girls, described as being like "sisters", were found dead on the side of the Mitchell Highway next to a crashed ute in the early hours of December 6, 1987.

A non-Indigenous man, Ian Alexander Grant, 40, was found with his arm draped across the body of a bare-

chested and partially naked Cindy. Mr Grant, the owner of the ute, told police at the time he had been driving, but later claimed it had been Mona behind the wheel.

The first officer on the scene, who heard this information, said he passed it on to the investigators.

Mr Grant was found not guilty of drink-driving causing death by an all-white jury in 1990, with a further charge of interfering with a corpse being dropped on the eve of

the trial. The ostensible inability to establish who was driving the vehicle at the time of the accident was cited as one of the factors in the jury's decision.

No transcript of the original court case remains.

Mr Grant died in 2018.

At the inquest, Mona's mother, Auntie June Smith said she hurt "every day and every night." She said "everybody" spoke about Mr Grant's

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## Labor & Coalition unite to defeat UN rights Bill

**GIOVANNI TORRE**

After two inquiries and almost two years, Labor and the Coalition have voted together to defeat a Bill from Senator Lidia Thorpe to enshrine in Australian law the rights established by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Senator Thorpe, a Gunaai Gunditjmarra and Djab Wurrung woman and independent senator for Victoria, introduced the private member's Bill in March 2022. The Government and Opposition voted it down on December 6.

The senator said the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples outlined the minimum standard of First Peoples' rights and centres around the right to self-determination, free, prior and informed consent, and the right to maintain and practise culture, with the goal of defending the survival, dignity and wellbeing of Indigenous peoples.

Senator Thorpe's Bill would have required the Federal Government to take measures to ensure consistency between Commonwealth law and the declaration, and prepare and implement an action plan to achieve the declaration's objectives.

The Bill would also, if made law, have obliged the Prime Minister to present annual reports to Parliament on the progress of those actions.

Senator Thorpe, who represents the Blak Sovereign Movement, noted that the "Albanese Government claimed they cared about First Peoples' rights and justice when they went ahead with the Voice referendum".

"Yet after the failed referendum, they can't even bring themselves to support the minimum standards of our rights being adhered to in this country," she said.

"Implementing UNDRIP in this country is the obvious next step to pursuing First Peoples justice in this country.

"Yet a powerless advisory body is as much as the Government is prepared to give us.

"Today our people have yet again been let down by a colonial

**CONTINUED PAGE 3**

# Advocates laud age move

DECHLAN BRENNAN

Indigenous groups, legal experts and advocates have welcomed a commitment by the Tasmanian Government to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14.

But they want the change to be immediate after the government pledged to implement the reforms by 2029.

Earlier this month the Tasmanian Government released its Youth Justice Blueprint 2023-24, committing to raising the age to 14 — without exceptions — as well as raising the minimum age of detention to 16.

Change the Record's Maggie Munn congratulated the Tasmanian Government on the decision, urging it to work with people at the coalface of youth and Indigenous welfare.

"I implore the Rockliff Government to work with

experts and communities on the ground to pass legislation as soon as feasibly possible," they said.

"It is crucial that this legislation meets its intent: to divert children away from the criminal legal system and to give them all the support they need to have a safe and healthy childhood, where they have every opportunity to thrive."

Tasmania Minister for Youth Roger Jaensch said the nation-leading blueprint had been developed alongside other agencies, young people and key stakeholders and was designed to ensure improved outcomes for children and young people in the justice system.

"We will make Tasmania the nation's leading jurisdiction on youth justice reform," Mr Jaensch said.

"We will do this by developing alternatives to detention for

children aged up to 15 years that result in better outcomes for young people and the communities they live in."

He said children who are at risk, or who have already been in the justice system, have a unique set of needs.

"This requires working collaboratively across government and the community to establish better connections for vulnerable children and young people, their families, and services," he said.

"A therapeutic approach in youth justice settings frames children and young people as vulnerable and in need of support and healing, as opposed to punishment or fear," the report stated. "It promotes behaviour change by providing guidance and support, a sense of self, and the safety and security to encourage growth and development."

A letter sent to all premiers, attorneys-general, and health ministers in 2021 from 32 health and medical organisations said the medical consensus was children under the age of 14 are undergoing significant growth and development, and may not have the capacity to be considered criminally responsible.

Raise the Age, a coalition of welfare groups, said Tasmania was set to become the first Australian jurisdiction to "meet the minimum standards set by the United Nations and recommendations by medical and child development experts".

Currently the ACT is the only Australian jurisdiction to legislate raising the age to 14.

Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service chief executive Jake Smith said while the decision is pleasing, the six-year wait is "disappointing."

"The longer we wait, the more

children end up in our justice system," he said.

"Aboriginal youth in Tasmania continue to be impacted and over-represented in systems that do not support their needs."

Raise the Rate said Tasmania's decision showed the rest of the country what needed to be done "so that every child in Australia can grow up with their families supported in their communities".

Munn said it was "hugely unfair and unjust" that Australian children and their childhoods are not protected and urged other States to follow the Tasmanian government.

Other Australian jurisdictions have resisted the calls for change. Victoria will likely raise the age to 12 next year, while the Northern Territory enacted laws this year which mean that 11-year-olds cannot be held criminally responsible.

## SANDFIRE MAY ESCAPE SANCTION

DAVID PRESTIPINO

The WA Government's probe into Sandfire Resources over the destruction of Indigenous cultural artefacts will likely be thwarted by a statute of limitations.

The copper miner revealed to the Australian Securities Exchange last month it had destroyed Aboriginal artefacts at two sites on several occasions at its now closed mine at DeGrussa, 150km north of Meekatharra in WA's Mid West.

The admissions, and failure to report the disturbances to the State Government, outraged WA Premier Roger Cook, who immediately ordered an investigation.

A heritage survey in 2016 by Traditional Owners Yugunga-Nya identified two sites with more than 90 designated artefacts. The Yugunga-Nya native title lands cover about 21,305sqkm including DeGrussa.

Aboriginal sites are protected under WA's Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 and can be disturbed only with a Section 18 permit.

While Sandfire did not obtain a Section 18 permit, a 12-month



Sandfire Resources' now decommissioned DeGrussa copper mine in WA's Mid West. Picture: Sandfire Resources

statute of limitations from when the disturbances happened to the start of prosecution could spare the copper miner.

The majority of artefacts were likely destroyed during 2017 and 2018 but new documents obtained by The West Australian newspaper suggested a road over the sites cleared in those years, was in operation as late as October 2022.

A lawyer for the Yugunga-Nya

said the continued disturbance of the site meant the statute of limitations could have expired just one month prior to Sandfire's public disclosure.

"It could be argued the statute of limitations may recognise the cumulative damage caused and commence at the last known date of the cumulative damage," lawyer Franklin Gaffney told The West.

"Sandfire sat on the information

for over 12 months after becoming aware of the destruction they caused. It would be natural to question whether this was a deliberate strategy."

Earlier this month Yugunga-Nya Traditional Owners demanded restitution from Sandfire and the sacking of CEO Brendan Harris. Yugunga-Nya Elder and Native Title holder, Andrew Gentle Sr said Traditional Owners wanted the

Sandfire board to sack Mr Harris and engage with them.

"If I destroyed something of yours that is important and valuable to you, you would want to be compensated," Mr Gentle Sr said. "I would have thought that the days of willy-nilly destruction of Aboriginal sites are over by now."

Sandfire last year could not sell its DeGrussa mine and further efforts now appear scuppered.

# Kakadu walking track immunity dispute reaches High Court

GIOVANNI TORRE

The High Court of Australia held two days of hearings last week on the question of Crown immunity for Commonwealth body corporates, and whether the Director of National Parks can be prosecuted under the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act.

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority and Traditional Owners have appealed a decision by the NT Supreme Court that found the director had Crown immunity.

The matter arose when the DNP allegedly conducted works on the Gunlom Falls sacred site in Kakadu National Park against the wishes of Aboriginal

custodians and without consultation with the AAPA.

In 2019 a sacred site at Gunlom Falls, within Kakadu National Park, was damaged by works undertaken by Parks Australia.

The site was exposed to the public as the result of a new walking track being built. The construction of the walking track differed to the designs that

were approved by Traditional Owners. In October 2022, the NT Supreme Court found that the director cannot be held criminally responsible for offences under the Act.

AAPA CEO Benedict Scam-bary welcomed the opportunity to resolve the question of immunity in the High Court.

"To have Commonwealth cor-

porations claim Crown immunity leaves Aboriginal sacred sites vulnerable across the whole of the Northern Territory," he said. "The vibrant living culture of the Northern Territory and the continuation of Aboriginal tradition, ceremonies, and songs depend on these powerful and ancient sacred sites being protected for all Australians."

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## Ex-police raise alarm about fatal car crash scrutiny

FROM PAGE 1

interest in younger girls in the neighbouring towns. In the aftermath of the cousins' death, Auntie June said no members of the Bourke police came to speak to her and she had to learn about their deaths from a family member.

"If they'd done the right thing in the first place, we wouldn't have been here today," she said.

"The girls would be resting in peace too... it's very hard to rest when you don't know what really happened."

The original investigation was criticised for its haphazard approach and failures.

These included a failure to interview the first witness at the scene, a mismanagement of evidence, and not seizing and forensically analysing the ute involved in the accident.

When former senior constable John Ludewig visited the car, it wasn't stored securely at the station in Bourke, but rather at a nearby cotton gin, where it was left open.

"Leaving it in the open at the cotton gin is just fraught with danger," he told the inquest.

When asked why he didn't tell the investigators, Mr Ludewig said arguing with two senior officers wouldn't be "pleasant".

Former detective-sergeant Raymond Godkin of the NSW police accident investigation took over the investigation in May 1988. He criticised the approach of the detectives in Bourke, saying he was asked to leave when he got there.

"As far as I am concerned you can hop in the car and p.s off back to Sydney," he recounted being told.

Mr Godkin told the court he believed the failings by the Bourke detectives was one the key reasons the inquest was taking place so many years later. He said he regretted only getting involved in the case months after the accident, when much of the evidence had been tarnished.

"I have dealt with over 500 road accidents, and I have never dealt with one as bad as this," he said.

The court heard from the two investigating detectives, Peter Ehsman and Vaughn Reid. They both believed Mr Grant's testimony that he wasn't driving the vehicle when it crashed.

Mr Ehsman, who led the investigation, said he was in no doubt Mr Grant was the driver.

"I believed what he was telling me," he said. He admitted, however, he had never interviewed the family of the two girls, despite Auntie June saying Mona couldn't drive a manual vehicle.

Dawn Smith — Cindy's mother — and Auntie June said a failure to do the right thing in 1987 had meant, 36 years on, questions about their children's deaths had still not been answered. The inquest will finish on Wednesday, December 20.

# Custody death probe wanted

DECHLAN BRENNAN

A hearing into the death of a 28-year-old Noongar man who died after a police pursuit and arrest has heard he was handcuffed while unconscious, and then collapsed before a previously cancelled ambulance was recalled.

Jeffrey Winmar, pictured above, described as a "beacon of positivity", was wanted on burglary offences when he was arrested on November 9 in Burwood, Melbourne.

The Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service said multiple police units, including the canine unit attended his house for a planned arrest.

In a statement, Victoria Police said a man was wanted in relation to an ongoing investigation.

"As officers attempted to arrest the 28-year-old, he ran from the scene and was located a short time later in a backyard," they said.

Victoria Police said paramedics were called after Mr Winmar "suffered a medical episode," after the arrest and was taken to hospital.

Counsel assisting the Coroner, Lindsay Spence, said body-worn camera footage from the canine unit showed Mr Winmar saying "please don't let the dog bite me — please don't let him bite me," AAP reported, before he collapsed and lost consciousness.

The hearing before Coroner Sarah Gebert earlier this month heard that after being handcuffed, Mr Winmar was placed in a recovery position and an ambulance was called. The ambulance was cancelled after he gained consciousness.

A short time later, Mr Winmar lost consciousness again and stopped breathing. Police called another ambulance and administered CPR until the paramedics arrived.

He was admitted to the

intensive care unit at Box Hill hospital, where he died on November 11.

VALS said Mr Winmar's family are "concerned about the conduct and accountability of police during the arrest and his pursuit". "They have received inconsistent information from police and are seeking answers as to his treatment during his pursuit, apprehension and arrest," VALS said.

VALS chief executive, Yorta Yorta and Narrandjeri woman Nerita Waight, said the legal service would support the family during the inquest into Mr Winmar's death.

"Jeffrey's family deserve answers and they deserve justice," Ms Waight said.

"Aboriginal people in Victoria are more likely to be arrested, incarcerated and to die in custody compared to non-Aboriginal people."

Mr Winmar's mother, Ursulla Winmar, said all her son wanted to do "was to come



home and look after his son, to be a good father".

"Now the family chain is broken all of a sudden and I've been robbed of a son, he had so much left to give to us, and we still need him," she said.

"I want the police to account for what happened under their watch."

Sarah Schwartz, a principal lawyer at the VALS, said there were concerns only one body-worn camera was in use. This, despite multiple police officers taking part in the planned arrest of Mr Winmar.

Mr Winmar is remembered as a family man with an "infectious smile" who was the protector of his younger siblings.

His father, Jeffrey Anderson, described his son as a "beacon of positivity" and someone who "carried his culture and his strong belief in Christianity with him everywhere he went".

The case will return to court in June for another directions hearing.



