November 2023

NIT

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No vote still hurts

Ernie Dingo on where we go from here

LIFESTYLE STARTS PAGE 9

FAMILY'S JAIL DEATH AGONY



Margaret Kelly with her daughter Natasha Ugle and two of Ms Ugle's children. Picture: Rhiannon Clarke

Plea for full-time health workers at lock-ups

GIOVANNI TORRE

The mother-in-law of Wayne Ugle, the Noongar father who died in custody in Perth on November 6, has called for Aboriginal health workers to be based in the prison system "night and day".

Margaret Kelly told National Indigenous Times she had urged officers investigating her son-in-law's death to employ Aboriginal health workers in lock-ups.

"We spoke with the coroner detectives today and we put it to them they need to get Derbarl Yerrigan (Health Service) in the prison system, even for the overnight prisoners in the watch-houses, they need to get Aboriginal workers in there night and day," she said.

Ms Kelly said the family received formal confirmation that Mr Ugle had died in his cell in Hakea Prison eight hours after his death, having heard earlier only through a relative in prison. "We were notified



Wayne Ugle

after 7pm. They rang me and told me, the Midland detectives, that they were coming to our place," she said. "At 3.20pm I got the message. My nephew heard about it in prison first, he had heard about the death before 3 o'clock and rang my sister, who rang us to let us know. I found out as I was travelling, I turned around and came back so I could be with my daughter (Natasha Ugle) — and when I told her it was Wayne she nearly collapsed. I

CONTINUED PAGE 5

First Nations leaders join Murray-Darling buyback battle



Aunty Polly Cutmore and Major 'Moogy' Sumner speak at Parliament House. Picture: Murray-Darling Basin Alliance

JARRED CROSS

First Nations leaders are fighting for the future of the Murray-Darling, joining calls to expand water buybacks to aid its recovery.

With the Senate poised to vote on changes to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, Minister for Environment and Water Tanya Plibersek faces negotiations across parties to pass the Government's Restoring Our Rivers Bill through the House. The plan is staring at a projected shortfall of 750 gigalitres from target recoveries at the upcoming deadline.

Proposed amendments seek to extend the deadline to 2027, deliver 450GL of environmental water using voluntary buybacks from sellers, and scrap an existing, and currently unmet, 1500GL cap on this purchasing. The Bill passed the Lower House, but faces a task of getting through the Senate.

The Government has flagged buybacks as a cost-effective measure. A Senate committee at a recent inquiry called for the Government to "exercise caution in the manner in which it approaches buybacks to minimise any negative impact and allow the market and communities sufficient time to adjust".

The Nationals and Liberals "do not agree with using open-tender buyback as a method for recovery of the 450GL" .

According to reports, the Greens want the 450GL target to be a guarantee

Concerns have also been raised over the impact of buybacks on irrigation industries.

In Canberra last week, Ms Plibersek was handed a petition with 10,000 signatures from across the Murray-Darling Basin advocating for the protection of Australia's largest river system.

On November 21, the Murray-Darling Basin Alliance, including Indigenous representatives alongside irrigators, farmers, ecologists and environmental organisations, voiced "strong support" for the expansion of water buybacks.

First Nations leaders spoke of the responsibility to protect Country.

Tributes flow for 'giant of Top End'



Northern Territory Australian of the Year for 2023 Dr Bush-Blanasi. Picture: Mick Tsikas

GIOVANNI TORRE

Community leaders from across the Northern Territory and Australia expressed shock and sadness this month over the passing of Northern Land Council Chair Dr Bush-Blanasi at the age of 61.

"A fearless leader gone too soon . . . his leadership was bold and uncompromising," the Northern Land Council said in a statement on November 13.

"Never deferential; he spoke truth to power . . . his political nous was second to none; equally as influential when talking with countrymen or politicians."

Dr Bush-Blanasi was this year's Northern Territory Australian of the Year and held an honorary doctorate for his work supporting native title claims, including overseeing the historic hand-back of the remaining half of Kakadu National Park to 14 clan estate groups.

Central Land Council deputy chair Warren Williams said the CLC's younger members "can barely remember a time when Dr Bush-Blanasi did not provide strong leadership to the Northern Land Council, either as chair or deputy chair".

"It is truly heartbreaking to lose yet another respected and outstanding Territory leader well before his time," he said.

The CLC lowered its flag to half-mast out of respect for Dr Bush-Blanasi.

"Dr Bush-Blanasi was a steadfast and outspoken ally over many years. He connected with people from all walks of life and cut through with decision makers on all sides of politics," Mr Williams said.

"From the 2018 Barunga Agreement about a treaty with the NT Government to the campaign to bring the Aboriginals Benefit Account under the control of Aboriginal Territorians and this year's Voice referendum, you could always count on him to fight on the right side of history.

"Our thoughts are with Dr Bush-Blanasi's family, friends and colleagues, especially those at the NLC. We know how they feel, having lost our own chair unexpectedly this time last year. In a year of losses this is a loss that reminds us that we all must do so much more close the life expectancy gap between our people and other Australians."

Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT acknowledged Dr Bush-Blanasi's passing "with sad hearts".

"Dr Bush-Blanasi was a strong leader for us as well as a trusted friend. He led great change for our people, especially in securing land rights and advocating for Aboriginal economic development and self-determination."

APO NT acknowledged Dr Bush-Blanasi for serving four terms as the Chairman for the Northern Land Council and his decades of bold advocacy for the rights of Aboriginal Territorians.

APO NT convenor and chief executive of the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory, John Paterson, said Dr Bush-Blanasi was "a passionate advocate for land and sea rights and two-way learning on Country programs".

In a joint statement, Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney, Assistant Minister Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, and Member for Lingiari Marion Scrymgour expressed "great sadness" and described him as "a giant of the Top End, an inspiring leader and a fighter for Aboriginal Land Rights".

"With tenacity and pride, Dr Bush-Blanasi devoted more than 40 years to the Northern Land Council, representing his home community of Wugularr since 1989. Dr Bush-Blanasi served nine terms as councillor, three as deputy chair, and in 2022 he was elected to an historic fourth consecutive term as chairman," they wrote.

"Dr Bush-Blanasi always sought to amplify the concerns and aspirations of Indigenous communities, including through the Barunga Declaration . . . stating: 'We must right the wrongs of the past and deal with the serious issues impacting First Nations peoples, empower First Nations peoples and unite our country'."

Dr Bush-Blanasi was appointed co-chair of the interim board of the Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation in 2022, following his leadership in designing this important reform.

He was also a member of various Indigenous-controlled organisations including the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance, the Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory Aboriginal Corporation, and the Governing Group of the Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory.

An accomplished artist, Dr Bush-Blanasi was a founding member of the Association of Northern, Kimberley and Arnhem Aboriginal Artists and the Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association.

Dr Bush-Blanasi was also a champion for Aboriginal women — advocating and promoting their role in Indigenous communities. He supported women at all levels during his time at the land council including his appointment of the first female CEO in 2019.

Ms Burney, Senator McCarthy and Ms Scrymgour said his "respect and courage was a constant source of strength".

Damning Victorian report highlights racism in schools

DECHLAN BRENNAN

Indigenous children in care in Victoria are facing barriers such as racism, according to a new report.

The "Let us Learn: systemic inquiry into the educational experiences of children and young people in out-of-home care" report, tabled in Victorian Parliament on November 16, found Aboriginal children were over-represented in out-of-home care and that many have experienced racism in school. The report highlighted a 21 per cent increase in Aboriginal children and young people in the care system between 2018 and 2022, with Indigenous children representing 29 per cent of all children and young people in care.

It said data from the Department of Education showed Aboriginal children experienced racism and low expectations which has helped contribute to substantial disparities in educational outcomes.

The hurdles can also lead to educational disengagement. The experiences for those children living in care is exacerbated because of their removal from their family and Country.

Data shows Indigenous children are less likely to graduate from high school, receive tertiary education and/or learn a trade, and are — partly as a result — often less likely to find consistent employment.

Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, Meena Singh, said experiences of racism at school can often lead to a disengagement with schooling, with ongoing negative outcomes.

"We heard how much Aboriginal children and young people, their families and carers value education and want support to do well," Ms Singh said.

"We need to challenge and ultimately dismantle damaging negative stereotypes about Aboriginal children and young people's lack of education potential and aspiration if they are to flourish, especially for Aboriginal children and young people in care.

"It is crucial that schools are culturally safe and racism is addressed in order for Aboriginal children and young people to excel."

Stakeholders argued Aboriginal students do not feel supported to speak out.

One Koori staff member at a secondary school told the report some staff "often don't want the Aboriginal kids all together".

"(I've been) trying to say that it is about the unconscious bias. Aboriginal kids with their cousins get called a gang, for white people in a group it's different," they said.

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Tassie passes Jari's Law

CALLAN MORSE

A change to the Tasmanian Coroners Act known as Jari's Law passed the State's House of Assembly this month.

It came after long-time advocacy from the family of Wadi Wadi and Wamba Wamba man Jari Wise, who died after being struck by a car driven by his partner in Huonville in February 2020.

Although Melissa Oates was charged and pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, drink-driving and failing to stop and assist in the case of an accident, she was attributed no legal responsibility for Mr Wise's death.

Mr Wise's mother, Faith Tkalac, and his grandmother, Rissah Vox, have tirelessly campaigned for justice for Mr Wise.

"Every time we're faced with sitting in the court, we have to listen to the post-mortem reports, and that is gruelling. So, I know that we've got a lot ahead of us," Ms Vox told National Indigenous Times in June.

Former Tasmanian attorney-general Elise Archer overturned the Tasmanian Supreme Court's decision to not grant a coronial inquest to examine the details surrounding the 26-year-old's death earlier this year.

Going from a feeling of disappointment to a sense of elation, Ms Vox said no matter how difficult, her family were never going to give up chasing justice for her grandson.

"It's not something we're looking forward to, because we know that it'll be harrowing," Ms Vox told National Indigenous Times.

Jari's Law was included in the Tasmanian Government's Justice and Related Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill (No.2) 2023, an amendment which ensures deaths where family violence have contributed can be appropriately examined, even where there are no criminal proceedings.

A Tasmanian government spokesperson told National Indigenous Times it is expected that the Justice and Related Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill will be considered by the Legislative Council in early 2024.