A gathering in honour of the late Jeffrey Winmar. Picture: Dhadjowa Foundation/Facebook

## Albo's Government 'doesn't care': Thorpe

FROM PAGE 1

government, even when we're putting the solutions right in front of them. Once again, our value as people and as First Peoples of these lands is being diminished."

Senator Thorpe said by opposing the Bill, the Government had shown "it doesn't care about First Peoples".

"The same was demonstrated through them voting against First Nations consultation in the National Repair Market Bill," she said.

"The Government reluctantly signed on to the UNDRIP in 2009, yet 14 years later it still cannot bring itself to comply with its international obligations."

Queensland University of Technology's Carumba Institute

executive director, Munanjahli and Yugambah woman Professor Chelsea Watego, said: "It is a call for a rethink of Indigenous affairs, away from the needs-based approach which operates as a self-fulfilling prophecy, keeping us trapped on the mouse wheel of misery — it is what keeps our kids in out-of-home care, kicks our kids out of schools, places our people in prisons, and leaves us grieving at grave sites for lives lost well before their time."

"Enshrining UNDRIP into Australian law would've been a way of getting us off this miserable road to nowhere and realise real progress for our people."

"The continued denial of our rights by those who have the most to gain reflects a steadfast commitment to the continuing

violence of settler colonialism and absolute indifference to Indigenous lives and lands."

GunaiKurnai and Wotjobaluk writer Benjamin Abbatangelo said if the Albanese Government had "a modicum of decency" it would have "enthusiastically supported Senator Thorpe's Bill — which is not only a bare minimum and uncontroversial piece of legislation that other comparable nations have already enshrined, but a logical next step in the wake of a failed referendum".

"Senator Thorpe's Bill provides the Government with an actionable and familiar framework that would not only radically improve our lives, but address the very marginalisation that they said can no longer be ignored. After spending

almost two decades delaying the implementation of UNDRIP, which has culminated in the rejection of this Bill, the Government should be removed as a signatory."

Jason Clare, Acting Minister for Indigenous Australians said in 2009 it was a Labor government that formally agreed to uphold the principles of UNDRIP.

"Since then, UNDRIP principles have underpinned our approach to First Nations policies and programs," he told National Indigenous Times.

"Just last week Senator Pat Dodson handed down a report on UNDRIP that was carefully drafted over more than six months. The report did not recommend the approach adopted in the proposed Bill."

The main bridge into Fitzroy Crossing was destroyed during the January flood. Picture: AAP



## Millions remain in relief fund Flood help money yet to be spent

**GIOVANNI TORRE**

Less than 7 per cent of a \$12.5 million Kimberley flood relief fund has been distributed to victims of the natural disaster in Western Australia's far north almost one year on from the unprecedented event.

The Lord Mayor's Disaster Relief Fund raised \$12.02m from donations and the fund's board pitched in \$500,000 to support the communities affected by widespread flooding in the Kimberley in January.

Earlier this month, the Fund's presiding chair and City of Perth Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas confirmed to the

National Indigenous Times that "as of 29 November 2023, \$860,500 has been disbursed to 24 eligible applicants".

"Over the coming months, funds will continue to be disbursed to privately owned residential properties, fixtures and contents, vehicle repairs and replacements, the pastoral industry and to the repair and recovery of home-maker centres," Mr Zempilas said.

The Lord Mayor said the fund's board "continues to take advice from State Government and Shire of Derby West Kimberley to ensure all donations raised are distributed to the communities

impacted by the devastating flooding event".

Despite the pace of the rollout, a Shire of Derby West Kimberley spokesperson told the National Indigenous Times the local government had worked alongside the fund "to ensure evidentiary requirements are met, as well as ensuring the needs of our impacted residents are adequately addressed in a timely manner".

"The Shire is actively working with the LMDRF to facilitate the submission and subsequent review of applications by the Lord Mayor's fund board," they said.

"The LMDRF has been com-

mitted to ensuring that the funds reach those impacted directly by the floods.

"The first tranche of funding provided impacted private homeowners a level of funding dependent on the degree of impact to their dwelling.

"The Shire assisted the private homeowners to have their homes assessed, collate their applications and then submit to the fund.

"The Shire and the LMDRF have worked to simplify the process where possible."

The Shire said its administrative support costs had not been factored into the distribution of funds. It could not comment on which bodies had

received support from the fund.

"The Shire plays a supportive role in the application process by guiding individuals on available resources and aiding them throughout the application process," the Shire said

"However, the Shire does not have a role in the allocation of funds under the LMDRF and, consequently, is unable to provide details on successful applicants.

"The Shire has worked closely with the LMDRF to ensure that funding allocation addresses the greatest personal needs of those directly impacted by the floods."

## Councils debate Welcome to Country

**DAVID PRESTIPINO**

The Shire of Harvey in WA has rejected a proposal to stop holding Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country ceremonies.

The decision made in late November was closely watched after similar considerations were recently made by other councils across Australia.

South Australia's Northern Areas Council had announced it would drop its Acknowledgement of Country from meetings, drawing criticism from Reconciliation South Australia.

The decision in Harvey comes after two councillors at another local WA government, the City of Bunbury, were criticised for "very offensive" comments they made during a debate to expand the city's new Acknowledgement of Country in July.

One councillor said she did not want blanket recognition of

everyone in the First Nations community because there were some who were "not pure".

Bunbury Mayor Jaysen Miguel distanced his administration from the comments, noting the council had contacted Indigenous leaders after the debate and said cultural training would be implemented.

In a statement released on November 29, Harvey Aboriginal Corporation expressed disappointment that the debate on the issue had become emotional, when councillors voted nine-two against Cr Craig Carbone's move to have the recognition of First Nations people scrapped at Shire of Harvey meetings and events.

"Whilst we are disappointed in how the discussion of this matter was undertaken, we respect the decision that was made by council, and look forward to working with the shire and other community members on the review of this policy," the Harvey Aboriginal

Corporation statement read. "We thank all those from the Harvey community and beyond who have shown their support and look forward to opening the new Boola Bidi Dreaming Centre to further engage and share our rich culture with everyone."

Cr Carbone claimed the recent rejection of the Voice to Parliament showed a shift in attitude on the issue.

Northern Areas councillor Hank Langes moved a motion without notice at a meeting on November 21 to "delete the Acknowledgement of Country and banner on correspondence", which was seconded by fellow councillor John Barberien and supported by other councillors.

Northern Areas Council Mayor Sue Scarman would not comment on the move except to say it was "a decision of council and we have to abide by that decision".

She said it was unclear

whether the motion would impact any future Welcome to Country or Acknowledgement of Country delivered in person at council events.

Ngadjuri Elder Parry Agius said he was disappointed and felt the decision meant the Ngadjuri people were not wanted in that place, in that region.

"The reason behind an Acknowledgement is really about acknowledging that there were Aboriginal people before the area was colonised, and there are Aboriginal people who are now wanting to come back into the region for work, for play, for pleasure, for reconciliation, and now it's dampened that approach," Mr Agius told the ABC.

"Our ancestors are in that space and by actually acknowledging the statement, our ancestors are connecting to that statement and the people who are making that Acknowledgement."

## Banks fuel rise in complaints

First Nations people are experiencing financial hardship at twice the rate of their non-Indigenous peers and are increasingly turning to the Australian Financial Complaints Authority for help.

Financial complaints from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have soared by 13 per cent in the past year, it was revealed earlier this month.

More than 2500 disputes from Indigenous people were lodged with the authority in 2022-23, comprising 3 per cent of its overall workload. The three most complained-about products were transaction accounts, personal loans, and credit cards.

The most common issues were unauthorised transactions including scams, delays in insurance claims, and service quality.

But the rates of financial hardship are of particular concern to the ombudsman.

"We call on financial firms to do more to address this," the authority's June Smith said.

## Under-fire WA justice boss quits after period of turmoil

GIOVANNI TORRE

The director-general of WA's Department of Justice, Adam Tomison, has quit after seven years in the role.

During this period the State's youth justice system has been in crisis. There's been one death in custody, many other self-harm incidents, riots and other disturbances, the use of solitary confinement — found unlawful by the Supreme Court — and a class action by detainees.

There have been allegations of abuse detailed in letters from youth detainees, and criticism by current and former Custodial Services inspectors and Children's Court presidents, as well as other justice advocates.

Noongar law associate professor and human rights expert Hannah McGlade told National Indigenous Times that "under the watch of Dr Tomison, Aboriginal child and youth incarceration remained at unacceptably high levels with draconian responses such as Unit 18 implemented". "The recent death of an Aboriginal 16-year-old boy, Cleveland Dodd, remains a shocking indictment on the Justice Department, and an urgent whole-of-justice review is warranted," Dr McGlade said.

"We hope the successor will show the foresight to work with Aboriginal people, respecting the principle of self-determination which is critical to any and all reforms to youth justice and improving outcomes."

Noongar justice advocate Megan Krakouer has worked closely with current and former detainees in WA. "I think about all the people who have taken their lives in prison and after coming out of prison. That is what I worry about," she said.

"You see the desperation and the lack of humane treatment (in the system)." The Department of Justice was formed in 2017 when the departments of the Attorney-General and corrective services merged. Dr Tomison was appointed shortly before the merger.

Dr Tomison said "significant prison infrastructure projects" had been delivered along with "innovative prison services", including alcohol and drug rehabilitation, mental health and Aboriginal cultural support and language programs.

"By far the most difficult challenge of my career has been youth detention and managing the complex cohort of young people who emerged post-pandemic with a level of violence and destructive behaviour not previously seen," he said.

"I am hopeful we have turned a corner, stabilised Banksia Hill, and have a positive plan for a more enhanced therapeutic model and the development of a second facility to deliver safe and secure services for all young people in detention."

Lifeline: 13 11 14

# River communities fear cotton impact

JESSICA WHALER

Alawa Traditional Owner Naomi Wilfred has voiced her concerns about the future of the Northern Territory's river systems.

Last month Ms Wilfred travelled to Canberra with other Traditional Owners representing eight separate language groups and communities from across 20,000sqkm of the NT.

They asked for protection of their river systems and acknowledgment of Indigenous water rights, saying the cotton industry posed a risk of damage to the Roper River system.

Traditional Owners say they have been excluded from planning consultations surrounding Roper River, and their cultural knowledge and community aspirations have not been considered. They are urging decision makers to visit their communities.

Ms Wilfred was born and raised on Alawa Country, in Minyerri community in the NT.

She is Alawa on her father's side and Mara on mother's side, from Ngukurr.

She told National Indigenous Times the community representatives brought a water map to Canberra so decision and policy makers could see their connections to the rivers.

Ms Wilfred highlighted several concerns with prior consultations, including remote language groups not being engaged or represented fairly.

"We don't want cotton and



Bitter Springs, a popular swimming location fed by the Roper River.

fracking because they take a lot of water out," she said.

"Every time we see this truck comes in, pick up more water than a little bottle — a billy can size like they had told us. But it is just like a truck . . . draining all the water out.

"What if our rivers get contaminated? We looking at long term. That's the big worry, how our little second generation going to growing up and be affected. That's why we came here to bring our map, to be recognised. Need to listen to us, if we don't want the mining, we don't want cotton, we want the land to stay healthy and safe for our future."

Ms Wilfred was nominated by community members to speak on their behalf because of the responsibilities given to her by the Elders in her community who have passed.

Ms Wilfred said Minyerri

community Traditional Owners wanted to establish partnerships with the Federal Government to create programs and economic opportunities to support the community.

Mitch Hart from the Pew Charitable Trusts, who supported the delegation to travel to Canberra, said water-hungry industries such as industrialised cotton production were setting up along rivers such as the Roper, despite the threat posed by over-extraction, bulldozing and pollution.

"Communities that live along the Roper and rely on it for survival are extremely concerned about its future," he said.

"The Federal Government has an opportunity to respond to this powerful message from Traditional Owners and support communities who rely on these rivers. We cannot let mis-

takes made in the Murray Darling be repeated on the Roper."

Ngukurr Elder and former ranger Uncle Clarry Rogers said: "I've been down south, I've been on the Murray and I went on a boat and said 'This is a disaster'.

"So when we started getting concerns about this river, we weren't notified about the volume of water that is going to be taken, especially from underground up near those hot springs in Mataranka.

"The level of water will drop and then we will suffer because we won't be getting any flows downstream.

"We've got songlines, they follow the dreaming tracks.

"When we travel from one bit of the country to another, they show us where the water is.

"We want to keep it that way for our ceremonies and our culture."

A spokesperson for the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water told National Indigenous Times they acknowledged the map was "an important source of knowledge on the connection of many language groups to the Roper River and its interconnected songlines".

"The Northern Territory Government has primary responsibility for the management of groundwater," they added.

National Indigenous Times has contacted Northern Territory Minister for Environment Kate Worden for comment.

## Top bureaucrat demands power shift

DAVID PRESTIPINO

Canberra's most senior public servant has urged his colleagues to relinquish power over Indigenous funding decisions and allocations to First Nations communities themselves.

Professor Glyn Davis, secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, told the Institute of Public Administration Australia earlier this month that giving Indigenous communities budgets and control over their employment, health and housing services would help close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians better than Canberra bureaucrats.

In the wake of the failed Voice referendum, the Federal public service boss told sector leaders he expected a more hybrid delivery of Indigenous services after repeated failures of private models tackling Indigenous disadvantage.

Professor Davis said after 40 years of increased outsourcing, the future of public administration was now up for debate.

"Empowered communities provide a vital way to address consistent program failure," he said. "We will never close the gap if public servants in Canberra think we can solve the housing, employment and educational challenges of (Indigenous communities)."

He cited Papunya, a community 240km from Alice Springs, as an example of why a change in thinking and approach was needed.

"The women and men of Papunya have very clear ideas about what their community needs," he said.

"They are frustrated by the lack of co-ordination between levels of government and by poorly directed investment.

"They are ready to lead. "What they want is a say in local decisions."

Professor Davis' comments follow a damning Productivity Commission draft report on the Closing the Gap Indigenous program, which was highly critical of Federal attempts to work more collaboratively with communities.

The report described engage-

ment as "tokenistic", citing unrealistic time frames for meaningful community input from agencies, which provided limited feedback on how input had shaped policy decisions.

ACT Senator David Pocock recently echoed Professor Davis' sentiments in an article published by InnovationAus.

The former Wallaby wrote of a "pattern of behaviour" where big companies establish small and medium-sized enterprise arms and majority Indigenous-owned subsidiaries to make them eligible for procurement opportunities targeted at these particular companies.

"PwC Indigenous Consulting, for instance, has won \$51.81 million in AusTender-listed government contracts since the Indigenous Procurement Policy was introduced in 2015," Mr Pocock wrote.

"We have government-wide procurement targets for Australian SMEs in our Commonwealth Procurement Rules.

"But we don't have a process in place to guarantee that the public servants making the procurement decisions actual-

ly know whether or not they are dealing with an Australian SME when inviting a company to bid on — or when awarding — a government contract."

Former WA governor and long-time prominent KC Malcolm McCusker said before the Voice referendum the Federal Government should focus on how to improve the efficiency of the National Indigenous Australian Agency — the Federal department responsible for allocating the billions of dollars annually in Federal funding of Indigenous services.

The Noongar Chamber of Commerce and Industry also recently expressed concern at the "massive problem" with how funding for First Nations services was spent across the country at State and Federal levels. NCCI chief executive Tim Milsom told the National Indigenous Times on the eve of the referendum the whole system needed a shake-up.

"There's hundreds of billions of dollars being spent on Aboriginal policy and none of it gets to Aboriginal people," he said.

# Vic Treaty body named

DECHLAN BRENNAN

The path towards Treaty negotiations in Victoria took another step forward earlier this month with the announcement of the five inaugural members of the Treaty Authority.

The authority is an independent umpire in the negotiation process between Indigenous Victorians and the State Government.

The appointments of Petah Atkinson; Thelma Austin; Jihad Clark; Andrew Jackomos; and Duean White; all of whom are First Nations peoples, bring a diverse range of skill sets and experience having been recommended by an independent panel following a detailed selection process.

Mr Jackomos said the authority would look to facilitate Treaty on behalf of both the ancestors over 65,000 years, and the future generations.

"We will perform our respon-

sibilities with respect, transparency and honesty, upholding Aboriginal Lore and Culture and we trust that all that join us in Treaty negotiations will do the same," he said.

The authority is legislated through an agreement between the State of Victoria and the First Peoples' Assembly.

This legislation ensures the authority is independent and not subject to the direction of a minister.

Furthermore, its funding is protected from the otherwise usual budget and electoral cycles.

Ms White said the task was "monumental".

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to change our peoples' futures. I am proud to be living in a State that has the courage to do the right thing — that's what reconciliation is all about," she said.

Wamba Wamba woman Karinda Taylor, who along with

Aunty Vicki Clark, Marcus Clarke, Eddie Cubillo and Richard Wynne, made up the selection panel, said the Treaty Authority members would oversee the negotiations by helping to "navigate the conversations required to realise Treaty in Victoria".

"These five remarkable people are recommended as people of integrity and on whom the community can rely to be independent and impartial," Ms Taylor said.

"The appointments come with a high level of responsibility and will require a considerable level of dedication.

"Each of the appointees has extensive skills and experience and are respected members of their communities."

At a press conference to announce the members, assembly co-chair and Wamba Wamba, Yorta Yorta, Dhudhuroa and Dja Dja Wurrung woman, Ngarra Murray, said

while the Authority's role as a "Treaty umpire" would be "vital", it also offered substantially more.

"It's explicitly been created in a way to ensure the work ahead, the conversations that we'll have, the better outcomes will be delivered for our people, will be grounded in our culture and our lore," she said.

"The legislation that brought the Treaty authority into existence was unique; whilst it was an act of Parliament . . . it enabled the creation of a body outside of the usual political system."

Ms Murray noted the "usual government way of doing things has not worked for our people" and the Treaty Authority was an opportunity to "do things differently".

Minister for Treaty and First Peoples Natalie Hutchins said she was "incredibly proud" to be at the announcement, noting she had been involved since the

formation of the assembly in 2018.

"An independent umpire that will oversee Treaty making in Victoria and the Treaty Authority will play a crucial role in ensuring fairness throughout the process," she said.

"Let's get on with it."

Ms Murray highlighted the bipartisan approach to the initial assembly and Treaty creation, saying it was unique in that all the major parties broadly supported it.

However, the State Opposition cooled its heels after the Voice referendum, going the way of its counterparts in Queensland and NSW

"And quite frankly, if they allow the really extreme right elements within their parties to dominate and they change perspective, they're letting down so many people in Victoria," Ms Hutchins said.

Treaty negotiations are expected to begin in 2024.

## National award for ALS WA

GIOVANNI TORRE

The Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia was honoured at the 2023 Australian Human Rights Commission Awards this month, winning the Law Award.

ALS WA chief executive Wayne Nannup told National Indigenous Times after the ceremony that the service was working hard to provide a voice for young people detained.

"We are also very disappointed with what happened to young Master Dodd. His death was preventable," he said, referring to 16-year-old Indigenous boy Cleveland Dodd, who died in custody after self-harming in the Unit 18 facility.

"This award is about young people who don't have a voice, we have been working for them and we will continue to do that.

"We are extremely thankful for the bravery of the young people who put their stories forward in the action we brought to the Supreme Court and we thank them very much."

Before the awards, Mr Nannup said the ALS WA does not undertake this work "for the accolades, we strive for justice for our most marginalised people so that we can make a difference in the lives of First Nations Peoples".

"Unless you work in this, or other social justice fields, it's difficult to comprehend just how tough people are doing it," he said.

Mr Nannup praised the work of ALS WA director of Legal Services Peter Collins, who he said "has advocated strongly for Aboriginal people in WA for a long time and deserves recognition".

ALS WA has campaigned to address the ongoing crisis and appalling conditions in WA's notorious youth justice system, in which Indigenous children are significantly over-represented.

ALS WA lawyers successfully challenged the use of prolonged solitary confinement on a young Indigenous detainee at Banksia Hill, with Justice Paul Tottle ruling last August that the lock downs were unlawful.

The service then took on the system's use of lock downs more broadly, ultimately having the practice found unlawful, again, in July.

In May, ALS WA brought the testimony of almost 60 current and former youth detainees in WA to light, working with Greens MP Brad Pettitt to table 57 letters of complaint in the State's Parliament, detailing shocking abuse allegations.

Mr Nannup said ALS WA embraces "a human rights approach in all that we do, whether that's supporting and representing our people within the justice system, advocating for the age of criminal responsibility to be raised, speaking out at the disability royal commission, or representing young people who are currently held in Banksia Hill or Unit 18 of the maximum-security Casuarina Prison".

The winners of the AHRC Awards were announced in Sydney on December 8.



Picture: Robert Frith

## Positive role model Tyron tries on role of FMG chief

SPONSORED CONTENT

Tyron Cranston, a Kaurareg Torres Strait Islander man, recently took the helm as the Fortescue Metals CEO for a day.

Starting his Fortescue journey in 2016, Mr Cranston is a drill and blast supervisor at Fortescue's Solomon operations.

"I was new to the mining industry when I started as a contractor with

the drill and blast team at Solomon and I aspired to become a shot firer like my uncles," he said.

"I obtained my licence in six months which was a huge goal for me to tick off."

Mr Cranston is responsible for ensuring the highest standards of safety and compliance within the drill and blast team and has been recognised for his leadership integrity and for being a positive

role model to his team and First Nations peoples.

"I'm inspired by seeing people achieve great things and to make that happen you have to believe in yourself and get out of your comfort zone," he said.

"My family is the most important thing to me and my biggest motivator in life.

I have a wife and two young kids, and I want to provide a great life for

them while making them proud."

While CEO for a day, Mr Cranston joined Dino Otranto, Fortescue Metals CEO, along with the Fortescue executive team to deliver the company's September Quarterly Production report.

Tyron's story serves as an inspiring example of what can be achieved through hard work and a drive to make a positive impact.



Tyron Cranston and Fortescue Metals chief executive officer Dino Otranto.

## Lib senator demands DV answers

GIOVANNI TORRE

Shadow minister for child protection and the prevention of family violence Kerrynne Liddle has called for the Federal Government to deliver on its election promise to bolster frontline domestic violence workers.

The South Australian senator said that “at a time when family violence is at its worst, it is shameful the sector has waited more than 18 months for desperately needed extra frontline workers”.

“I asked ‘Where is the money? Who is getting it? What decision process is the Government following?’,” the Indigenous senator said earlier this month.

“Women, children and families are relying and waiting on the Federal and State Governments to get boots on the ground to respond to this domestic and family violence epidemic.

“This week I asked for information from Minister Amanda Rishworth about the implementation of Labor’s election promise. It was a simple question. Where are the 500 frontline workers you promised Australia at election? Not answered.”

Senator Liddle said the Government tried to block the production of requested documents on the issue.

“Newspaper reports suggest Minister Rishworth went to Central Australia where even the service providers were seeking information that allows them to continue their vital work. An announcement is not an outcome,” she said.

“Following a spate of deaths of women — five in three weeks — allegedly at the hands of men in South Australia, the evidence proves a more urgent response is needed.”

The National Indigenous Times has contacted Ms Rishworth for comment.



Labor Senator Pat Dodson is congratulated by Labor Senator Malarndirri McCarthy after delivering his valedictory speech. Picture: AAP

## Tributes flow for father of reconciliation

JARRED CROSS

Pat Dodson, the father of reconciliation, has announced his retirement from politics and will step down from the Senate on January 26.

MPs, senators and community leaders expressed their gratitude for the Yawuru Senator’s lifelong advocacy for Indigenous rights after the West Australian announced his retirement.

Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney said “his courage and wisdom has been a powerful source of support” through her career. She thanked Senator Dodson for being a “staunch advocate for justice”.

“It was an immense privilege to work with him as the Special Envoy for reconciliation and implementation of the Uluru Statement,” Ms Burney said.

“That he returned to work after serious health challenges, to be part of the Yes campaign, is a great testament to his strength and dedication.

“Patrick has a long history of advocating for justice for First Nations people. He has carried the stories of those who died in custody with him into Federal Parliament, where he has been a staunch advocate for justice — seeking to turn around the rates of Indigenous incarceration and deaths in custody.”

After a long career in justice, including serving on the royal commission into Indigenous deaths in custody, he became a senator in 2016. Senator Dodson began an extended leave of absence as he battled with cancer earlier this year.

Ms Burney said “he leaves a remarkable legacy which we all have a responsibility to continue”.

The Prime Minister extended his own thanks for the work of his colleague and friendship formed.

“I have benefited time and time again from his wise counsel, and he has taught me so much over the years,” Anthony Albanese said of Senator Dodson. “Patrick is such a generous man. Through

seven years he has gifted every member of our caucus his wisdom, his courage, his fearless conviction and his eternal good humour.

“Through the powerful example of his own life, he has given so many of us the gift of a greater sense of perspective.

“There are few more reassuring sights in Parliament House than seeing Patrick and his hat coming down a corridor towards you.”

Former shadow minister for Indigenous Australians Julian Leeser, who quit the Coalition’s front bench in response to its opposition to the Voice, said Senator Dodson had become “a dear friend”.

# Poignant Kaurra reburial

GIOVANNI TORRE

Members of the Kaurra community and supporters gathered at Wangayarta — the Kaurra memorial park at Adelaide’s Smithfield Memorial Park — to lay ancestors to rest in an emotional community-led reburial on December 12.

Following historic repatriations in December 2021 and June 2022, this third reburial saw Kaurra Elders and young people work side by side to return their Old People to Country and reaffirm Wangayarta’s place as an important Kaurra site of memory, kinship, and ceremony.

Kaurra Yerta Aboriginal Corporation Chair Tim Agius said it was an important day that reached generations of Kaurra people.

“Prior to today, our ancestors have been resting in shelves in the museum for almost 100 years,” he said. “In that time, ancestors were also sent overseas for scientific research — this



The Kaurra community re-bury ancestors at Wangayarta. Pictures: Sia Duff

was unacceptable. These reburials have been a very significant event in the history of Kaurra.

“It signals a time for reflection and a watershed moment in Kaurra history to discuss what happens in the future to our ancestors with the State Government and industry.”

Many of the ancestors had been in the care of the South Australian Museum after being disturbed from burial sites in Norwood, St Peters, Walkerville,

Campbelltown and other areas of eastern Adelaide in the late 1800s and into the 20th century.

Traditional Owners said with the ancestors laid to rest in Wangayarta’s eastern burial mound, they will be remembered and protected in perpetuity surrounded by a garden of native plants and sensitive landscaping that recognises the land of these ancestors “always was, and always will be Kaurra Yarta”.

The eastern mound was



Uncle Moogy Sumner, Auntie Madge Wanganeen and Kaurra community members.

prepared for the ancestors during Wangayarta’s co-design process. During construction Uncle Moogy Sumner spread soils from all over Kaurra Country across the area as a way of allowing all ancestors to be buried in the soil of their Country.

In Uncle Moogy’s words, this ceremony brought “land that the ancestors walked across” back to them.