Tasmanian Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Guy Barnett said statistics show family violence continues to play a role in a significant number of deaths each year.

"However, for a range of reasons, it is sadly the case that the criminal justice system does not always provide answers about the circumstances of such deaths," Mr Barnett said.

"It is critical the Government's response to protecting those exposed to family violence is informed by evidence, and an understanding of the circumstances that contribute to family violence related deaths.

"Jari's Law means obtaining these answers is made more likely."

In announcing the amendment, Mr Barnett acknowledged Ms Tkalac's efforts in continuing to fight for justice for her son.

"I would like to acknowledge Jari's mother Faith Tkalac for her tireless campaign to honour her son Jari by ensuring our laws reflect our commitment to doing everything we possibly can to make sure that all Tasmanians are safe, equal and respected," Mr Barnett said.

"Jari's Law is another step towards ensuring our homes, families and communities are free from all forms of family and sexual violence."

The date for the coronial inquest into the death of Mr Wise is yet to be announced.



A banner at the Jeffrey Winmar vigil at Dardi Munwurro in Preston, Victoria. Picture: Dhadjowa Foundation/Facebook

Family demand answers after custody death

DECHLAN BRENNAN

The family of 28-year-old Noongar man Jeffrey Winmar have called for more information and the release of the body-cam footage of the events leading up to his death on November 11.

Mr Winmar was described by his family as having an "infectious smile that lit up the room" as well as being a "beacon of positivity" during an emotional vigil at Dardi Munwurro in the Melbourne suburb of Preston, on November 17.

The Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service said Mr Winmar was "pursued by multiple police units in Reservoir" on November 9.

He was later arrested by police and died in hospital on the evening of November 11.

The Victorian Police said a man, understood to be Mr Winmar, 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," the police statement said.

"While the man was being walked back to the front of the premises by police, he suffered a medical episode."

Victorian Police said paramedics were called and Mr Winmar was taken to hospital, where he died two days later.

Police said the homicide squad will prepare a report for the Coroner and the investigation will be overseen by the Professional Standards Command.

VALS chief executive and Yorta Yorta and Narrandjeri woman, Nerita Waight, told the ABC the coronial process gives families "a chance to seek transparency, to seek information about what happened to their loved one, and to try and force some measure of accountability".

Principal managing lawyer of the Wirraway police accountability practice at VALS, Sarah Schwartz, said the family had limited information about the circumstances leading up to Mr Winmar's death.

"They want answers about the propriety of police conduct when they arrested Jeffrey, during Jeffrey's pursuit, and whether Jeffrey was provided with proper care when he was in police custody," she told the ABC.

"Jeffrey's family have major concerns about the conduct of the police during the pursuit and his arrest.

"They are demanding immediate access to police body-worn camera footage and drone footage.

"Jeffrey's family are waiting for answers about what happened to him while they are mourning and grieving their loss."

VALS noted that more than 550 Indigenous people have lost their lives in police custody since the 1991 royal commission into Indigenous deaths in custody.

Mr Winmar's father, also named Jeffrey, said the family has been given differing accounts and are trying to ascertain exactly what happened.

"There is a lot we don't know about the circumstances leading up to Jeffrey's passing. We have been told conflicting information and we are waiting for answers about what happened," he said.



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Officers lash police union

GIOVANNI TORRE

Indigenous police liaison officers in Queensland are calling on the State's police union president Ian Leavers to apologise for "disgusting" comments he made regarding truth-telling and treaty.

Senior police liaison officer Tony Bani of the Cairns Cross Cultural Unit told National Indigenous Times the comments brought several issues to a head, and that he felt First Nations officers like himself were being "classed as second-best".

"When it comes to the service, the system forgets why we are here in the QPS (Queensland Police Service). We bring that cultural expertise and knowledge to the QPS," he said. "I have spent 27 years as a PLO. A lot of our issues have not been addressed properly in how the system operates.

"Coming from the Islands, even on the Islands we have officers that are community police, PLOs that have no equipment, they are first responders with no equipment. We have been doing this for a long time."

Mr Bani described Mr Leavers' comments in an opinion piece, in which the union president suggested the truth and treaty body would "attack police and water down laws as they affect First Nations offenders", as "disgusting".

"The comments after the referendum were uncalled for. As a First Nations person I found them disgusting," he said.

Mr Leavers claimed the Yoorrook Justice Commission report handed down in September calling on the Victorian Government to "create a presumption in favour of bail for all offences with the exception of murder, terrorism and like offences" was "effectively offering a free pass to every rapist, domestic violence abuser, habitual home invader and car thief who tells police they identify as Aboriginal".

"The establishment of the rather euphemistically named Truth and Treaty Body will remind us all on a daily basis how bad all Queenslanders should feel about the First Nations people of this state and that we are all probably racist," Mr Leavers claimed.

Mr Bani said no one from the union or the Queensland Police Service had reached out to First Nations officers after the comments.

"A couple of the PLOs have raised it, and it has been swept under the carpet. Some of the PLOs are walking out of the union, they do not feel supported," he said.

"(Mr Leavers) needs to publicly apologise to all PLOs, and to the families and communities that support PLOs."

Mr Bani said that "at the end of the day", First Nations officers are "here for the community and for the police".

Mr Bani said First Nations officers were used by the QPS "as a tokenistic flag".

"When something happens, they say 'quick, get the PLOs out', but day to day we are put on the back burner," he said.

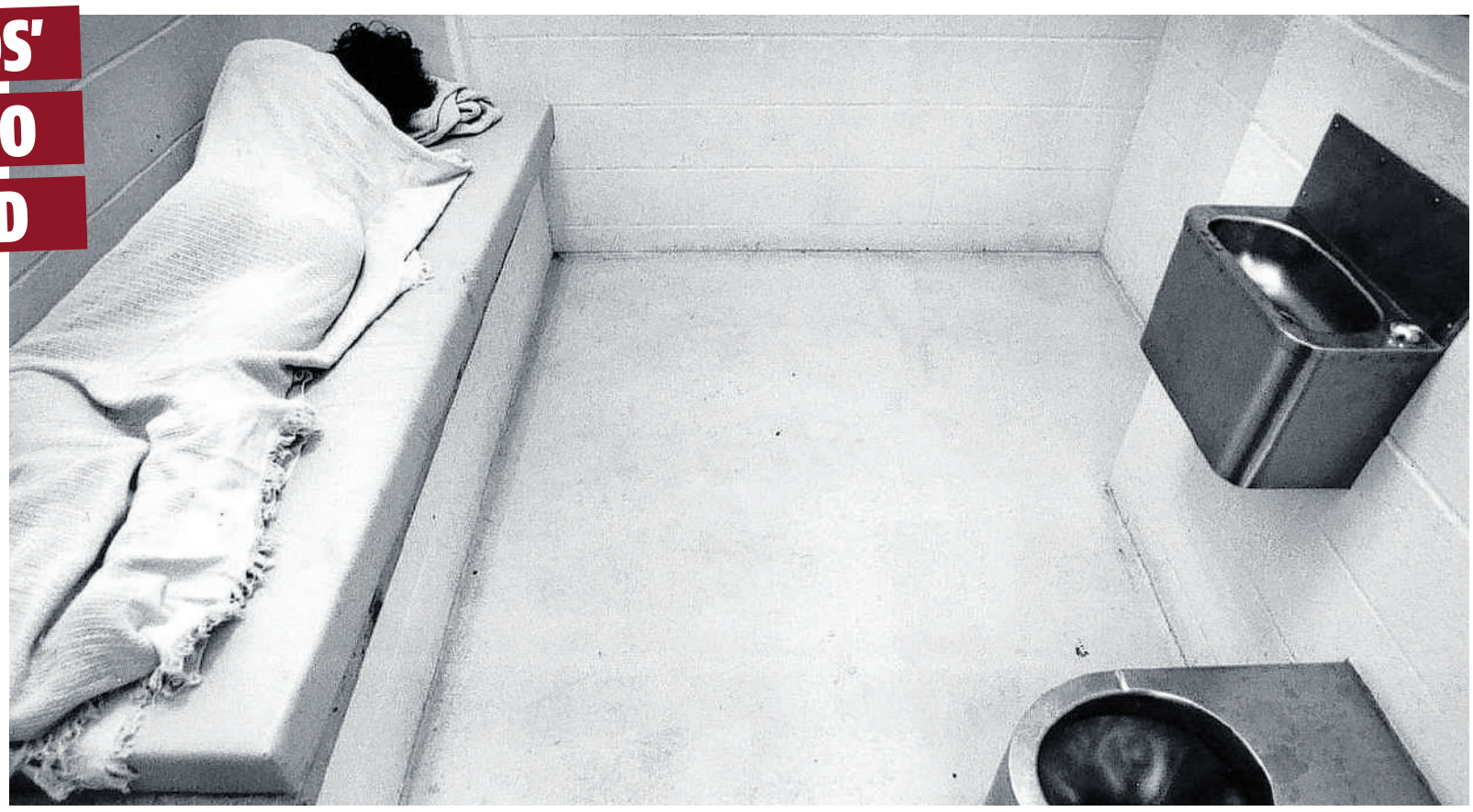
Queensland Minister for Police Mark Ryan told National Indigenous Times he rejected the views expressed by the police union head.

"I don't agree with the views Ian Leavers expressed, and I have conveyed that view to the Queensland Police Union of Employees," he said.

A Queensland Police Service spokesperson told National Indigenous Times the QPS "is committed to reconciliation, is involved in path to treaty . . .".

PLEAS ON KIDS' DETENTION GO UNANSWERED

GIOVANNI TORRE



Kids are being kept in the Adelaide watch house with adults. Picture: The Advertiser

Children in South Australia will continue to be detained in adult watch houses and lock-ups despite the passage of new youth justice regulations in the State Parliament this month.

The Justice Reform Initiative — an alliance including former parliamentarians, Aboriginal leaders, judicial figures, and community experts — had urged MPs to amend the regulations to stop the detention of children in adult facilities.

Regulation 9 says children as young as 10, who are arrested more than 40km from the General Post Office in Adelaide, may be detained in an adult watch house or lock-up. Under this allowance, police detained children in adult watch houses or lock-ups more than 2000 times in 2021-22 with 890 of those cases involving Aboriginal children.