Wangayarta began as a world-first pilot project and

collaboration between Kaurra Yerta Aboriginal Corporation, SA Museum, Adelaide Cemeteries and the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The Traditional Owners said the latest reburial was “testament to the resilience and leadership shown by the Kaurra community in continuing this difficult but essential work”.

Over the coming months, KYAC will commemorate these histories and the future of Wangayarta by developing cultural interpretation resources thanks to a grant from the South Australian History Fund.

SA Museum CEO David Gaimster said Wangayarta’s second anniversary was an important milestone in an evolving story of repatriation.

“Kaurra Wangayarta is an integral part of the South Australian Museum’s work in facing up to the legacies of our institution’s past practices, and of colonisation in South Australia,” he said.



# Fortescue and Kooya celebrate milestone electric vehicle deal

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# STYLEUP

FASHION, BEAUTY & LIFESTYLE

## Country calling

Model helps strong women connect

**P12-13**

**ALSO INSIDE**  
Power of print portraits **P11**  
Parr for the course **P16**

Cindy Rostron  
Picture: Marley Morgan

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# Troupes put best foot forward

PHOEBE BLOGG

Australia's only national dance competition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups, DanceRites, announced its winners for 2023 earlier this month.

After an intense two-day competition at the Sydney Opera House, Mui Mui Bumer Gedlam (Peiudu, Torres Strait Islands) claimed the top prize of \$20,000, and AFL Cape York Aboriginal Cultural Dance (Cairns and Cape York) was runner-up, winning \$5000.

Yangkay Cultural Connect (Ngemba, NSW) took home best wild card dance award, winning \$3000, while the \$4000 rite of passage award was given to both DIDG (Deaf Indigenous Dance Group — Gimuy Walubara Yidinji, Queensland) and Eip Karem Beizam (Meriam, Torres Strait Islands).

Mui Mui Bumer Gedlam spokesperson Toby Cedar said: "All the kids were over the Moon when we won. They are still on a high now after the win. All the dancers (who) performed were also new dancers."

Mr Cedar said the prize money would be invested in the group's projects.

"We haven't decided yet but it will be going back into the group. We are also still very busy, we have performances around New South Wales and Queensland . . . we have performances every week," he said.

Head of First Nations programming at the Sydney Opera House, Michael Hutchings, said DanceRites delivered "a weekend of joy, celebration, and community on the Sydney Opera House Forecourt".

"It was a privilege to welcome mob back to the site, to continue the traditions of Tubowgule as a meeting place where storytelling and dance has been shared for tens of thousands of years," he said.

"This opportunity for



**Dancers at the DanceRites.**

Pictures: Wayne Quilliam, Daniel Boud

cross-cultural and cross-generational gathering was truly unforgettable, and a testament to our enduring culture and customs."

With an expert panel of Elma Gada Kris (Wagadagam Kigus, Kai Dangal Buai, and Sipingur) Gina Rings (Kokatha Mirning), Matthew Doyle (Muruwari), Peta Strachan (Dharug) and

Sani Townson (Koedal, Dhoeybaw, Samu Saibai Island Zenadth Kes) groups were judged on their engagement with culture and language, markings and traditional

instrumentation — as well as their technical dance skills.

The weekend-long event also featured performances by celebrated songman Fred Leone (Butchulla and Garrwa) and

previous DanceRites competitors Jannawi Dance Clan (Dharug).

This year's DanceRites was the largest on-site iteration since it began in 2015, with 21 dance groups representing more than 30 nations and clans.

Showcasing the diverse traditions of urban, regional and remote communities, 300 performers took to the Sand Circle for Cultural Dance and Song Cycles, while 18 groups also demonstrated their unique style in the wild card category.

With this year's event drawing a significant crowd, media coverage and local news, talk of just how big the next DanceRites competition will be has already begun.



## Better together through ongoing artist partnerships

Woolworths is partnering again with artist Bobbi Lockyer, proud Ngarluma, Kariyarra, Nyulnyul and Yawuru woman, on an upcoming range of 'Back to School' essentials. Inspired by childhood memories of road trips out bush, and the beauty of Australian native flowers, both designs will feature on water bottles, A5 notebooks, magnets, pencil cases and desk calendars.

The range will be available in most Woolworths Supermarkets across Australia from the 27th December 2023, until sold out.



BOBBI  
LOCKYER



# Power of pictures may change lives

**JARRED CROSS**

A decade on from first seeing it exhibited, Uncle John Baxter and Belinda Mason are still profoundly impacted by Unfinished Business, as portrait subject and social documentarian respectively.

The collection of black-and-white portraits, produced with support from the First Peoples Disability Network, was first launched at the UN offices in Geneva, before featuring at the 2014 World Conference of Indigenous Peoples and then being acquired by the Australian Museum.

Within the exhibition, with accompanying videography by Dieter Knierim and floral installations by Alchemy Orange, are the stories of 30 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with disabilities.

Its four-month loan to the Melbourne Museum opened earlier this month. Born with spinal-bifida-paraplegia in 1960, Uncle John was taken from his home in Robinvale, north-west Victoria, to the

Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne at just a few weeks old and later fostered-out to a non-Aboriginal family.

A proud Narungga man, Uncle John reconnected with his siblings and father in his teens. In his adult life, he has emerged as a community leader and advocate working with Reconciliation Victoria, Aboriginal Disability Network Victoria and First Peoples Disability Network Australia.

He hopes the exhibition resonates and causes reflection. "We're looking at challenge within these individuals' lives," he said.

"And you realise some of these folks are not from modern cities. They're from outback and rural areas where service provision and equipment either take forever to get there, or in very short supply, or they just simply don't exist.

"It really impacts on their health and wellbeing, but it certainly does not give you the opportunity to set meaningful goals and be self-determinate.

"We're hoping many of our First Nations peoples with

disability who get to view this, as well as the broader community, can (be given) the strength they need to be able to continue on on their own journey."

Uncle John said within the portraits and stories of isolation, inequality and obstacles to self-determination, there were also stories of empowerment in the face of indifference from governments and institutions.

It is still emotional for Uncle John and Ms Mason to see the exhibition in full.

Unfinished Business lays bare the ongoing impacts of colonisation, disadvantage, generational trauma, barriers for remote and regional communities, and historic holes in the health system across individual life stories.

Ms Mason held firm on the strength captured alongside struggle. She said the silence of photography demands a viewer to face what they see.

Unfinished Business is exhibited in Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre at Melbourne Museum until April 21.



Belinda Mason and Uncle John Baxter with his portrait at Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre. Picture: Eugene Hyland

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2024 Tertiary Applications close Friday 2nd February 2024  
2025 Secondary Applications close Friday 26th July 2024

# Model citizen inspiring next generation



## PHOEBE BLOGG

Inspiring younger generations through her modelling career and involvement in community projects has seen Cindy Rostron grow to become a prominent First Nations figure.

With a skin name of Bangardidjan/Bangin, Rostron's mother's clan is Baraba from Banam-banamdih and her father's clan is Bununggu from Buluh Kaduru.

When an opportunity to model arose at Barunga Festival in 2021, Rostron wasted little time questioning whether modelling was a career she wanted to pursue.

"I started my modelling career three years ago, and it went so fast. I didn't expect my career would grow so big," said First Nations model Cindy Rostron.

"My family and friends encouraged me, so one day, the opportunity came at Barunga Festival 2021 where I modelled for Bábbarra Designs and I went forward and tried it for the first time and I really liked it. I then took more opportunities as they came up and loved it more and more.

"I've always wanted to be a model, it's my second dream." Living in Maningrida in the NT on Kunibidji djomi land, Rostron is frequently travelling for work across Australia.

While she has had a series of successes since pursuing a career as a model, Rostron said fronting the cover of *Vogue Australia's* May 2022 issue was one of her most noteworthy achievements.

"When I went to Sydney for the first time, I shared the cover of *Vogue* with Elaine George,

Magnolia Maymuru and Charlie Fraser. I had bright red hair and it was build-up season so it was hot. It was so good camping with the team on the riverside, showing them stone country," she said.

Rostron said the representation surrounding Indigenous communities and creatives working together was slowly improving.

"It's really good seeing so many Blakfellas from different countries and cultures, working together as one. I would love to see more First Nations people follow their dreams and go forward in this industry," she said.

"I'm so grateful for all my opportunities and people who have supported me in my career."

The young creative is also heavily involved in the community. Her most recent involvement in the 2022 Strong Women for Healthy Country Network was a personal highlight.

Created in 2019 as a way to connect female rangers living in remote areas of the Northern Territory, NT Strong Women for Healthy Country Network has grown to become much more than just that — as Rostron explains.

"Being part of Strong Women for Healthy Country Network is really important to me and to all NT women.

"It's really important for them to be seeing other women's country, sharing knowledge, sharing culture and supporting each other. It's so good to learn from each other," Rostron told *Style Up*.

"The Strong Women for Healthy Country Network 2022



went so good, we landed in Alice Springs and went straight to Ross River Eastern Arrente Country.

"The country was beautiful with the hills and desert, really different from here on my country to there.

"Here we have lots of trees and rocks, there they have lots of hills and big open spaces. We have different lore and different culture.

"I was working with *Vogue*, Sun People Creative, Malrey Morgan and Nina Fitzgerald on taking photographs and documenting the forum.

"One morning we woke up at 4am . . . to do a sunrise photoshoot on the desert hills. I was wearing some of my family's designs from Bábbarra Women's Centre. Everything felt so incredible. All the

pictures turned out really beautiful."

With culture being such a large part of Rostron's life, it has inspired her to not only spread awareness and create greater advocacy for Indigenous creatives but also all Indigenous individuals.

"My culture means everything to me. There are lots of Indigenous cultures in every State, and it's really important to all of us, because all of us came from bush and that's where we connect with the land and the land owns us, that's why we own the land back," she said.

"My culture inspires me to stand up for myself and my people through my platform and work. I'm always sharing language and culture through social media, always sharing

both sides, Bininj and Balanda."

"I definitely am continuing to work with the Strong Women for Healthy Country network and plan to work with them more in the future. This year, I attended the 2023 Strong Women for Healthy Country forum, this time I attended as a Djelk Ranger with Felina Campion and Vicki Pascoe. The forum was held at Pudukul Aboriginal Culture Tours on Limilngan-Wulna Country. It was really great to see new rangers from different country and to reconnect and share again on country with the rangers I met the year before."

Rostron has also been working closely with Bábbarra Women's Centre for its youth fashion and design project, Young Daluk x Bábbarra.



LEFT: Cindy Rostron wears a bush dye dress (Apphia Wurrkidj, Deborah Wurrkidj, J. Wurrkidj) designed by Manbirrbirr. Bush dye dress is made by Raw Cloth. This dress is also from the DALUK collection by Bábbarra as seen on the 2023 Country to Couture runway show.

Pictures: Marley Morgan



ABOVE AND CENTRE: Purple top - E. Kandabuma, designed by Kunngol (cloud) Gold skirt - J. Wurrkidj, designed by Kukurik Kare (Going Underground).

# Label thrives in pop-up shop

## PHOEBE BLOGG

Celebrated for its popular garments, unique designs and vibrant colourways, Indigenous Australian art and design label Miimi & Jiinda announced the launch of its pop-up shop last month.

Founded by mother and daughter duo Lauren Jarrett and Melissa Greenwood, Miimi & Jiinda (meaning “mother” and “sister” in Gumbaynggirr) is a renowned brand in First Nations fashion, and the pop-up store has been a hit.

Greenwood has been the driving force behind the launch and set-up of the store at Coffs Harbour’s Coffs Central shopping centre.

The intimate shop, which will be open until December 30, is stocked with a variety of the label’s garments, accessories and creative pieces. “We love having a space where customers can come and see the products and touch and feel them as well as have a chat and get to know us,” Greenwood said.

“It’s so important because in the online world, it’s hard to have that real connection and offer that one-on-one experience and get to know customers, which we love to do. “We would love to open our

own permanent Miimi & Jiinda store in the future.”

Greenwood has had great support from her loved ones in opening the store.

“We had my partner Abe doing the fit-out of the store with his beautiful timber creations,” she said.

“My sister and mum, cousins and nieces all helped out working in the store.

“We also have a local First Nations girl, Gemma, who started work experience with us and is now working with us casually outside of school.

“She’s amazing, and we are so proud of her.

“The team has been so busy in preparation of the store opening, plus still working on current projects and future projects. It’s a very busy business because we are a very small team, so we all wear multiple hats.

“Plus, with Christmas coming up, things have started to pick up a little.”

Greenwood eagerly encourages consumers to come in-store, try on garments and engage with the products and their cultural significance.

“We have some beautiful new womenswear items arriving in store at the end of the month, brand new, never seen before,” she said.



Miimi & Jiinda founders Melissa Greenwood and Lauren Jarrett at the new store.

Greenwood said the plans for Miimi & Jiinda were ever-growing. “We have a very exciting collaboration launching in March next year which we can’t disclose yet, but a percentage of all the profits is going to our local Gumbaynggirr bilingual

primary school, the first bilingual school of Aboriginal language in NSW,” Greenwood told Style Up.

“We are excited to be a part of Melbourne Fashion Festival in March next year with Mob in Fashion, so preparing for that and can’t wait.

“I also have a new baby on the way, so trying to balance everything and have space for rest.”

Greenwood’s most recent book, *Giinagay Gaagal, Hello Ocean*, has launched nationally with Harper Collins.