The regulations allow children in regional centres such as Gawler, Mt Gambier, Whyalla, Murray Bridge, Victor Harbor, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie and Port Augusta to be detained alongside adults and without appropriate oversight.

The regulations passed unamended on November 15 with the support of both major parties.

Justice Reform Initiative South Australian campaign co-ordinator Hannah March told National Indigenous Times it was "a deeply disappointing outcome for children and the communities they are members of all around South Australia".

"We need both major political parties to listen to the experts and act on the evidence for a smarter approach that puts children on a better pathway, rather than locking them up with lifelong consequences and making them and their communities less safe," she said. Justice Reform Initiative's SA Advocacy and Campaign co-ordinator (Children and Young People) Lorna Robinson said the South Australian Government needed to protect children.

"Children don't belong in prisons and they certainly do not belong in adult watch houses. Continuing to allow children to be exposed to these environments and conditions only perpetuates injustice and harm," she said.

"The figures also show that Aboriginal children are disproportionately affected by this punitive policy position, flying in the face of efforts to close the gap."

The vote came amid nationwide scrutiny of the conditions for children who are detained. The Queensland Government is racing to open a child-specific watch house after tightening laws and increasing the number of children in the criminal justice system, a Tasmanian inquiry has shone a spotlight on the horrific abuse and neglect of children there, and Western Australia's notorious Banksia Hill and Unit 18 youth detention centres have been the site of riots, self-harm incidents and one death in custody in recent times.

Ms Robinson said the rate at which South Australian children and young people are being isolated and having their mental health impacted, as seen in the Training Centre Visitors Annual Report, is "deeply concerning".

"These issues aren't new," she said.

Heart medication requests ignored, say grieving family

FROM PAGE 1

had been ringing the police (since hearing), I said we could be grieving for somebody else, we didn't know officially it was Wayne. They called around 7pm and said they would come to my daughter's house. From 11.03am — around eight hours after he died. If it was not for my nephew, we would not have known."

Members of Mr Ugle's family and justice advocates said at a media conference on November 13 that he had asked for heart medication before his death and his requests were ignored.

Mr Ugle, 41, had been on remand for what his family said were minor charges.

In Parliament, Liberal MP Peter Collier asked when the results of the internal investigation into Mr Ugle's death would be made public.

A representative of Police and Corrective Services Minister Paul Papalia said the Department of Justice would conduct an internal investigation into the circumstances of Mr Ugle's death, including consideration of his medical conditions.

"The Coroner will also conduct an inquest into Mr Ugle's death, in line with normal practice," they said.

Ms Kelly said her nephew had been called to a prison office by a guard who alerted him that there had been a death in custody of someone close to him. "He said 'we know you are close to this bloke' and told him it was Wayne Ugle. (My nephew) rang family and that's how we got the news."

Ms Kelly said the detectives had provided a pamphlet to her with a counselling service number, and that the Department of Child Protection had offered to help her daughter Natasha, who, with Mr Ugle, had been caring for six foster children and their three children.

The spokesperson said the Department of Justice employed GPs with experience at Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations. "Some GPs on staff work part-time in that sector. In some regional prisons Aboriginal health organisations provide in-reach or transition services to prisoners," they said. The WA Government has also announced that an Aboriginal health service will be appointed to provide culturally appropriate care for young people at Banksia Hill Detention Centre.

Water healing under way

JARRED CROSS



Members of DJANDAK's Kapa Gatjin team include Caitlin Donnolly-Lee, front right, and Uncle Graham Atkinson, third from left. Picture: Jarred Cross

Djaara people in central Victoria are taking strides towards water justice on Country, years on from signing a landmark agreement for self-determination they say has not delivered.

DJANDAK — an enterprise of Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DJAARA) — launched its Dhelkunyangu Gatjin (working together to heal water) strategy on the banks of the Campaspe River at Platypus Compass in Axedale, 20 minutes east of Bendigo, this month.

The strategy went public in June, forming a project implementation control group to engage with local water agencies in partnership to walk towards a Dja Dja Wurrung vision of "healing water".

The official launch this month came amid DJAARA's 10-year celebration of signing its Victorian-first Recognition Settlement Agreement with the State Government, strengthening community decision-making and self-determination across Djaara Country (djandak).

Traditional Owners said their right to involvement in water (gatjin) management has gone unrealised.

Founding DDWCAC chair Uncle Graham Atkinson signed the RSA in 2013. He spoke of his memories learning to swim in the "mighty Campaspe" and drinking tea brewed from its water as a young boy.

By the time he was a teen, because of irrigation, pollution and "abuse that occurred along the waterways" those days were gone, he told National Indigenous Times.

Uncle Graham said there was hope with the strategy of "healing" the Capaspe for future generations.

Gatjin Policy Manager Caitlin Donnolly-Lee said "crappy" decision-making had led to the current situation.

"Our Country is sick and a poor history of crappy water management decisions continue to make it sicker. These decisions affect Country and it's no longer just a Djaara or Aboriginal issue… it's becoming a national problem," he said.

"We have obligations to continue to heal and care for our country and not having a say over water it's a direct threat to those obligations.

"We want to have a say. This strategy tells you how we want to have that say."

Ms Donnolly-Lee told National Indigenous Times water delivery across Country, future Djaara ownership of water, water recycling, and ngaldurrong yana (walking together) with existing organisations were leading elements of the plan.

She said some groups, like City of Greater Bendigo and North Central Catchment Management Authority have engaged for some time, but further involvement is required.

Implementation Control Group member Anna Lamont, from local water management group Coliban Water, said "the water industry is facing the need for transformation and vision, so I think the timing is really critical for this strategy".

Ms Lamont agreed "country is sick" and commended the "systemic approach" of the strategy.

"No strategy is a good strategy unless it can be implemented. And I have the privilege of being on the group that can come together to enable this shared change to happen," she said.

"I truly believe the reason that Country is the way that is today is because the Traditional Owners haven't been listened to."

Senator has the drive to help out after floods

GIOVANNI TORRE

West Australian Senator Glenn Sterle has been quietly using his truck-driving skills to help bring supplies to flood-hit communities in the Fitzroy Valley in the State's far north.

The Labor senator and his partners have been running much-needed goods to Fitzroy Crossing and its surrounding remote communities for some time but the work took on vital significance after massive floods in January, which cut vital supply lines.

Fitzroy Crossing community leader and businessperson Patrick Green, executive chair of the Leedal Foundation and a Marra Worra Worra member, told National Indigenous Times "it has always been really good having Glenn Sterle's support".

"He has been bringing supplies to Fitzroy for years now," he said. "It was particularly important after the massive floods we had up here and it has made a real difference to local residents."

Senator Sterle said it had been a privilege to work with business leaders to support families across the Fitzroy Vally over the past four years.

"My community support program started with my Waste to Wages convoy where my team would collect second-hand furniture from across the Perth metropolitan area with the assistance of Keys — the Moving Solution," he said.

"I would then drive the furniture up to Kununurra, Halls Creek and Fitzroy crossing in trucks donated by ACFS Port Logistics and Centurion Transport and deliver the goods to Revive, run by East Kimberley Job Pathways where the crew there would clean the furniture up and sell the items to the community. All money raised went back into training and employing local Indigenous people. As the program grew and more people found out about it, I was contacted by a person who has become a very dear friend, Don Bantock who owns Bedshed in Osborne Park and Midland. Due to this partnership with Bedshed and others, we have now put more than 800 beds throughout the Kimberley."

Senator Sterle noted that during the most recent visit to the Valley the team donated cots to the Baya Gawiy Buga yani Jandu yani u Childcare Centre.

"I have been overwhelmed by the amount of community and business support I have received for these support programs throughout the central and eastern Kimberley and I look forward to continuing to work with my partners — Centurion, Keys, ACFS Port Logistics, Bedshed, Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation, Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre, East Kimberley Job Pathways — to support the families throughout the central and eastern Kimberley into the future," he said.





Senator Glenn Sterle with locals who unloaded vital items.







Barngarla Traditional Owners during the Federal Court hearing, which they won, to oppose a planned radioactive waste dump at Kimba. Picture: Matt Turner

SA waste dump opponents claim environment honour

GIOVANNI TORRE

The Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation took out the 2023 Peter Rawlinson Award this month for its remarkable seven-year campaign to protect their country in South Australia from the long-term threats posed by radioactive waste.

The award, which celebrates outstanding voluntary contributions to protect the environment, was announced at the Australian Conservation Foundation's AGM in Melbourne.

ACF's nuclear-free campaigner Dave Sweeney said the Traditional Owners had won a "David and Goliath" battle.

"In August, their struggle came to an end when Federal Resources Minister Madeleine King announced the Federal Government would not advance a plan inherited from the former Coalition government to locate a national radioactive waste facility near Kimba on SA's Eyre Peninsula," Mr Sweeney said.

"The Federal waste plan was deeply flawed and inconsistent with international best practice.

"The Barngarla always opposed radioactive waste on their country and repeated calls for Morrison government ministers Matt Canavan and Keith Pitt to scrap the plan were ignored.

"For seven years, against sustained pressure and propaganda, they stood firm."

Mr Sweeney noted the Traditional Owners' long legal fight against the dump.

"In July 2023, the Federal Court found Minister Pitt's decision to declare the Kimba site was not valid because it was biased, rather than based on an independent and thorough process," he said.

"Federal Labor's subsequent decision to accept the court's judgment was a prudent and a proper call and offers an important chance to change the government's approach to this complex issue.

"ACF thanks the Barngarla and acknowledges the sustained and successful efforts of a proud community to honour their past and protect their future. All of us are richer as a result."

Established in 1992, the Rawlinson Award is given annually in memory of ACF councillor Peter Rawlinson — a zoologist, lecturer in biological science and environmental campaigner.

Reliance on jail blasted

DECHLAN BRENNAN

The Victorian Government must increase funding to alternatives to incarceration, a report released this month says, noting the growing spending on prisons will undermine positive policies and initiatives.

The report 'Jailing is Failing: The need for alternatives to Incarceration in Victoria' was released by the The Justice Reform Initiative which is made up of experts from across the political spectrum.

"Locking up both adults and children is now collectively costing the State more than $1.5 billion in annual net operating costs alone. Government expenditure on adult prisons has almost doubled over the past decade, increasing by 96 per cent, and spending on imprisoning children has exploded by 351 per cent," the alliance said in a statement.

It noted that the real direct cost per adult prisoner per day for taxpayers is $409; and $5,051 per child per day. The report said the Victorian Government is spending "disproportionately on prisons, despite strong recognition from both sides of politics that the current prison system is failing to deter crime or reduce reoffending".

It argues both major parties in Victoria have admitted a need to change the approach to crime, as the legislative implementations and policy decisions have only resulted in exacerbated prison numbers.

"Victoria continues to rely on a system of incarceration for children and adults that is harmful, expensive and ineffective. Prison does not work to reduce crime, it does not work to build safer communities and it does not work to address the social drivers of contact with the criminal justice system," the report noted.

"The overuse of incarceration in Victoria has historically been driven by a politicised approach to justice policy, with both major parties frequently competing to promote a 'tough on crime' agenda."

JRI's executive director Mindy Sotiri said Victoria had a real opportunity to lead the nation in justice reform, through larger investment in alternatives.

These include early prevention measures, diversion, First Nations-led programs and specialist courts that address disadvantage and provide pathways out of the justice system.

"There is clear political will and desire for evidence-based criminal justice reform in Victoria, including the welcome commitment to raise the age of criminal responsibility and change bail laws," Dr Sotiri said.

"But this needs to be followed through by appropriately resourcing the community-led alternatives that we know will work to reduce contact with the criminal justice system and break the cycle. Victoria has the opportunity to shift its funding approach so that all Victorian children and adults who are currently 'managed' in prisons, instead have the opportunity to access necessary support services in the community and across all points of the justice system."

Data highlighted in the report shows adult incarceration Victoria sits at 127 people per 100,000, a 14 per cent increase in the last decade.

Eleven per cent of the prison population are First Nations, despite making up one per cent of the State's population, while First Nations children made up 13 per cent of the youth prison population.

While both rates are the lowest in the nation, statistics show Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Victoria are over-represented; 1,671 people per 100,000 First Nations adults are imprisoned compared to 111 per 100,000 for non-Indigenous people.

Dr Sotiri said there was overwhelming evidence to show prisons fail to deter crime, reduce reoffending or contribute to community safety.

"In Victoria we have seen a concrete shift in the policy and legislative settings that have driven prison numbers up so dramatically, such as the recent decriminalisation of public drunkenness. While these are positive steps, there is much more to be done in bridging the significant funding gap and properly resourcing the proven alternatives outside of prison," she said.

The report highlights "significant shifts" in Victoria over the last five years from the use of incarceration on children. A 37 per cent reduction in prisoners aged 10 to 18 since 2018 means the State has the lowest rate in Australia for youth incarceration (1.2 children per 10,000).

"There has also been significant investment — more than $125 million over the last five years for diversionary programs for children and young people," the report said.

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STYLEUP

FASHION, BEAUTY & LIFESTYLE

Charlee speaks Clearly

Leading model tunes up for new music and wellness festival

Charlee Fraser is dressed by Isa Sanchez. Picture: www.isa-sanchez.com

ALSO INSIDE

Dingo's dismay at Voice No vote **P11**
Stolen treasures returned **P14**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MINERAL RESOURCES

Models are mentored

PHOEBE BLOGG

Striving to celebrate and raise the profile of talented young Indigenous models, Blaklist Agency has launched its First Nations Model Pathways Program.

Held at the State Library of Western Australia this month, Blaklist Next Gen. was set out as a one-on-one week-long series of model-mentoring workshops.

First Nations models Kahlia Rogers (Fitzroy Crossing), Hayley Mulardy (Broome) and Calli-Rose Woods (Turkey Creek, WA) were selected to take part,

The week's mentoring workshops were led by established First Nations model Elaine George.

The themes were based around empowerment, mentoring, portfolio, casting, self-care, hygiene, runway etiquette, social media and interview techniques.

The 12-month pathways program was designed to not only connect with national event platforms and open career pathways but create further development opportunities for WA and Northern Territory First Nations models.

Having completed the full program, each model will then be offered the opportunity to be signed by BlakList Agency.

This month's program saw the three models discuss their modelling history, learn about the broader fashion industry, discuss the importance of self-care and presentation, undergo casting and social media workshops as well as MECCA beauty workshops and an e-commerce photo shoot.

Being both a program mentor and program ambassador, renowned First Nations model George is thrilled to have been able to guide and educate the girls on a series of valuable skills and industry knowledge.

"I'm excited to be an ambassador for Blaklist: Next Gen because we have beautiful talent throughout our remote communities but the industry doesn't take those trips to search for unique talent," George said.

"Firstly, I didn't think the girls even knew who I was.

"I'm old enough to be their mother so it was just beautiful.

"The girls taught me a few things about their communities and just how remote they are to the big city.



Models Calli-Rose Woods, Hayley Mulardy, and Kahlia Rogers. Picture: Jalaru Torres

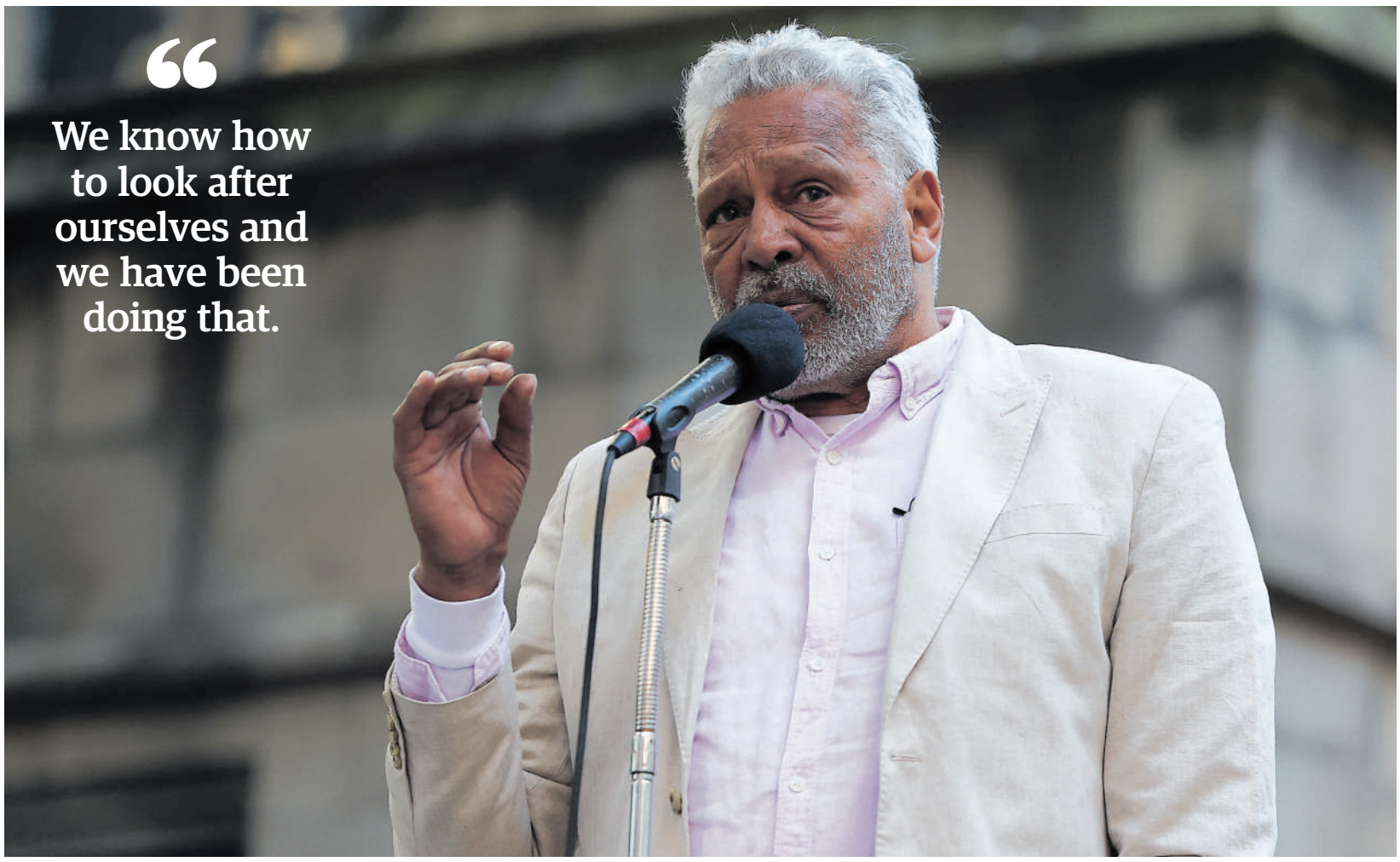
"The one thing that touched my heart was how proud they are of their community and staying true to their cultural beliefs."

George said it is much more than just a model program, being an industry first and a project she is highly passionate about.

"I want the next generation to be able to walk in two worlds, identify/culture and the Western world. I think if there was just one black fella in the industry maybe things might have been different for me but I don't dwell on the past but learn from it, this is why I am passionate about this program," she said. 2023 Blaklist Next Gen program supporters and sponsors include Training Zhivago, BlakLens, State Library of WA, Sharon Comma, MECCA, The ICONIC, BONDS Australia, Flyy Bod and Kullarri Pty Ltd.

The missed opportunity hurts

JESS WHALER



Ernie Dingo says he feels utter dismay at the No result in the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum. Picture: AAP

Ernie Dingo says he can't help but think of his utter dismay at the failure of the Voice to Parliament every time he walks down the street.

"I just look at three people walking down the street and I think two out of those three people voted No," the renowned Yamatji actor said.

"It took me a while to come to terms with the fact that the referendum had gone into a No vote. It was our only opportunity in my lifetime to actually see a togetherness."

Dingo, who has graced the nation's screens for more than 40 years, paved the way for other First Nations actors with roles in 1980s films such as The Blue Lightning, The Fringe Dwellers, Tudawali and Crocodile Dundee II.

His travel show Going Places With Ernie Dingo is now into its fifth season on SBS and NITV, and he also had roles in the movies Bran Nue Dae (2009) and Australia Day (2017).