## Building stronger futures through positive partnerships.

We are committed to helping young Aboriginal people reach their potential through our Indigenous scholarship and career development program, Hanrine Futures. The program currently has 18 participants from primary to tertiary age. Each participant is supported through school and university or vocational education with mentors and additional learning opportunities, and into the workplace with internships, work experience and employment.

Visit the website to learn more about Roy Hill’s community partnerships.

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Emily Kam Ngwarray's work at the National Gallery of Australia. Pictures: Jed Cooper



# Exhibition of crucial artworks

## PHOEBE BLOGG

Showing until April 28 at the National Gallery of Australia, the Emily Kam Ngwarray exhibition brings together a series of works the extraordinary Anmatyerr artist created over the span of her career.

The exhibition is the first survey of Ngwarray's work held at a major institution since 2008, and is accompanied by an illustrated catalogue that presents the artist's voice, drawing on audio recordings Ngwarray made in the 1980s and 1990s, to offer insights into her life and work.

The 256-page publication features original research and reflections from the artist's community, curators and academics.

The exhibition brings together the most important works of Ngwarray's career, from early vibrant batiks to her later monumental paintings. Several never-before-seen works are included in this exhibition,

along with new acquisitions of the artist's seminal works in the national collection.

National Gallery director Dr Nick Mitzevich said the collection was one of the most comprehensive and complete exhibitions of Ngwarray's work to be staged in Australia.

"Not only was she one of the most significant Australian artists to emerge in the 20th century, she was also a pioneer in so many ways," he said.

"She blazed a path for First Nations artists, women artists and Australian artists — her work continues to enthrall audiences around the world.

"Through her unparalleled talent and deep cultural connections, Ngwarray's works transcend time, inviting audiences to explore the spiritual landscapes and ancestral narratives woven intricately within each stroke."

Co-curators Kelli Cole and Hetti Perkins, and linguist Dr Jennifer Green, consulted



Emily Kam Ngwarray photographed near Mparntwe/Alice Springs. Picture: Toly Sawenko

“This exhibition is a reminder that the stories and places Ngwarray painted are enduring, the culture that informed them is very much alive.

Co-curators Cole and Perkins

extensively with Ngwarray's family and community, with the assistance of Utopia Art Centre and regional art centre peak body Desert.

"We've been working in collaboration with the family and community of Utopia of the Urapuntja homelands in the Sandover Region to offer

nuanced analyses that acknowledge both the cultural specificity of Ngwarray's inspiration and the majestic scope of Country and its ancestral inheritances," Cole and Perkins said.

"This invaluable partnership has also resulted in an immersive audio tour that features soundscapes and the songs of the awely (women's ceremony), and uncovers the incredible artistic quality, legacy and cultural impact that Ngwarray's works brings to life.

"Visitors will journey beyond the artworks, into the heart of Utopia and discover an art movement that emerged from this extraordinary country.

"This exhibition is a reminder that the stories and places Ngwarray painted are enduring, the culture that informed them is very much alive."

As a senior Anmatyerr woman from Utopia — north-east of Mparntwe/Alice

Springs — Ngwarray is considered one of the world's most significant contemporary artists to emerge in the 20th century.

Taking up painting in her 70s, Ngwarray devoted her final years to painting, creating works that encapsulated the cultural knowledge, experience and authority she gained during an extraordinary life.

To mark the gallery's 40th anniversary in 2022, the National Gallery acquired two significant works by Ngwarray: *Untitled (awely)*, 1994 and *Alhalker—my Country*, 1992, with the assistance of the Foundation Gala Dinner Fund in 2021.

With plans to present internationally in Europe next year, Ngwarray's work is continuing to gain the attention on a global scale.

Following this presentation, the National Gallery of Australia will also collaborate with Tate Modern to stage a major Ngwarray exhibition in London in 2025.

## Scholarship money will keep language flow continuing

### JARRED CROSS

NSW Aboriginal Languages Trust executive director Clare McHugh says a major boost for scholarships will help end "sacrifice" weighing-down efforts to revitalise traditional language.

The Trust is issuing \$200,000 towards a three-tier scholarship program for teaching Aboriginal languages in the state.

Aboriginal Languages Educational Scholarships apply through universities, TAFE and Aboriginal organisations.

The first tier offers up to \$10,000 a year to individuals in the early stages of their language learning. The second has \$10,000 to \$24,999 a year available for further development in language learning or teaching; \$25,000 to \$50,000 annually is available under

the third tier to support expertise in learning or teaching through a tertiary course.

Ms McHugh, a Gamilaroi and Dhungutti woman, said the investment was crucial.

"The Trust believes those working to revive and reclaim

Aboriginal Languages across NSW should be supported," she said.

"We hear stories from Aboriginal language practitioners and teachers who with little to no support have pursued the learning of their languages just to pass that knowledge on."

# Model of year gong stuns Parr

**PHOEBE BLOGG**

Triathlete and leading disability advocate James Parr has been named Australia's GQ 2023 Model of The Year.

Taking place in December, GQ's 2023 Men of The Year Awards strive to celebrate and commemorate Australian men from entertainment, fashion and sport who are making a difference, achieving their dreams and pushing the creative industry forward.

For the proud Wiradjuri First Nations man, being named GQ's 2023 Model of The Year was proof that those with a disability should not be discouraged by any opportunity.

"Still very shocked and in disbelief. For someone who came from nothing and having no parents and basically raising myself, to be given something like this is the craziest thing to me," he said.

"As I've always said,

acquiring a disability was always OK with me but the negative connotation that it came along with was what was hard, and that came down to representation and that has always been my purpose, so no one would feel how I once felt. I want everyone who has a disability to know that it isn't a bad or sad thing and having a disability won't stop you, because I wouldn't have been able to achieve any of this if I didn't have a disability.

"Everyone that has ever supported me, worked with me, my team, my friends and my family. Thank you."

Diagnosed with an osteosarcoma in his right ankle and having to have his leg amputated below the knee, the 26-year-old has used his profile to increase the visibility of people with a disability and help change the stigma surrounding those with a disability.

"When I had acquired my



Model James Parr in conversation at Melbourne Fashion Festival. Picture: Emma Ruben

disability I saw first-hand just how bad the stigma and connotation was that came along with having a disability and pretty much felt very lonely or isolated because I never really saw people like me which is why I wanted to start modelling to increase the visibility of people with a disability and help change the narrative or stigma that came along with a disability to a more realistic one; that having a disability isn't sad and we are still capable of great things," Parr told Style Up.

"There are 4.5 million people in Australia that have a disability. I never want anyone

else to feel the way I felt, so I think using my voice and my personal experiences are important in changing the way people look at disability so that we all feel equal and don't feel left out of society."

Although Parr started his career working in special education and teaching online, after his amputation he soon found himself not only walking the runways as a model, but running as a successful triathlete.

"When I was 21, I had pain in my right ankle, was diagnosed with an osteo osteoid and was on a waiting list for 10 months to have it removed," he said.

"During this time, I was heavily into CrossFit and was doing local competitions and then wanted to start transitioning to train and compete in triathlons.

"When I had my leg amputated gave me more of a push to go straight into triathlon training when I had finished chemo and recovered.

"I constantly had people telling me what I could or couldn't do but I wanted to push myself and see what I could do."

Parr shares a large part of his life on social media in the hope of connecting with younger generations and those in similar situations.

**BHP**

*"Giving them someone to look up to. To me that's big!"*

Discover how the Clontarf Foundation is helping mentor young Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander men to become the best versions of themselves.

Scan for more.

# Maori fight NZ coalition

**BEN MCKAY**

Activists defaced an exhibit on the Treaty of Waitangi at New Zealand's national museum, Te Papa, this month in the latest display of tension around the place of Maori after the election of a right-wing government.

Police arrested several people after a co-ordinated protest at the Wellington waterfront museum on December 11.

The target was the museum's displays explaining the Treaty of Waitangi, New Zealand's foundational document.

One man absided inside the building, using an angle grinder and spray paint to damage the display.

Others held signs saying "tell the truth" in English and te reo, the Maori language, while another used a megaphone to critique the display.

"It says that Maori ceded sovereignty to the Crown. That is a lie," the man said.

"We are here to tell Te Papa to tell the truth . . . you're not just here to display these two documents, you need to be adding context, you need to be helping people to understand."

The Te Papa protest — carried out by the Te Waka Hourua group (meaning the double canoe) — followed a National Maori Action Day the previous

week. Those protests organised by the Maori Party, saw thousands march around the country against the new government.

Many Maori are fearful of the new government's measures, which would strip away the Treaty of Waitangi from the centre of New Zealand's constitution.

The Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840 between Maori and the British Crown as the basis for co-existence between the Indigenous and colonising people.

However, translation issues between the English and te reo versions created disagreements which continue to this day, including whether sovereignty was ceded by Maori.

Prime Minister Chris Luxon said he did not think the Te Papa attack was linked to his Government's new approach to the treaty.

"I'm incredibly proud of the Treaty of Waitangi," he said.

"Of course, over the last 180 years, we've been wrestling with it, to understand what was meant, who signed it, why they signed it and what the intention is behind that.

"We've all been wrestling with that, and that's been something really positive and it's made us much more tolerant



National Maori Action Day demonstrators protest in Hamilton. Picture: Mike Scott

and a much better country." New Zealand's October election led to a three-party coalition of the centre-right National party, free-market libertarians ACT, and populists New Zealand First.

All three campaigned for a rollback of Maori governance of public entities introduced by the Labour-led government.

Coalition deals signed between the parties include pledges around "treaty principles" as defined by the Waitangi Tribunal.

The National-NZ First deal is to strip laws of references to treaty principles, while the National and ACT agreement is to introduce a Bill seeking to redefine them.

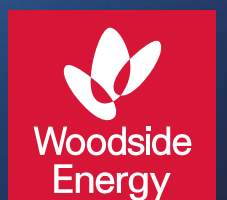
ACT and NZ First argue the reform will bring New Zealand in line with liberal democratic values. Politicians from the left say the proposals will bring a level of unrest not previously seen in New Zealand. Labour Maori politician Willie Jackson said last month it would rival the infamous 1981 apartheid-era Springbok tours.



## MOVING FORWARD. TOGETHER.

Woodside's Native Reforestation Project aims to create biodiverse carbon plantings in Western Australia, planting over 10,000 hectares of native species to date.

Over the past three years, Woodside in partnership with Nativ Carbon, have taken a collaborative approach to empower farmers, Traditional Owners and landowners that are part of this project to adopt safe and sustainable land management practices.



# UN rights push is needed

HANNAH MCGLADE

In the aftermath of the devastating referendum to establish an Indigenous Voice to Parliament there is renewed interest in Indigenous rights and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

As an expert member of the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues, I welcome this increased attention.

As the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples recommended nearly a decade ago in 2014, nations should develop national action plans to realise the rights set out in the declaration.

Unfortunately, Australia isn't alone in failing to progress the declaration, and the senate inquiry makes other important recommendations including that the Commonwealth ensure legislation and policy on matters concerning First Nations people be consistent with the UNDRIP.

Further, that any National Action Plan should consider the legislative, policy, and other approaches to implement, and assess compliance with, UNDRIP across all jurisdictions and include co-ordination agreements with all levels of government.

And while independent Senator Lidia Thorpe's private member's Bill to implement the UNDRIP was not passed, this wasn't surprising in view of the past lack of attention to the UNDRIP in Australia.

This was particularly so under conservative Liberal governments who limited Indigenous international engagement in UN forums.

These Liberal governments, in a token manner contrary to the principle of self-determination, selected Indigenous meeting representatives.

I was a law student in the early 1990s observing the historic negotiations of Indigenous peoples with member states culminating in the UNDRIP, accepted by the UN General Assembly in 2007.

Australia influenced Canada, New Zealand and the US to oppose the vote in favour of the declaration, being especially against Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination, equating it to secession or separation from the state.

Former Australian prime minister Kevin Rudd later reversed this appalling decision and we have since formally

“  
Making it an ideal opportunity to remind the world that Australia is committed to human rights, despite the failure of the recent Voice referendum

supported UNDRIP, but not enough to meet its commitments.

The Australian Government has now established an Indigenous taskforce in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and appointed First Nations ambassador Justin Mohamed.

As a UN expert, I approached the First Nations ambassador recently and asked the Government to host a pre-session meeting of the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues in Australia

in preparation for its annual meeting in April, in New York.

Hosting the pre-session UNPFII meeting will give Australia the ability to shape and influence the UN's work to tackle some of the most pressing problems facing Indigenous peoples globally; making it an ideal opportunity to remind the world that Australia is committed to human rights, despite the failure of the recent Voice referendum.

Also giving Indigenous peoples an opportunity to engage on pressing issues, such as Treaty and Makaratta.

The Foreign Minister Penny Wong — if true to her word of supporting and recognising the critical role Indigenous peoples play in international affairs — should support this request and host the meeting.

An opportunity like this lost will not be forgotten.

Recently in terms of international law, women's rights have also been to the fore.

With the 16 Days of Activism on Violence Against Women we were privileged to meet Canada/US MMIWG (Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls) advocate Agnes Woodward who participated in

grassroots workshops with women and families.

In this time, we also lodged with the UN Committee for the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women an optional protocol communication for Jody Gore of the Jaru Gidga people of the East Kimberley.

Jody was wrongfully convicted of murder when she acted in self-defence, with a court trial Jody likened to Hollywood film *A Time to Kill*.

Jody experienced life-threatening violence, yet was denied the right to self-defence, with the burden of proof effectively reversed.

Clearly, there is much now to be done in relation to the UNDRIP and its recognition of Indigenous rights.