He has been a long-time advocate for men's mental health and Indigenous culture.

Recalling the mistreatment of First Nations people throughout history, Dingo said: "I remember my family going through exemption rights, called natives, called wards.

"So this was a chance to become on the same parallel.

"'Oh, them poor black fellas, we got to look after them'. We know how to look after ourselves and we have been doing that. In order to get an opportunity for our own betterment, a Yes vote would have been really positive."

He said a Yes result would have given First Nations people the feeling of what it was like to be Australians.

"Australians are people who come here on boats. There were people here before that, who are not Australians," he said.

"I mean you could be European Australian, Dutch Australian or whatever, Irish Australian, but you were always an Australian-Aborigine, and that didn't sit too well with me at all. I think of all them old people that have gone before us who fought hard in order for recognition.

"Freedom Rides, the Jandamaras, the Vincent Lingaris, Barambahs, and I think of all those cultural backgrounds."

He listed strong leaders and freedom fighters who came before him and those who had fought for change through their art, storytelling, song and culture.

"These are people who've saw and wanted a change and they've passed. Without seeing any change," Dingo said.

"So, they fought for us . . . but we had to ask, as a 3 per cent of the population, we had to rely on white fellas . . . to accept us.

"When you hear two-thirds of those voters said No — it took me a while to accept it . . . that's a big number, that, to chew . . . And yeah, it did hurt. It hurt a lot."

Dingo said it was important to remember First Nations people had already faced a lot of adversity.

"Something bad happens, it can always be wrapped up and fixed up . . . I've lost before, I know how to lose . . . but I still come back swinging," he said.

Dingo said his community and its resilience, demonstrated through maintaining language, lore and culture, inspired him.

"We can still speak it and it's still strong, we still do lore meetings every year and if we, we have a connection with Pilbara mob, Kimberley mob, desert mob, we still have that connection. Old ways. Ways white fellas don't know about," he said. "We still have our skin system, ties us together. We still keep it and we still acknowledge it.

"We still have our lore and language. We still practise it.

"White fellas don't know about the stuff we do, and that's sacred stuff. Keep it well away from them."

National Indigenous Times asked Dingo if he had a message for young mob who were walking in two worlds — a phrase which refers to living with traditional language and culture while embracing a Western society and white world.

"You're not just a black fella living in a white fella's world, because that's just two separate colours. You've got to think also, your family connections, where you come from are different from the family connections you're living with," he said. "You might be a deadly bloke out bush, but when you go into town you feel not worthy. Because they make you feel that way and none of them will go out there if the situation was reversed."

Dingo said it was time for national truth-telling and a reckoning with the past and present.

"We don't have enough money to teach white fellas about black fellas and the money they're giving us is tokenistic, because they don't teach Aboriginal studies at school because they'll be embarrassed to (have the) truth come out. Truth-telling won't happen because it will be one-sided," he said. Dingo said the true history of this nation had been documented but most of society was not ready to learn the truth.



Kaylene Whiskey in front of one of MECCA's display windows.

Whiskey brings some festive cheer

PHOEBE BLOGG

As part of MECCA's ongoing support of women in the arts, the beauty retailer has collaborated with the National Gallery of Victoria and Yankunytjatjara artist Kaylene Whiskey for a limited selection of seasonal holiday packaging.

Combining traditional references from her Anangu culture alongside some of her favourite pop culture icons, Whiskey's works are a visual manifestation of what brings her joy.

Further inspired by, kungka kunpu (strong women), Whiskey's work celebrates togetherness and traditional culture with an element of humour.

"I wanted young girls to see my art and see themselves, strong and proud kungkas, looking good and feeling happy," she said.

Aside from featuring on MECCA's gift boxes, packaging and signature line collections, Whiskey's art can be seen on 100 MECCA store windows.

Whiskey's art links her community's elders with the experience of younger generations who have grown up with contemporary outside influences such as music videos.

Frequently painting pop culture icons in remote desert community landscapes interacting with native plants and wildlife, Whiskey demonstrates her ability to invite two different cultures and generations to come together.

Based on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands, in a remote Indigenous community of South Australia, Whiskey is also one of the 40 successful contemporary artists from the Iwantja Arts centre.

Iwantja Arts supports the artistic careers of more than 40 — predominantly Yankunytjatjara — artists, providing access to artistic and professional development.

Iwantja Arts is also renowned for its innovative and culturally rich projects that celebrate Anangu cultural strength.

While MECCA may be covered in Whiskey's work, the National Gallery of Victoria, will also acquire a Kaylene Whiskey artwork.

"We are so proud to feature such a talented artist, and to bring the same joy to the gallery that we hope this partnership brings to you, we will be contributing to the NGV's acquisition of a Kaylene Whiskey masterpiece," MECCA said.

Limited-edition Kaylene Whiskey holiday gift boxes and bags are available in-store and online with any MECCA purchase.

Kaylene Whiskey's artwork can be found at the National Gallery of Victoria's Ian Potter Centre on Level 2.

Charlee's Clearly on song







Charlee Fraser by Isa Sanchez. Picture: www.isa-sanchez.com

PHOEBE BLOGG

Recognised as one of Australia's leading Indigenous fashion models, few would have predicted that Charlee Fraser would expand her realm of work to co-founding wellness festivals, but in 2023 that is precisely what the 28-year-old has done.

No stranger to the spotlight, this month Fraser ventured into a new realm of work with the announcement that she would be taking on the role of co-founder for Clearly Music, Wellness and Arts Festival — held in Kiama, NSW.

In joining Clearly Music Festival founder, Dom Furber, Fraser is expand her niche of work while also touching on her Indigenous culture as a proud Awabakal woman from the mid-north coast.

"Our founder, Dom Furber, is an incredible friend of mine who's been in the music industry for over 13 years and has founded a number of other amazing festivals such as Your Paradise, Shipfaced harbour boat parties (which is now called 'Let's Go Dancing') and produced Orbit retreats in Ibiza as well as the agent for Jax Jones, Riton, Hannah Laing and Pirra," Fraser said.

"He approached me with so much passion and enthusiasm about kickstarting a music festival in his hometown of Kiama," she said.

"With what he does best, this is how he wanted to give back to the community that really nurtured his youth and growth within this industry.

"I was asked to join him in his quest to give life to this dream of his and it very quickly became a dream of mine, too."

Fraser said Clearly Festival is not your typical festival.

"We are Clearly Music, Arts and Wellness festival, so we include all the above," she said.

"We have amazing music and art and an amazing wellness sector in the pavilion as well. We are really a festival that has all the bits and bobs. . . There is a little bit for everyone here."

Being of Worimi and Biripi descent from her mother and grandmother, Fraser said that the festival featured a variety of First Nations creatives was extremely important to her.

"The festival framework from the very beginning was deeply rooted in supporting Indigenous culture and community prior to my involvement," she said.

"It's super important to me that my creative endeavours include an element of exchange or return with my heritage, so this venture felt very aligned with my values."

Having featured a diverse range of First Nations talent, Clearly welcomed established Indigenous creatives including artists Xavier Rudd and Emily Wurramara.

Clearly Festival also announced that $1 from every ticket bought for the festival would be donated to We Are Warriors, an Indigenous social enterprise dedicated to celebrating blak excellence and empowering Indigenous youth.

Similar to Furber, Fraser is also eager to see Clearly return in 2024, with the addition of more First Nations creatives, artists and performers.

"We (Clearly Festival) are an annual event and will be back in the new year and are always looking to expand and include more Indigenous creatives and have mob apart of this experience," she said.

Aside from co-founding a music festival, being an advocate for sustainability and an internationally successful model, Fraser is also an ambassador and on the board of directors for NFP Indigenous organisation, First Nations Fashion Design (FNFD).

First Nations Fashion Design strive to create a platform that honours Indigenous fashion and design while also providing a space for Indigenous artisans and designers to showcase their talent, preserve their traditions, and share their stories with the world.

Fraser along with the team at FNFD are committed to promoting ethical and sustainable avenues of growth, fostering partnerships with Indigenous communities, and raising awareness about the contributions of First Nations people to the fashion industry. In 2020 Fraser became an ambassador for First Nations Fashion and Design, and in 2022 she accepted the role as board member.

Having fronted the cover of RUSSH, INPRINT and two of Vogue Australia's celebrated all-Indigenous covers, Fraser is again stepping into the spotlight, this time in film.

"I have a number of incredible projects in the works. Apart from Clearly Festival I'll be appearing in my first film, Anyone But You, premiering in December. You can also see me in ABC's latest fashion documentary: The Way We Wore, showing November 21st," she said.

When discussing plans for the future, the model-turned-music festival co-founder is careful to not give too much away, but from 2023's achievements we are sure we will see Fraser appear in much more in 2024.

"Keep your eyes peeled because I have more to share in the coming months," Fraser told *Style Up*.

> "It's super important to me that my creative endeavours include an element of exchange or return with my heritage, so this venture felt very aligned with my values.
>
> **Charlee Fraser**



Photography **Isa Sanchez /** Stylist **Sara Smith /** Make-up **Isabella Schimid /** Hair **Madison Voloshin**

Sacred objects back where they belong



Senior Warlpiri men and AIATSIS representatives receive the repatriated objects
Picture: J. Hampton



Warlpiri Elder Robin Japanangka Granites holding a photograph of himself taken by Nancy Munn in the 1950s. Picture: AIATSIS

CALLAN MORSE

Senior Warlpiri men and staff from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies gathered at the South Australian Museum this month to receive a collection of sacred objects repatriated from the US.

The return of this material was a collaboration between AIATSIS and the Warlpiri Project, a Warlpiri created and led project which works to help Warlpiri repatriate ancestors and objects.

The objects were collected between 1956 and 1958 by the late Nancy Munn, Emerita Professor of Anthropology at the University of Chicago, during her PhD field work in the town of Yuendumu, north-west of Alice Springs.

"We're not talking about repatriation we're doing it. Senior men are working hand in hand with younger generations to teach our Tjukurpa," the senior Warlpiri men said in a joint statement.

"We've opened the doors to create a stronger pathway for us to transfer knowledge to our younger Warlpiri.

"The Warlpiri Project is about learning and sharing culture on the job, younger people are learning when they are sitting next to Elders, singing along with us and walking with us. Hopefully we inspire other tribes – it's significant."

The return of these objects is part of a larger undertaking led by the Warlpiri Project and Warlpiri men, Karl Japaltjarri Hampton and Jamie Jungarrayi Hampton with the South Australian Museum, to return Professor Munn's entire collection of archival material relating to their people and culture.

The return of the objects was jointly facilitated by AIATSIS, the Warlpiri Project and Francoise Dussart, Professor of Anthropology and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of Connecticut, a close friend and colleague of Professor Munn.

Professor Dussart has been working with the Warlpiri community at Yuendumu since the 1980s.

As Professor Munn's literary executor for her Australian material, she recently prepared Professor Munn's personal research materials for archival deposit and return to the Warlpiri community.

Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney congratulated all parties on their contributions to the success of the repatriation.

"I commend AIATSIS and the Warlpiri Project for their work towards the return of these sacred objects — taken so far away for more than 60 years," she said.

"This is a significant moment for the Warlpiri Nation and so important for future generations to have these precious materials returned to their rightful place."

AIATSIS has previously worked with the Warlpiri Project to return material from the University of Virginia's Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collections.

Ngemba man and interim AIATSIS CEO, Leonard Hill, said AIATSIS was very happy to support the return of the sacred objects.

"Reuniting custodians with their sacred material is a vital part of AIATSIS's global mission to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Custodians to make decisions about their cultural heritage," Mr Hill said.

"This repatriation further demonstrates how AIATSIS' collaborative approach to returning material builds trusting relationships between partners, supports cultural informed decision-making and achieves fantastic outcomes."

AIATSIS leads the Australian Government's Return of Cultural Heritage program that facilitates the return of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage material to Australia, supporting First Nations peoples in exercising sovereignty over cultural heritage material held in overseas collections.

The AIATSIS RoCH program and the Warlpiri Project are funded by the National Indigenous Australia Agency.

The Warlpiri Project is also supported by Marion Scrymgour MP and the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation.

Senior Warlpiri Men will return the items to their keeping place at Yuendumu in due course.

Manchester Museum returns Top End cultural treasures



Edith Mamarika holding dadi-kwakwa-kwa. Picture: AIATSIS

CALLAN MORSE

This month traditional owners of Groote Eylandt celebrated the return of 174 cultural heritage items from Manchester Museum.

The Anindilyakwa community, traditional owners of the lands and waters of the Northern Territory's Groote Archipelago, welcomed the return of the treasured cultural material on November 21.

The welcome ceremony was held at Umbakumba, where the items were originally collected by Professor Peter Worsley during his PhD fieldwork in the 1950s.

The significant items returned, included enungkuwa (spears), ajamurnda (bark baskets), errumungkwa (woven armbands) and dadikwakwa-kwa (painted doll shells).

"It was a very special day for us, for the Anindilyakwa people. We are celebrating. It's been a long time since the artefacts have been away and the people are proud to come and see them. We are happy because our artefacts came back here, to where they belong," Traditional Owner Danjibana Noleen Lalara said at the ceremony.

In September, Ms Lalara was accompanied by Maicie Lalara and Amethea Mamarika, who travelled to Manchester Museum for the handover ceremony. Earlier this month, Anindilyakwa men Eric Amagula, Lionel Jaragba and Anthony Lalara welcomed the material as it arrived in Darwin.

The return culminated a years-long process between Traditional Owners, the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) and the museum.

Ngemba man and interim AIATSIS CEO, Leonard Hill, said the return showcased the power of collaboration and highlighted the significance of Indigenous people having a central role in where their cultural heritage material is best placed.

"Returning cultural heritage material is not merely about the physical artefacts but is about fostering relationships, understanding, and mutual respect," Mr Hill said.

"The impact of this return is already sending ripples across the world by sharing powerful Anindilyakwa stories."

Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney praised the collaborative effort.

"(The day) was one of celebration for the Anindilyakwa people, as they welcome back the collection of culturally significant items after so many years away from Country," Ms Burney said.



Kobie Dee, Barkaa and Matty Mills at the ARIA Awards.

Ikuntji art on display as Barkaa hits ARIAs

PHOEBE BLOGG

Celebrated Australian rapper Barkaa hit the red carpet at the 2023 ARIA Awards in a custom suit designed by Ikuntji Artists, in collaboration with renowned fashion house Zhivago.

Ikuntji artist Hayley Dodd's Dalhousie Hot Springs artwork featured on the one-of-a-kind suit.

Crafted by Zhivago, the two-piece suit featured a hand-embellished jacket, decorated with Swarovski crystals to accentuate the intricacies of the Dalhousie Hot Springs piece.

"It's the first time Ikuntji Artists is represented so strongly at the ARIAs," Ikuntji Artists chairperson Roseranna Larry said.

It is an important step for the art centre and the acknowledgement of our artists' work."

Dodd's piece is about her grandmother and where she was born, at Dalhousie Hot Springs, in the Witjira National Park, an oasis at the Simpson Desert's edge, south of Finke and west of Oodnadatta in South Australia.

"I am extremely proud that my design was chosen for this custom piece for Barkaa," Dodd said.

"I love her music and am a great fan! To see a bespoke piece made from my fabric for the red carpet in collaboration with Zhivago is a dream come true, and I am grateful to be able to share my grandmother's story with the world like that."

The suit represented a fusion of Indigenous Australian artistry and cutting-edge fashion.

"This partnership goes beyond fashion; it's a celebration of cultural diversity and a testament to the power of artistic collaboration," Zhivago designer Lara Kovacevich said.

"Working with Ikuntji Artists has allowed us to infuse Indigenous artistry into our designs and enriched our creative process. It's a harmonious blend of tradition and modernity, demonstrating the transformative impact when diverse forms of expression come together on a global stage."

Barkaa also appeared on the ARIA Awards stage in a Zhivago skort suit — and she was not the only one to show her love for First Nations designers and creatives.

Singer Kobie Dee and entertainment reporter Matty Mills also wore designs created by Ikuntji Artists.

Kobie D wore the Papa Tjukurrpa (Dog Dreaming) artwork by Aunty Pam Brown. The country for this Tjukurrpa is Nyuman, three hours south-west of Kintore.

The dog lives at this place and can be seen as a rock. The story was handed down to the artist by her grandfather, and is a men's story.

She paints the sand hills surrounding this country.

The suit was created by Mr A Taylor and design-directed by Anastasia Keshan.

Mills wore the Puli Puli artwork, painted by Keturah Zimran OAM.

The artist depicts the puli puli (rocks) at two different sites.

She paints the landscapes at Haasts Bluff, where she grew up and at Karrkurrutintja (Lake McDonald in Pintupi), west of Kintore along the WA/NT border.

Karrkurrutintja country is an important site of the Pilkati (snake) Tjukurrpa (Dreaming) of Kaniya Kutjarra (two carpet snakes, two brothers, two Tjangalas).

This story was passed down to her from her grandmother, Narputta Nangala Jugadai, who was born there.

"The sand hills I paint are my mother's story, and the rocks I paint are my own story. My paintings are about my story and my mother's . . .I like to paint; painting helps me forget my troubles. I paint every day," she said.



Barkaa on the red carpet wearing an Ikuntji Artists design. Pics: Getty

Darwin fashion house inspires latest thong designs

Australian thong brand Havaianas has partnered with Indigenous-owned social enterprise and clothing company House of Darwin.

Inspired by the essence of the Northern Territory, the collaboration between House of Darwin and Havaianas has led to the launch of a range of Havaianas thongs with a House of Darwin touch.

The prints on the thongs feature local flora and fauna — think crocs, dingoes and barramundi.

"I grew up loving Havaianas and we're so excited in the Northern Territory to collaborate with a brand that has had such a big impact on the lifestyle in remote parts of Australia," House of Darwin founder Shaun Edwards said.

Havaianas said the choice to reach out to House of Darwin was due to Edwards' creativity and ability to educate others.

"The team at Havaianas travelled to the heart of the Northern Territory to be guided by Edwards through the State's breathtaking landscapes," the company said.

Phoebe Blogg

DJ marks launch of Pathways collection

PHOEBE BLOGG

David Jones celebrated the launch of the Indigenous Fashion Projects Pathways Program Designer Collections this month, as well as its second Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan.

Featuring a panel discussion hosted by Adam Goodes and Samantha Harris, and a live performance by First Nations duo Tim Bishop and Nathan Leslie, David Jones executives and media were treated to a morning of celebration at the Australian retailer's flagship Sydney store.

Indigenous social change agency Cox Inall Ridgeway general manager Yatu Widders Hunt led the event and panel, and Aunty Jo Bell performed the Welcome to Country.

Established in 2020 by the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Foundation in partnership with David Jones, the Pathways Program is a two-year fashion label development program that brings together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander designers with fashion industry leaders to develop their skills, build stronger businesses and help raise awareness and the profile of First Nations designers.

In 2023, the program has returned to nurture and oversee the designs of seven First Nations creatives, with six showcasing their designs in-store at David Jones.



Those six are Gali Swimwear, Miimi and Jiinda, Joseph & James, Kamara, Gammin Threads, and Lazy Girl Lingerie.

"It's a really exciting day today, to be here and be a part of this program . . . to be amongst some incredible Indigenous designers. We are feeling really proud, particularly at a time like this with everything going on. It is nice to stay positive, celebrate and continue the work we do," Miimi and Jiinda founders Melissa Greenwood and Lauren Jarrett, pictured, told Style Up.

David Jones general manager of womenswear, footwear and accessories Bridget Veals said the Indigenous Fashion Projects pathways program supported the Australian retailer's aim to further advocate for an industry that was more inclusive and representative of First Nations design and culture.

"We're incredibly proud of our partnership with the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Foundation and of the Indigenous Fashion Projects' role in facilitating the development of First Nations designers through cross-cultural exchange and mentorship," she said

The event also formally revealed David Jones' second Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

"Since 2006, RAPs have provided a framework for organisations to leverage their structures and diverse spheres of influence to support the national reconciliation movement," Reconciliation Australia chief executive Karen Mundine said.

Lots of food for thought

DAVID PRESTIPINO


Mindy Woods on Masterchef.

Masterchef fan favourite and leading Indigenous chef Mindy Woods says Australia's First Nations native food industry has a massive opportunity to take ownership of growing interest in the sector currently valued at $80 million and increasing.