As Indigenous peoples, our challenge lies in ensuring our best advocacy, and not just at home, but in international UN forums, where we can call on Australia to respect UNDRIP and our rights as Indigenous peoples.

This is Indigenous rights, foreign diplomacy and engagement at its best.

**Dr Hannah McGlade is a Noongar law academic and a member of the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues.**

## Climate change is affecting how my desert people live

SAMANTHA MURRAY

Few Australians know the Country that I call home. My Country is a place of spinifex, mulga trees, red sand and open skies.

It's a place that my family has lived for more generations than we can remember, and the knowledge and responsibility we carry has been handed down, one generation to the next, since time immemorial.

The generation that still lives on Country is now seeing changes that we have no memory of. The dynamics that dictate the ebb and flow of life in the desert Country, the timing and type of rain, the hot and cold times, they are changing.

The Great Victoria Desert near Cosmo Newbery, in Western Australia where I grew up, is a place where we could gather emu eggs at the right time, and find Marlu (red kangaroos) to feed the mob in the community with regularity.

Now, we see less rain in winter, so there are less of the favoured plants for emus to grow fat and lay eggs. While the hot, dry summers are putting pressure on the Marlu. My mob from all over the desert have been finding them dead under trees in the hottest

times, making us worried that they will disappear from Country, like so many of the small animals that the older people remember, but now we only know from stories.

Yarning is a huge part of my culture. It is what keeps me grounded and connected to my mob. When I yarn to my family, they talk about the love of community, the work they are doing on Country and the effort it takes to stay in place, where they feel a sense of belonging.

When I talk to the bigger desert family, their stories echo a love of their own country and a grounding sense of place the desert provides.

It is our home, the place where our old people lived, where we live and where our children and grandchildren will live.

The yarn that doesn't get passed on to the rest of Australia is that our country is like a canary in a coal mine, that no one has been listening for. The increasing extreme heatwaves, the extended dry periods, and the record-breaking flooding rains that we have experienced make our Country hard to read and life more difficult.

The mob in the Fitzroy Valley in WA's north, are still recovering from the floods of last year as the wet season



Samantha Murray at COP28 in Dubai.

approaches. Who can predict now what difficulty each summer will bring? I worry for all of our people in the desert and what the future will look like, living in the communities with the climate and environment changing so quickly.

All Australians need to pull together at this critical time to do all that we can to slow the growing impacts of a changed climate. Reducing our footprint while acknowledging that we have a societal

responsibility to those living in extreme environments is critical. I'm taking this message to the UN climate talks, COP28, in Dubai and calling on all countries to reduce the carbon emissions that are causing climate change.

Indigenous Australians, desert mob included, did not cause climate change, and haven't benefited like others in society from the modern way of living. We face an environment that might not

support us like it has for generations. Ensuring we have smart, climate-adapted remote communities will mean the world for those who live on Country, and their ongoing sustainability should be seen as essential to the social fabric of remote and regional Australia.

**Samantha Murray is a proud Yilka/Wongutha/Nyoongar woman and the deputy chief executive officer of the Indigenous Desert Alliance. She attended COP28 in Dubai.**

# Miners urged to ramp up collaboration

DAVID PRESTIPINO

First Nations leaders have urged the mining sector to not only continue fostering diversity and inclusion, but also to pursue greater integration of Indigenous knowledge, skills and perspective in practices across the industry.

The biggest ever delegation of First Nations leaders were among attendees at the recent 2023 International Mining and Resources Conference in Sydney.

They heard how the Voice referendum had unveiled a gap in understanding how the benefits of Indigenous inclusion and knowledge were critical to industries like mining.

Federal Resources Minister Madeleine King said with more than 60 per cent of Australia's resources projects on land covered by a Native Title claims, more economic opportunities for Indigenous people and across regional communities were required.

"Our new Critical Minerals Strategy sets a vision for how Australia can become a globally significant producer of raw and processed critical minerals, while boosting opportunities for Indigenous people," she said.

International Council on Mining and Metals director Danielle Martin acknowledged how mining had often negatively impacted Aboriginal people.

"Indigenous people have been affected by the long-term consequences of colonisation and the disposition of their land," Ms Martin said.

"Companies need to be thinking deeply about recognition and reconciliation, how we better incorporate Indigenous skills and knowledge into the mining industry, how we make agreements, how we share benefits and how we protect cultural heritage."

It was a sentiment echoed by BHP Global Indigenous



Gabby Wilson and Wagyl Kaip woman Miammi Leadbitter at BHP's South Flank. Pic: Tom Rovic-Hermann

Procurement head Chris Cowan, who detailed how the mining titan had adjusted its First Nations employment and engagement strategies to reflect the shared knowledge opportunities the industry could leverage.

Mr Cowan said it was critical companies had a genuine focus and commitment to deliver sustainable change and the willingness to engage in meaningful conversation with Indigenous people.

"At BHP, we're not just sitting around a table in a boardroom coming up with what sounds like a good strategy to guide our

engagement with First Nations people," he said.

"We're getting out into the communities and having sincere and empathetic conversations with Aboriginal communities, to make sure what we're planning on putting into practice will actually work. "We're also committing to providing assistance to Aboriginal-owned contracting businesses looking to get involved in the industry, be that helping them write grant applications or set up their companies, to ensure we're getting better representation."

"I think the other is a real

willingness to have authentic engagements and communications and take feedback, and be willing to adapt the way you work."

Mr Cowan said BHP, whose iron ore division increased direct spending by 70 per cent with nearly 100 Indigenous businesses last year and is on track to achieve its target of \$300 million this year, had realised procurement and sustaining jobs in the communities it operates was vital.

"We need to obviously deliver outcomes now, but we need to have a really long-term view," he said.

# Businesses must learn to harness our traits

OPINION  
ZAK KIRKUP

Last month I attended the 11th annual Aboriginal Economic Development Forum in Larrakia Country in Darwin.

To be surrounded by so many exceptional business leaders from across the country, as a business owner myself, was a special experience.

The forum underscored a pervasive struggle within the Aboriginal business community, echoed repeatedly by the various speakers or at the breakouts. Indeed, even Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney emphasised the vital role of business post-Voice, adding yet another layer of responsibility for Aboriginal entrepreneurs.

In WA, it was illegal for my grandfather to own a business for most of his life. What that means is that in WA alone there are a scarce few generational businesses that are Indigenous-owned, and that presents a huge challenge.

Given the systematic and intergenerational struggle, it is obviously very hard to find those who have made it through the maze of business for an extended period of time.

When you do find those who have navigated these challenges, you discover a fairly arduous journey they've endured, often without precedents to guide them.

A recurring theme at the forum was the desire for commercial resilience among Aboriginal businesses, alongside requests for government support.

However, as a business founder and owner, it is obvious there is a contradiction here.

Dependence on government funding is unsustainable for genuine business growth. True commercial resilience must come from within our own community, not dependent on external aid or government support.

If you start a business that is reliant on the government for survival, you don't have a business — you have a charity.

Regardless of whether the owner is Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, starting or operating a business will always be tough.

What makes First Australians unique is our inherent resilience and strength, qualities forged through a litany of historical trials. These traits must now be harnessed in business.

If we are to fulfil the minister's vision of businesses being community pillars, especially in challenging times, we must rely on our survival instincts, our ability to communicate, and our tradition of communal support, rather than looking to the government for solutions.

Zak Kirkup is a Yamatji man, director of Kolbang, and former leader of the WA Liberal Party

# Tighten scrutiny on cladding: academic

BRENDAN FOSTER

First Nations academic Gningala Yarran-Mark says Indigenous procurement policies need to be overhauled and "black cladding" stamped out to allow to Indigenous businesses a fair chance in the economic domain.

Ms Yarran-Mark, whose PhD is looking at the barriers to the development of Aboriginal-controlled businesses, said the Federal Government needed to review its IPP.

Under the IPP, 3 per cent of all contracts, and 1.75 per cent of the value of all contracts, must go to businesses that qualify as First Nation businesses.

"The review process of the Indigenous procurement policy needs to consider the wording around the Indigenous procurement policy, with the 3 per cent of available contracts," she told

National Indigenous Times. "But if you have a billion-dollar spend for major infrastructure development and the little cronies that sit at the top get their slice, then there is only 3 per cent of the contract remaining, that's a very tiny piece of the pie.

"It should align itself to be 3 per cent of the total spend. Then you might get some serious deliverables."

Ms Yarran-Mark, pictured, who hails from four distinct language groups in WA — Wongi/Yamatji on her mother's side and Nyoongar/Gitja on her father's side — says more needs to be done to stamp out the black cladding.

Black cladding is when non-Indigenous companies boost

their Indigenous shareholder base or claim to be First Nation businesses in a bid to win government contracts.

"The colloquial term is black cladding, but I like to call it misleading and deceptive conduct on the part of major players who are purporting to be Aboriginal businesses for the sake of the crumbs on the table," she said.

"It's very grubby behaviour which is at the detriment of those who are not necessarily positioned well enough to be able to take care of these economic opportunities.

"I not saying we've got it all wrong. We have started on a journey that has been paved with problems ever since it was instituted, primarily by government officials who are driving the agenda."

Ms Yarran-Mark, who has spent almost two decades work-

ing across health, education and training, justice, employment and economic development, says there should be stricter guidelines for businesses.

According to the IPP, an Aboriginal business is defined as a business with at least 50 per cent Indigenous ownership.

"Given the positive intent behind the social procurement framework, is it possible to develop some kind of benchmark in terms of pre-qualification to identify genuine Indigenous operators as opposed to those that want to play the cloak and dagger game," she said.

The former barrister and solicitor, who was the first Indigenous State prosecutor in WA, took aim at Supply Nation, which verifies if businesses qualify as Aboriginal, for not weeding out businesses engaging in black cladding.



# Apprentice builds future

DAVID PRESTIPINO

Civil construction apprentice Adam Varcoe typifies the ethos of parent company RAW Group.

A recent graduate of the RAW-linked South Australian Aboriginal Building & Civil Construction Academy, Mr Varcoe — a proud Narungga-Kaurna man and father of four — is a future leader in the civil construction industry.

He started his career in 2019 on the Northern Connector Shared Path project and was RAW's first civil construction apprentice.

During his apprenticeship, Mr Varcoe worked on other projects such as the Glenside subdivision, where he gained experience in drainage and pavement works.

Having finished his apprenticeship earlier this year, Mr Varcoe is the first Indigenous person to complete the trade certificate in civil construction and has since been promoted to site supervisor. Mr Varcoe, recently



Adam Varcoe, left, at the CCF SA Industry and Training Awards.

named 2023 Apprentice of the Year by the Civil Contractors Federation SA, said the apprenticeship program gave young Indigenous people like himself the opportunity to take a new path in life.

"It's been the best time of my

life actually," he said. "It's changed my everyday life, especially my family life as well, and I'm happy to go to work."

SAABCCA business development manager Peter Burgoyne said the academy's mission was to promote Aboriginal appren-

ticeships in the building and civil construction industry.

"We're mainly about empowering Aboriginal individuals to actively participate in the economy of projects taking place on their ancestral lands," the former AFL star told National Indigenous Times.

"Our mandate is to ensure the next generation has better opportunities than the last."

The RAW Group is a 100 per cent Aboriginal-owned and managed company, whose ethos "Changing Lives Through Economic Independence and Empowerment" rings true.

The company has achieved several positive outcomes in Aboriginal employment, empowerment and economic independence, thanks to the academy's apprenticeship program.

Mr Burgoyne said participation data from 2019 to 2022 was unprecedented and meant "truly life-changing" outcomes for Indigenous households.

In that time the company engaged 76 Aboriginal and 19

non-Aboriginal employees, including seven Indigenous apprentices and employed women to work in non-traditional trades.

That meant more than \$1 million was going into what were once long-term, disadvantaged, jobseekers' households and \$840,000 into Indigenous households. Mr Burgoyne said that income made a big difference.

"We are proud to highlight that a majority of our employees come from disadvantaged, correctional services and welfare dependent backgrounds, with limited educational qualifications," he said. "We are creating life-changing opportunities that impact intergenerational unemployment and break the welfare dependency cycle."

Mr Burgoyne said the academy's mandate was ensuring the next generation of Indigenous people had better opportunities.

"This endeavour not only benefits the industry and Aboriginal jobseekers but also contributes significantly to the broader economy," he said.



Fortescue and Kooya celebrate the Tuatara electric vehicle deal.

## Kooya accelerates its partnership with Fortescue

GIOVANNI TORRE

Fortescue has extended its relationship with First Nations business Kooya to help drive the company's mission to decarbonise its iron ore operations.

Under the collaboration, WA-based Kooya will provide Fortescue with about 100 electric Tuatara Ultra Terrain Vehicles for

use across Fortescue's Pilbara sites, with the first scheduled to arrive early next year. The vehicles will be used to transport materials and tools around Fortescue's iron ore operations.

Fortescue Metals chief executive Dino Otranto said the collaboration with Kooya underscored the company's "shared commitment to stepping beyond fossil fuels and

providing solutions for heavy industry".

"Importantly, this partnership demonstrates our commitment to First Nations businesses, where through our Billion Opportunities program, we have awarded more than \$4.6 billion in contracts and subcontracts since 2011," he said.

Kooya CEO Sharna Collard said the contract marks "a substantial

step in the right direction for our company".

"Our core values revolve around environmental responsibility, and we are thrilled that Fortescue is aligning with us on this journey towards sustainability," she said.

"This collaboration represents a collective effort to prioritise environmentally friendly practices, and we look forward to the

positive impact it will have on our commitment to reducing emissions."