Speaking this month at the Aboriginal Economic Development Forum, a three-day event on Larrakia Country at the Darwin Convention Centre, Woods gave the audience plenty of food for thought during her keynote address.

The Byron Bay restaurateur drummed home the opportunity and need for Aboriginal participation in Australia's growing native foods industry, which is projected to grow up to 10 times in the next five years.

Woods, a Bundjalung woman of the Widjabul Wia bul clan, also stressed the historical cultural links between Aboriginal people and their land, with food a key connection to country.

"We treated our country as a living, breathing entity, something that we belonged to . . . not something that we use and took from . . . and it is our duty to look after her," she said.

Woods said Australia's $80m native foods sector had just 2 per cent representation from First Nations businesses.

"Can you believe that . . . less than 2 per cent of mob are represented across that entire food range, from the ground roots up," she said.

The sector is primed to grow throughout this decade and it is imperative First Nations native food businesses increased their engagement and ownership of the industry.

"So, where's that money going? It is up to us to find solutions and create opportunities if we want change in the future," she said.

A MasterChef contestant in 2012, Woods opened her own restaurant Karkalla on beautiful Bundjalung country in Byron Bay, showcasing the Indigenous cooking that wooed judges.

Woods has a strong desire to connect Indigenous and non-Indigenous people with Aboriginal culture through food, something she can do at Karkalla.

"Our food, like our culture, has a connection to country which is interwoven throughout history," she said.

OUR CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE

Style Up's top 10 gifts this festive season.

Magabala Books: She is the Earth by Ali Cobby Eckermann
This First Nations poet's novel charts a journey through grief whilst celebrating the healing power of Country.

mabu mabu: Wattleseed Pavlova Kit
This WattleSeeed Pavlova Kit by Mabu Mabu puts a traditional twist on the age-old classic dessert.

Nungala Creative: Blak Heart mini studs
Dainty and delicate Blak Heart studs from 100 per cent Indigenous-owned and operated creative communications agency Nungala Creative can be worn on their own or as an accent.

Rowland Vision: WNDY sunglasses
These thick-framed sunglasses are ideal for poolside lounging or summer festivals.

Clothing the Gaps: Black Short Sleeve "Always Was, Always Will Be" Tee
This unisex shirt has a screen-printed design from Carla Scotto on the front and a small Clothing The Gaps logo on the back.

House of Darwin x Havaianas: Thongs
With a playful print of NT flora and fauna — think crocs, dingoes and barramundi — these thongs touch on both culture and craft.

Lucy Simpson x Jag: Aria Linen Yawa Li Slip Dress
The Aria Linen Slip Dress is perfect for summer lunches, festive celebrations and everything in between.

Art by Charlotte Allingham: Giclee Art Prints
Created by 28-year-old Wiradjuri and Ngiyampaa artist, Charlotte Allingham these artistic prints focus on Blak excellence.

Yaali Collective: Little Mudyi Dolls
These Yaali Collective crochet dolls make for the perfect gift for the smaller children in your life this festive season.

Jala Jala Treats: lemon myrtle white chocolate
Flavoured with Australia's native lemon myrtle, the white chocolate touches on Australia's native bushland through its ingredients. and our tastebuds. Jala Jala means "very good" in Wajarri Language.



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.

royhill.com.au

MADALAH MAKING A DIFFERENCE AND LOOKING AHEAD
Roy Hill Community Foundation
ROY HILL



Leah Armstrong, Ernie Daniels, Harold Calla, Professor Peter Yu, Jamie Lowe, and Joe Morrison at the signing of the MOU.
Picture: National Native Title Council

Canadians join fight to lift economic disparity

GIOVANNI TORRE

A unique international agreement has been struck between key Indigenous-led organisations in Australia and Canada this month that prioritises Indigenous collaboration and diplomacy in seeking to address the entrenched economic exclusion and lack of opportunity of Indigenous peoples in the two countries.

On November 16 in Gatineau, south-western Quebec, Canada, a memorandum of understanding was signed between key Canadian First Nations financial institutions — the First Nations Financial Management Board and the First Nations Finance Authority — and key Australian Indigenous-led organisations the Australian National University's First Nations Portfolio, First Australians Capital, the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation, and the National Native Title Council.

In a joint statement the signatories said Indigenous peoples in Australia and Canada shared a similar history marked by the dispossession of their lands and waters, the denial of their rights, and systematic exclusion from the economy and from opportunities for wealth creation.

"This exclusion and marginalisation of Indigenous peoples from economic opportunities is an ongoing issue in both Australia and Canada," they said. The agreement is an historic move to encourage closer ties and collaboration between First Nations organisations, committed to advancing economic reconciliation in Australia and Canada.

Formalising an "already strong relationship" between the organisations developed over the past 18 months, the agreement commits the parties to working together on matters of shared concern, and including collaborative research, the exchange of knowledge and ideas, as well as facilitating staff exchange and other reciprocal opportunities in both countries.

The MOU is an example of Indigenous-led international collaboration and diplomacy.

Involving multiple key institutions in Australia and Canada, it will be a platform for advancing collaboration to improve better economic opportunities for Indigenous peoples, and broader economic reconciliation in the two countries.

Acknowledging that the economic rights and interests of Indigenous peoples is a matter of global concern, the agreement enhances the importance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as "a critical consideration and important standard" in addressing matters related to opportunities and the wellbeing of Indigenous peoples.

The agreement adds an "outward-looking, international, dimension" to struggles in both countries of Indigenous peoples, to confront and address barriers to economic exclusion and participation.

National Native Title Council CEO Jamie Lowe said the parties to the MOU would work to support the economic self-determination of First Nations in Canada and Australia.

"This means creating strong First Nations industries with culturally appropriate investment opportunities and access to capital. We will work together to support First Nations leadership in strong agreement-making that results in equity and community-owned projects and development," he said.

"Although we are culturally distinct and diverse, our Australian and Canadian brothers and sisters share a long history of cultural resistance and strength. We benefit from working together to create opportunities for our communities."

Australian National University vice-president (First Nations) Peter Yu described the MOU as "an important milestone" in the developing relationship between First Nations peoples and agencies from Australia and Canada.

"It demonstrates the important shared historical experiences and common commitment to First Nations economic empowerment as fundamental to our self-determination. As mandated by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the MOU is significant to our shared responsibilities towards bringing greater government and corporate world responsibilities in developing and adopting global standards and measures regarding the rights and interests of Indigenous people," he said.

First Australians Capital chairperson Leah Armstrong said the group was "excited by the opportunity to grow global collaborations".

"Our shared histories and pursuits on reconciliation and self-determination provide the foundations for advancing Indigenous economic rights and wealth creation," she said.

Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation CEO Joe Morrison said: "People and Country is at the heart of why the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation was established".

"We work in partnership with First Nations peoples so they can achieve self-determination through the return of their Country," he said.

President and chief executive of Canada's First Nations Finance Authority Ernie Daniels said the authority was "enthusiastic to be signing this historic MOU with the Australian National University and our First Nation financial management authority sister institutions".

"This MOU will allow us to start the conversation about how we can collaborate to advance Indigenous economic reconciliation in Australia and Canada," he said.

Executive chair of Canada's First Nations Financial Management Board Harold Calla said the agreement was "an important next step in our expanding relationship with First Nations partners".

"Our connections have grown in recent years and this agreement reflects our shared awareness of the benefits greater collaboration will yield in business opportunities, economic development, and the preservation of cultural assets. We still have much to learn from each other," he said.

"Indigenous peoples in Canada and Australia have similar histories in the hardships caused by colonialism.

"In recent years, we've strengthened our bilateral relationships and recognised the tremendous potential in sharing insights, experiences, and solutions. This MOU commits us to further our relationship in ways that will foster economic development and wealth creation for First Nation Peoples in both countries — and our countries as a whole."

People of Ecuador vote to stop drilling & protect rainforest

ALEXANDRA VALENCIA

Ecuador State oil company Petroecuador said this month it will shut down a large drilling project in the Yasuni ecological reserve in the Amazon rainforest, following a referendum vote to protect the environment and wildlife.

Petroecuador chief executive Reinaldo Armijos told reporters the company had a plan for the gradual closure of the 43-ITT block, which currently pumps about 57,000 barrels per day.

In a result hailed by Indigenous and other environmental activists, voters in August opted to shutter production at the 43-ITT block in an effort to better protect the Yasuni reserve, a national park in the Amazon in north-eastern Ecuador.

Flora and fauna affected by oil production in the reserve would take many years to recover, Environment Minister Jose Davalos said in September.

Mr Armijos said the initial cost to shut down the project was estimated at $600 million.

He said lost revenue from the project because of the looming suspension would probably total about $680m next year.

The State-run producer's crude output currently stands at about 400,000 bpd.

Ecuador is one of Latin America's mid-range oil producers, behind regional heavyweights Brazil, Mexico and Colombia.

Armijos said output was likely to end next August at about 41,000 bpd before the project, which entered production in 2016, closed down. He said incoming President Daniel Noboa, who will take office in late November, would have the last word on the block's status.

Noboa has previously said he will respect the will of voters to end the project.

'I don't know any of my relatives who have died of old age'

NAMBI HENDERSON

Another day. Another family member dies. Another funeral.

I feel I attend more funerals than birthday celebrations. And I'd like that to change for the sake of future generations.

My family are the Warumungu, Mudburra and Jingili people, who have a rich history on this land. Unfortunately, our future doesn't look so bright.

I don't know any of my relatives who have died of old age. They have all died from alcoholism or chronic diseases such as renal disease, diabetes and rheumatic heart disease.

Just this month we buried one of my grandmothers. My cousin-brother Troy is 17. He's about six feet tall, fit and strong. He has dreams for the future, but he might not live for long because he has rheumatic heart disease. This means he has spent months and months in hospital because his heart valves are damaged. There's no cure. But it is totally preventable.

I wish my people didn't have to suffer through these diseases. It's hard to watch. And it's even harder to say goodbye.

I know Aboriginal people have so much to contribute to this country, and that's why every day I hope that we can turn the tables on this situation.

We really need to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal people. It would make Australia a better place and the future would be brighter for us all. It would be amazing if all Australians could work together to see this through, and my greatest hope is to see it happen.