The relationship between Fortescue and Kooya began in 2018, with Fortescue entrusting Kooya to provide leasing services for 34 assets at a single mine. Kooya manages leasing activities across three mines — Solomon, Eliwana and Iron Bridge.



Adam Barnard, Roger Cook, Divina D'Anna and Rita Saffioti.

## Spinifex Brewery taps into Broome community

DIANNE BORTOLETTO

Spinifex Brewery Cable Beach in Broome opened its doors this month with a goal in mind that has nothing to do with beer.

Spinifex chief executive Adam Barnard said it's designed to be a family-friendly community hub.

"I live in the Kimberley and as a local I'm across the challenges faced by the regions, and I'm across the solution that's need-

ed, and that's participation, employment and opportunity," Mr Barnard said.

"We're creating employment and we've teamed up North West Regional TAFE to create employment pathways.

"There are opportunities with an Aboriginal supply chain, and we're the first platinum sponsor of the Cable Beach Football Club to encourage participation. We're trying to contribute to the

community in a meaningful way."

The brewery is part of the \$50 million transformation of Walmanyjun/Cable Beach Foreshore. Spinifex Brewing Co was granted \$1.98 million from the WA State Government Investment Attraction Fund.

The Broome brewery specialises in mid-strength beers, it uses native botanicals in its brews, and it donates part prof-

its to mental health services for military veterans.

Mr Barnard, an ex-soldier, believes that having a beer with a mate does wonders for mental health. "We'll be experimenting with new flavours and looking to expand our non-alcoholic range," Mr Barnard said.

The Cable Beach brewery has a six hectolitre brewhouse capable of brewing 35,000 litres of beer each year.

# Bush food delivers road to recovery

DAVID PRESTIPINO

Bush tucker saved Ben Tyler's life. And now, the proud Bininj man wants to save bush tucker.

Based between Darwin and Kakadu, Mr Tyler runs one of the Northern Territory's niche tourism businesses Kakadu Kitchen, which found its groove using botanicals to create a range of flagship products that are flourishing in demand.

Kakadu Kitchen is one of the leading First Nations businesses featured in Tourism NT's latest campaign "Culture is closer than you think", which showcases unforgettable Indigenous experiences and shines a light on the dynamic stories of the people who run them.

Mr Tyler built a cult following that turned mainstream off the back of popular products and projects such as Kakadu Kitchen's First Nations branded spring water, a permit from Kakadu National Park to wild harvest Kakadu native botanicals and a partnership with Tim Triggs of Sydney-based ALTD Spirits to make non-alcoholic, ready-to-drink cocktails.

Their first, An-marabula (native peach) Bellini, was a smash hit on the retail scene, while a new blueberry-infused alcohol-free product should hit shelves soon.

It appears the sky's the limit for Kakadu Kitchen but it nearly never got off the ground after Mr Tyler developed "bad habits" — addiction, drinking, unhealthy eating — about a decade ago.

His life began to pivot in 2015 when he began taking an interest in foraging after taking close notice of the ingredients on the family dinner table, situated in his remote Indigenous family homeland Patonga Homestead, aka Murdudjurl Community, in Kakadu.

"I remember looking at the kitchen table and seeing all sorts of things, like a bottle of Coke for example, and thinking, 'this doesn't belong here, what can we get rid of,'" he told National Indigenous Times.

Soon he was planting a backyard garden for his mum Jessie, which included pawpaw and other fruit, as well as Indigenous ingredients such as



Ben Tyler with some of his native peach non-alcoholic drink.

native lemongrass and bush apples. The garden grew quickly — at one point they had 200 banana trees.

Soon the community garden was overflowing with Indigenous and exotic fruits, vegetables, and herbs, an Instagram account celebrating native foods was created.

Mr Tyler began establishing his reputation and passion for native botanicals and bush tucker at events and tiny market stalls across Australia, offering salads and juices

flavoured with Indigenous ingredients that people lapped up. It was at a market stall, while stirring a Kakadu plum through one of his juices, that his big break came; a chance meeting with a distiller that would eventually lead him to the door of Mr Triggs of ALTD Spirits, now his business partner in their botanically-driven NoLo products.

Mr Tyler wants to continue the bush tucker legacy business for future generations and will no doubt be a leading voice in an

industry that was estimated to be worth more than \$80 million in the 2019-2020 financial year and predicted to double by 2025.

With only 2 per cent of the industry comprised of Indigenous-owned businesses, the 46-year-old wants more pathways for Indigenous suppliers, something he is creating himself, buying ingredients from commercial Indigenous bush tucker providers.

He is also on the verge of setting up a bush tucker vertical farming business in Kakadu.

## LABEL BOSS IS KEEN TO LEAD

BRENDAN FOSTER

Budding First Nations entrepreneur Temaana Sanderson-Bromley hopes his fashion label inspires young Indigenous people to start up businesses.

The Adnyamathanha, Narungga and Wangkangurru Yarluyandi man started his surf-inspired fashion brand Mardlaapa Designs in late 2021, which blends Aboriginal artwork with modern designs.

"I wanted to start a business for a while and I had been putting it off and I was always making excuses, like I'm not old enough and I don't have enough experience," he told National Indigenous Times.

"But eventually I just bit the bullet and started it and it was one of the best decisions of my life. I wanted to create clothing that I liked myself and I wanted to create a company that would benefit the environment.

"I wanted to be a



Some of the T-shirts created by Mardlaapa Designs.

leader in a way to show Aboriginal people that starting your own business is an option and I think that is something people forget about."

The 19-year-old, pictured below left, said many of his screen-printing designs for his T-shirts, jumpers, beanies and caps, which he digitally creates online, were inspired by Country. The Adelaide local said many of his T-shirts have political commentary text that affects First Nations people.

"I grew up in Kaurna (Adelaide) along the beach, but I'm also from the (Narungga) York Peninsula, Adnyamathanha (Flinders

Rangers) and Wangkangurru Yarluyandi) (Simpson Desert) so all my work has a strong sense of drawing designs from my land, my Country and my people," he said. "As well as contemporary issues today, like Change the Date and a whole bunch of issues that impact our community."

Mr Sanderson-Bromley wants other young Indigenous people to take the plunge and start their own company.

"It's been an amazing experience for me," he said.

"Some designs haven't been as popular but that's part of the learning and acclimatising to the market and seeing what everyone likes.

"I would love to open up a store eventually."

## \$3.6m upgrade shines a light on caves' history

DIANNE BORTOLETTO

A new \$3.6 million Ancient Lands Experience opened at Ngilgi Cave this month, situated on the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge in Yallingup, in WA's South West.

First opened to the public in 1900, Ngilgi Cave was Western Australia's first tourist attraction.

The upgrade and new facilities were funded by \$1.35 million from the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund, \$365,000 from the WA Government through Tourism WA's Jina Plan, \$100,000 from South West Development Commission's Regional Economic Development Scheme, a self-supporting loan of \$1.25m from City of Busselton and Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association's own funds.

Now, locals and visitors can glean a greater understanding of the 600-million-year story associated with the Margaret River area and its people.

The Ancient Lands Experience is a series of interactive

installations woven throughout the natural bushland that pay homage to the landscape's formation, the limestone caves, the 60,000-year custodianship of the Wadandi people, and the flora and fauna found in the region today. It also serves as a Meeting Place for Koomal Dreaming tours.

Wadandi Cultural Custodian and owner of Koomal Dreaming Josh Whiteland has been running tours at Ngilgi Cave for 15 years.

"Ngilgi Cave, which means 'good spirit of the ocean', was the first tourist attraction to open in WA and one of the last to get upgraded," Mr Whiteland said. "The information and knowledge have always been here on country, but to have it in an interpretive form for visitors to understand creates a whole connected experience.

Bookings can be made via the Ancient Lands Experience can be made via the Capes Foundation website, with cultural tour bookings being accepted via the Koomal Dreaming website.

# Top apprentice on song

DAVID PRESTIPINO

For an apprentice at Rio Tinto's flagship rail operation in WA's North West, Cheyenne Simmons is making a lot of noise — and people like what they hear.

Ms Simmons, whose mother is a Noongar Yamatji woman and father is of Egyptian descent who lived in Karratha, has a gift for fine tuning machinery that drives the iron ore giant's rail operations in the Pilbara, and a deeply rooted passion for music. Her vocals often snap the stat-

ic soundscape that dominates the rail yard, much to the delight of her rolling stock maintenance team at the 7Mile operation in Karratha.

Sometimes she'll arrive for a shift with PPE in one hand, boombox blaring in the other.

"I'm out there, I'm pretty keen, so usually when I start the day, I'm very enthusiastic and if I don't have any work on with my tradie, I'll go and see if anyone else needs help," she said.

Rio Tinto named her 2023 Apprentice of the Year from

more than 250 apprentices in the business, 30 per cent of whom are Indigenous and 36 per cent women.

Ms Simmons spent the past nine years on the Dampier Peninsula as a safety officer at its ports hub.

"I had to change my headspace when I started, having worked at Rio for nine years up to that point, to 'OK I'm an apprentice now, I'm in a learning role, I'm not a veteran in the field kind of thing' . . . I had to adjust to kind of thinking that way," she said.

The 32-year-old is treating this career change as a chance to hone her skills. "Every crew I've worked on has been awesome . . . the nerves, you go 'oh my gosh I have to meet new people' but so far so good, it's worked out really well," she said.

"I definitely will be staying at Rio . . . I'm not sure exactly where, this job gets hard but the people are amazing, so they make you want to get up every day and come to work."

Music is close to Ms Simmons' heart. "Everything about music

I try to apply it to work . . . music isn't just like, you look at a song and you're like 'oh they just made a song'," she said.

"They went through all the processes too; they found a note, which made another note, which makes a melody which makes the harmony, and then that makes the song, so I try to apply that to my apprenticeship.

"I'm not just going to think, 'oh, I'm an electrician' after one year and think it's the most beautiful song you've ever heard. It takes work."



## 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 Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 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	38/3863	TMB NULLAGINE PTY LTD	57BL	151.7km N'ly of Laverton	Lat: 27° 15' S Long: 122° 17' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	38/3906	MT MALCOLM GOLD HOLDINGS PTY LTD	168BL	146.3km NE'ly of Laverton	Lat: 27° 35' S Long: 123° 19' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	52/3923	DUKETON MINING LIMITED	70BL	100km N'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 25° 42' S Long: 120° 5' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE, WILUNA SHIRE
Mining Lease	27/521	NORTHERN STAR (KANOWNA) PTY LIMITED	254.87HA	22.1km SE'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 33' S Long: 121° 31' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	45/1315	ELAZAC MINING PTY LTD	5.76HA	33.3km SW'ly of Marble Bar	Lat: 21° 26' S Long: 119° 36' E	EAST PILBARA SHIRE
Mining Lease	45/1316	ELAZAC MINING PTY LTD	29.16HA	26.4km SW'ly of Marble Bar	Lat: 21° 20' S Long: 119° 33' E	EAST PILBARA 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. 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: 13 December 2023**

**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 **13 March 2024**. 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. The mining tenements may be granted if, by the end of the period of 4 months after the notification day (i.e. **13 April 2024**), 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 Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518. Please note – Not all Intention to Grant notifications are published in the National Indigenous Times. For more information please contact the Department above.

\* - 1 Graticular Block = 2.8 km<sup>2</sup>



## 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 Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 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	08/3593	POLARIS METALS PTY LTD	7BL	66.1km NW'ly of Pannawonica	Lat: 21° 23' S Long: 115° 44' E	KARRATHA CITY
Exploration Licence	15/2026	MCEVOY, Leslie Frederick	8BL	20.2km S'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 22' S Long: 121° 35' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	15/2041	LCT PRECIOUS METALS PTY LTD	3BL	40.9km SW'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 6' S Long: 120° 46' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	15/2045	BLACK CROW (WA) PTY LTD	2BL	41.3km SW'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 22' S Long: 121° 17' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	15/2050	WILLIAMS, John Dennis	2BL	36.7km S'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 16' S Long: 121° 2' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	29/1131	VIKING MINES LIMITED	3BL	90.1km NW'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 6' S Long: 120° 22' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	29/1250	COBALT PROSPECTING PTY LTD	68BL	85.8km SW'ly of Leinster	Lat: 28° 36' S Long: 120° 17' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	38/3909	GREATLAND EXPLORATION PTY LTD	38BL	253.5km NE'ly of Laverton	Lat: 26° 48' S Long: 123° 58' E	LAVERTON SHIRE, WILUNA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	38/3910	GREATLAND EXPLORATION PTY LTD	4BL	249km NE'ly of Laverton	Lat: 26° 46' S Long: 123° 49' E	LAVERTON SHIRE, WILUNA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	39/2394	MONUMENT EXPLORATION PTY LTD	70BL	43km W'ly of Laverton	Lat: 28° 30' S Long: 121° 58' E	LAVERTON SHIRE, LEONORA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	45/6639	GLOBAL CRITICAL METALS PTY LTD	7BL	43.6km N'ly of Nullagine	Lat: 21° 29' S Long: 120° 7' E	EAST PILBARA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	45/6695	FMG PILBARA PTY LTD	6BL	74.8km NE'ly of Nullagine	Lat: 21° 37' S Long: 120° 46' E	EAST PILBARA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	46/1523	FMG PILBARA PTY LTD	11BL	77.4km E'ly of Nullagine	Lat: 21° 41' S Long: 120° 49' E	EAST PILBARA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1224 & 57/1225	SANDSTONE OPERATIONS PTY LTD	112BL	19.5km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 48' S Long: 119° 15' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3133	LEGENDRE, Bruce Robert	51BL	112.1km E'ly of Paynes Find	Lat: 29° 9' S Long: 118° 49' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3342 & 16/3344	ZETEK RESOURCES PTY LTD (ATF THE ZETEK TRUST)	189.78HA	21.1km S'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 32' S Long: 120° 59' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3434	KENT, Robert Wayne	9.83HA	32.3km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 27' S Long: 120° 44' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	24/5698	LASSEY, Darren William	2.43HA	4km W'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 26' S Long: 121° 17' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4718	WILTSHIRE, Peter Andrew	9.92HA	34km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 57' S Long: 121° 52' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2569	SAUNDERS, Frederick Charles	185.05HA	23.3km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 24' S Long: 121° 34' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	53/1729-S	ARITI, Steven Ross	8.40HA	98.9km SW'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 27° 3' S Long: 119° 22' E	WILUNA SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	53/1730-S	ARITI, Steven Ross	8.48HA	97.6km SW'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 27° 3' S Long: 119° 23' E	WILUNA SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	77/4646-S	LARSEN, Jake Thomas	8.16HA	145.4km NE'ly of Mukinbudin	Lat: 29° 53' S Long: 119° 8' E	YILGARN 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 Special Prospecting Licences, which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term up to 4 years from the 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: 13 December 2023**

**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 **13 March 2024**. 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. **13 April 2024**), 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 Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518. Please note – Not all Intention to Grant notifications are published in the National Indigenous Times. For more information please contact the Department above.

\* - 1 Graticular Block = 2.8 km<sup>2</sup>

# Salties' pitch to join NBL is no croc

## SPONSORED CONTENT

Tamboran Resources has joined with NBL1 club Darwin Salties to become their naming rights partner for three years.

The Salties have lofty ambitions to become the next expansion franchise in both the NBL and WNBL.

Salties star Nate Jawai said the team "want to celebrate our Indigenous community and support more indigenous children to go through the basketball ranks and into professional and semi-professional leagues".

"We are called the Salties because it's the Larrakia people's main totem, we have Indigenous players and coaches, and we host the First Nations NBL1 round.

"We also run a leadership and development program for Indigenous juniors and I hope that can grow over the coming years."

Jawai said there were many talented Indigenous basketballers across the territory "but they need to see players like myself out there playing at a high level to inspire them".

"It would be great to one day have a Salties NBL team

in Darwin with local Indigenous players, coaches and staff. That's the goal and I think we can do it."

A former NBL and NBA player, Jawai is a proud Torres Strait Islander man who hails from Bamaga, a small town located 40km from the tip of the Cape York Peninsula.

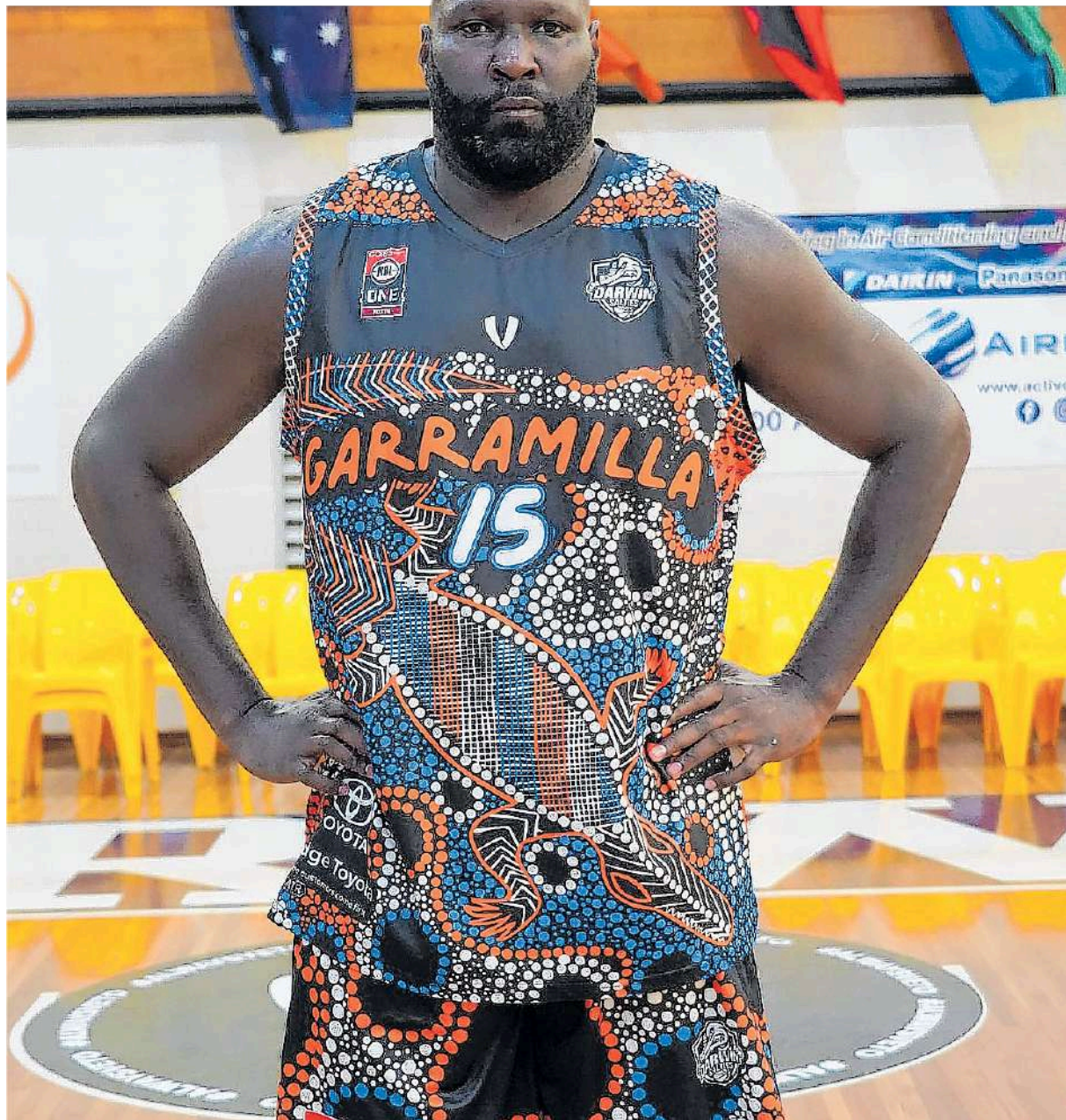
The Salties recently unveiled a boom recruit, NBL1 North 2023 MVP Courtney Woods, who will move from Brisbane to play for the Salties women's team in 2024.

Salties general manager Matt Nason said Woods was a high-quality player and person and would play a huge role in coach Rod Tremlett's team.

"Courtney was a star last season and this is a great signing for the club," Nason said.

"The Salties women played finals in 2023 for the first time and we want to make the top 4 and play a 'home' final in 2024 — that's the goal and Courtney will help us get there."

Tremlett said he was thrilled by the signing. "Courtney is a proven winner," he said.



Former NBA player and Torres Strait Islander Nate Jawai in full kit and, left, in his Salties top.

"She is in rare company over the last 12 months, winning both an WNBL and NBL1 North Championship, plus she was MVP of our league.

"Her leadership will be invaluable to our on-court successes and her friendly nature will ensure she is a crowd favourite. She will inspire local juniors which is critical to our future.

"Having Tamboran sign on as naming rights partner is so important for us. Without their support, and the support of all our amazing partners, we simply wouldn't exist."

Tamboran CEO Joel Riddle,

said he was proud to partner with the Salties.

"In just two years in the league, the Salties have made a huge impact to not just the sporting culture but the community of Darwin has a whole," he said.

"Tamboran is partnering with the Salties to support them on-and-off the court in their bid for admission into the NBL — meaning the NT will have its first ever national top-level sports team. This partnership is consistent with Tamboran's goals to be an integral part of the NT community and creating new opportunities for all."

Riddle said the sponsorship would also give the franchise the opportunity to attract professional players and staff

"The Salties assist and give inspiration to young Territorians who are often faced with the prospect of having to move interstate to pursue their sporting dreams at great personal and financial cost to them and their families," he said.

"This means young male and female basketballers from the Territory who want to hone and even pursue a career in their sport do not have to leave NT to make their dreams a reality."

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ASX:TBN  
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## SPORT



Marissa Williamson Pohlman is off to the Olympics. Pic: Instagram

## Boxer poised to make history at Paris Games

JARRED CROSS

Within two years of first pulling on a set of gloves, 21-year-old Ngarrindjeri boxer Marissa Williamson Pohlman is headed to the Paris Olympics.

Boxing came into her life after an upbringing including foster care and periods of homelessness.

Her remarkable journey has led to an opportunity most athletes only dream of.

Not only is the Melbourne-based fighter on her way to Paris 2024 — and possibly a medal, she'll be the first Aboriginal

woman to represent her country at the Games in the sport.

"It's not lost on me," she told National Indigenous Times.

"It doesn't feel real. I just want to put my people on the map, in any capacity . . . it just makes it all that little bit sweeter."

She said her community have supported her short but stellar rise in the sport.

This year brought trips overseas for the women's world boxing championships, European Boxing Tour and competition in eight countries overall.

Coming into the year her modest goals were set on build-

ing on her already strong relationship with coach Kel Bryant as Collingwood Boxing Club.

"That was my goal," Williamson Pohlman said.

"I wanted to have a really strong relationship with my coach," she said. "The athlete makes the coach and the coach makes the athlete . . . he knows everything about me. He's a father to me.

"Our achievements are a testament to our relationship and the bond we've formed."

Her ticket to Paris was booked with a gold medal at the Pacific Games in the 66kg division.

Williamson Pohlman dislocated a knee and needed pain management and heavy strapping to get through her campaign in the Solomon Islands.

Still, her adoptive parents are keeping a lid on things at home.

"(Mum) was like 'I don't care if you're an Olympian, you're still doing the dishes . . . It's pretty humbling.'"

By day, Williamson Pohlman is at the Victoria's Department of Premier and Cabinet in First Peoples' State Relations as a heritage policy officer.

Balancing this with training has meant a gruelling effort of

"burning (the candle) at both ends".

Hopes for the future are split between a career in boxing and studying law, which she joked would be made a lot tougher with regular knocks to the head.

"The Olympics is the trajectory that I'm on. Of course, a pro career is on the agenda and something that I will probably look at . . . but I also have other things going on in my life," Williamson Pohlman said.

"I want to study humanitarian law and advocate for my people and their rights. I need brain cells for that."

# Strikers lure stars

JARRED CROSS

Indigenous Big Bash League stars Brendan Doggett and D'Arcy Short are eyeing international duties as they prepare to rise up the ladder at their new home in Adelaide.

The pair recently arrived at the Strikers ahead of their upcoming campaign after the franchise finished second-to-last in 2022-23.

A two-time player of the tournament in previous seasons, Short is set on re-establishing himself among the competition's elite batters after seven seasons with the Hurricanes, while Doggett has settled full-time in the South Australian capital from the Thunder.

Doggett moved to Adelaide for Sheffield Shield and 50-over cricket in 2021.

Both players told National Indigenous Times they were keenly anticipating spending more time at Adelaide Oval.



D'Arcy Short playing for Hobart Hurricanes, left, and Brendan Doggett with the Thunder.

Along with family commitments, Doggett is looking forward to more home games at "one of the great grounds in Australia" with Short echoing the sentiment as a key "drawcard" for his move.

Their addition to the Strikers makes for a strong contingent of the BBL's Indigenous representation coming out of the franchise, with former Test champion Jason Gillespie as head coach.

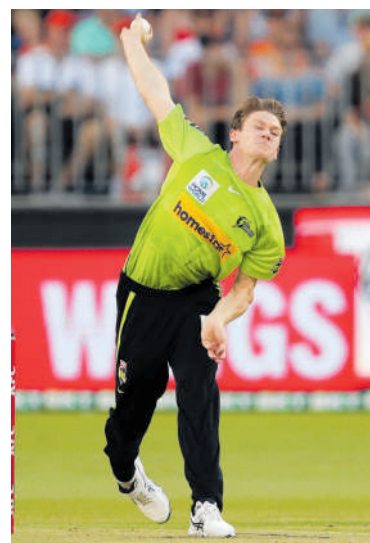
"Dizzy's (Gillespie) been great in sharing stories and offering his two cents on the

game and the situations and everything we face. To have him is really helpful for me as another fast bowler," Doggett said.

The seamer has taken 40 wickets at an average of 26 from 41 BBL at Brisbane Heat and Sydney Thunder.

Peter Siddle's exit and absence of Afghan T20 champion Rashid Khan from the upcoming campaign leaves opportunities to spearhead the attack.

"It's a good opportunity for players like myself, Wes Agar



and Henry Thornton to step up and take that responsibility that these guys have done with the Strikers for so long," Doggett said. "If you can build on the things you're doing right, and doing well, and just try to become as consistent as

possible as a bowling unit and team — that's the overall goal."

After previous periods in and around the Australian set-up, Doggett is ready for a call-up to international cricket if the opportunity presents at age 29.

"There's always the ambition to play for Australia, regardless of the format . . . there's some pretty skilful T20 specialist bowlers out there," he said.

With a T20 World Cup scheduled for 2025, Short is also keen on re-emerging as consideration for selectors.

The 33-year-old averaged 30 with the bat in ODIs (eight games) and T20s (23 games) in green and gold between 2018 and 2021.

"I feel like I did pretty well when I was up there and going well, so there's no reason why I couldn't get back to that," Short said.

"That's definitely an end goal."