Nambi Henderson, 14, is a Warumungu and Mudburra-Jingili girl from north of Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory. She lives in Darwin a and wrote this letter to her Federal MP Luke Gosling.



Andrew Brian, Rod Harper and William Williams, all of Tennant Creek, doing their best to avoid COVID-19, one of a number of health challenges in the region. Picture: Aaron Bunch

Keep youth with brain-based disability out of jail

MEG PERKINS

I recently attended the CanFASD research network conference in Canada. One of the presenters was talking about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and, in particular General Comment No. 24 on Child Rights in systems of Child Justice.

In New Brunswick, a province of Canada, in keeping with the UN CRC, they insist that alternatives to prosecution be found for young people with developmental delays or neurodevelopmental disorders, such as autism and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

June Oscar, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, has noted the high rate of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders in Aboriginal communities due to the link between addiction and intergenerational trauma.

We also know, due to a study published in the British Medical Journal, there is a high rate of neurodevelopmental disorder in detainees at Banksia Hill Youth Detention Centre in Perth; 36 per cent fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, 65 per cent neurodevelopmental disorder, and 89 per cent of at least one severe impairment.

> "Their behaviour is not so much a choice as a reaction to their environment.

The bottom line is that young people with severe brain dysfunction are being incarcerated as punishment for behaviour related to their disabilities, and then further punished as "management" of their challenging behaviours in custody; sent to Unit 18 in the adult prison and locked up alone for up to 22 hours a day.

Young people with brain-based disabilities should not be involved in the justice system at all. Their behaviour is not so much a choice as a reaction to their environment and they do not have the moral culpability of a person with a healthy functional brain.

We need to pay attention to the UN CRC and divert young people with brain-based disabilities into preventative programs, at the first sign of what would be considered offending behaviour.

Dr Meg Perkins PhD, BA Hons (clinical psychology).
MAPS Tweed Coast Psychology and Educational Programs
First Stop FASD Consultancy (brain and behaviour)

Bush food hits the shelves

SPONSORED CONTENT

Emerging Indigenous bush foods businesses and the botanicals industry have been bolstered by the backing of one of Australia's biggest retailers.

Woolworths Group has pledged to establish comprehensive safeguards designed to uplift Indigenous native food suppliers and operators, and provide economic and empowerment opportunities for emerging and established First Nations businesses across the sector.

The company's commitment to bolster the burgeoning industry was backed by its major sponsorship of the recent 2023 First Nations Bushfood and Botanicals Symposium in Darwin.

Woolworths Group's Indigenous Strategy and Affairs general manager, Adam Bray, told National Indigenous Times the retailer was eager to broaden its engagement with the First Nations bush food and botanicals sector.

"As a group, Woolworths has been a part of Australian society for almost 100 years now. The First Nations of this place have cared for this country for 65,000 years plus," he said in an exclusive interview.

"We think there's an opportunity for our organisation to learn something from the First Nations, and the way in which we can work collaboratively to help invest in and bring to life the Indigenous agricultural centre and the native botanicals and bush foods sector more broadly."

Woolworth Group's latest Reconciliation Action Plan outlined key focus areas the company felt warranted investment and aligned with its core focus on food and everyday needs.

"If I strip it right back and go to Woolworths Group's purpose — of creating better experiences together, for a better tomorrow — we think there's an opportunity for an organisation like Woolies to work with First Nations and communities right across this country to help with the social, cultural and economic uplift that we think is required," Mr Bray said.



Woolworths is selling an increasing range of products from Indigenous suppliers.
Pictures: Maria Marouchtchak

Native food plants, often referred to as bush tucker, include iconic species such as kangaroo grass, finger lime and quandong.

Besides their delicious flavours and nutritional value, they are deeply intertwined with Indigenous culture.

The support from Woolworths Group comes as First Nations native food businesses seek greater influence as interest grows in the sector, currently valued at $80 million and rising.

Indigenous organisations represent about 2 per cent of native food providers across the supply chain, despite nearly 98 per cent of Indigenous land owners aspiring to be native food industry leaders, according to the First Nations Bushfood & Botanical Alliance Australia (FNBBAA).

"In 2023, this is not acceptable, given that much of the industry relies on the supply of unprotected Indigenous knowledge and returns little to our people," the alliance said.

FNBBAA said the symposium earlier this month at Darwin Convention Centre was held concurrently with the Aboriginal Economic Development Forum to create unity and a deeper, valuable experience for conference delegates, which included local, national and international leaders and business owners from the native foods sector.



The FNBBAA was conceived in May 2020 after a national conversation among 120 First Nations attendees at the inaugural Indigenous Native Foods Symposium in 2019.

A subsequent working group of 24 First Nations industry leaders from across Australia formed the national body, which is committed to developing a thriving Indigenous bush foods and botanicals business sector.



Partnerships for a better tomorrow

Woolworths Group is proud to partner with the First Nations Bushfood and Botanicals Alliance Australia to support pathways to sovereignty and further development of the First Nations bushfood and botanicals economy.

The First Nations Bushfood and Botanicals Alliance Australia are the voice from Country, 65,000 years in the making, and together we're working towards a better tomorrow.

Find out more at fnbbaa.org.au

Woolworths Group



Team of women growing business



Make it Happen HQ and Indigenous Business Australia have partnered to deliver professional development and economic growth opportunities for women, girls and sistagirls in WA.

JESS WHALER

Make it Happen HQ, a business striving to support First Nations entrepreneurs, announced a partnership with Indigenous Business Australia this month that promises to deliver professional development and economic growth opportunities for women, girls and sistagirls in Broome and Fitzroy Crossing in WA.

MIHHQ is an all-female led First Nations Innovation Hub and think tank that has supported 34 First Nations entrepreneurs, and 15 businesses since its inception in 2015.

With support from Indigenous Business Australia, MIHHQ will deliver several culturally appropriate professional development programs covering eCommerce, financial literacy, digital masterclasses and mentoring and coaching in an effort to boost economic growth in the region.

The MIHHQ team called on governments, corporates and philanthropists to open the funding gates and fund First Australian-owned and controlled initiatives, stating "that real impact can only be achieved when delivered by Indigenous-run organisations that have the first-hand knowledge and cultural experience needed to deliver programs that directly contribute towards closing the gap".

Founder of MIHHQ, Yawuru/Bunuba woman Adele Peek, overcame undiagnosed dyslexia in childhood to establish and lead several businesses designed to advocate for and support First Nations communities.

"My grandmother's country's Yawuru and Bunuba and my grandfather was a pearl diver from Hong Kong," she told National Indigenous Times.

Having only received a diagnosis of dyslexia while in university, Ms Peek said she "had to work, I guess very hard, in different ways to realise what works for me as an individual".

Ms Peek realised that while she understood content, it didn't translate to her performance "my brain didn't receive information in the same way that others did".

She said once she got help at university, her writing transformed and her natural style came out.

MIHHQ was established 10 years ago by Ms Peek and her sister Cara. She said their business model is different because they are First Nations entrepreneurs who did not have enormous capital.

"To be honest, it's a I think a physical manifestation of what our journey has been to get to the point where we are, and by that, I mean that as two First Nation women living in very remote communities with no infrastructure, no networks, no general support for what we think is possible and want to do," she said.

"We then had to build that over the last 10 years and as a result of that learning process, that's how Make it Happen has been founded, because we know that no one in our community but also other remote communities across Australia, is providing First Nation entrepreneurship and that's actually what we need to be nurturing.

"We see entrepreneurship as the critical lever that needs to be pulled in order to move out of the welfare dependency into Aboriginal economic advancement."

Ms Peek said that after years of advocacy and "our best practice co-design process", Make It Happen HQ were excited to take programs to Fitzroy Crossing and Broome in partnership with IBA.

"As a grassroots, First Nation, female-led initiative, it is truly great to see that our bespoke solution with a proven track record has been recognised by the likes of IBA, who possess the funding we need to help roll out these much-needed programs."

IBA director of community and customer experience Stella de Cos said the program will drive positive change for First Nations women.

"Women are the strongest pillars of many of our First Nations communities. Empowering them builds opportunities to continue the positive impact and change they drive," the Southern Arrernte woman said.

Helen Ockerby, who has participated in MIHHQ programs, said they "help First Nations women gain valuable skills and attributes to ensure we get to where we want to be, for me, this was about growing the management side of the business". "For far too long we have sat in the background with so much knowledge. Being able to harness this knowledge into business outcomes is just fantastic. It's a need that has little to no representation in the region as well as on a national scale," she said.

Balanced and equal workforce is the RAW deal

DAVID PRESTIPINO

Business owners and governments that want to foster workplace inclusion and increase First Nations employment could have a role model in South Australian-based RAW Group.

The Indigenous-owned and managed company ethos "Changing Lives Through Economic Independence and Empowerment" has rung true, no more so than in the past financial year.

RAW Group founder and managing director Allan Jones said employment equality was achievable with meaningful engagement and strong partnerships with stakeholders.

"As an Aboriginal man who has been involved in the education, training and employment arenas all my working life, I have committed to supporting my people achieve equality in the workplace," he said.

Indigenous workforce inclusion is at the core of RAW's operations, which originally comprised civil construction but has since expanded to traffic management, group training and labour hire personnel services.

He believed RAW Group's sustainable and significant growth was a by-product of forming economically beneficial solutions and close relationships with industry leaders.

"We've got a pretty solid foundation, and now lots of wheels in motion, which is great," Mr Jones said.

"That solid base has evolved to a commercially competitive model, which took a while to build. But now it is and easy to mobilise,we can start looking at other States."

Mr Jones cited his biggest success as aligning the philosophy of the group with staff, stakeholders and project partners.

"The biggest achievement was bringing the group together collectively to work for a common purpose, and that is to create economic and workforce participation opportunities for First Nations people," he said.

"RAW really caters for the whole community: from those finding it hard, right through to the high achievers."

Mr Jones said it was important to have a balance among the 150-plus permanent staff working across RAW's four entities.

"We've had people coming from incarceration, long-term unemployment, low socio-economic regions etc, right through to having Aboriginal engineers and State managers in our civil construction division, for example," he said.

"Fundamentally by addressing the workforce development challenges facing Aboriginal Australians, we go a long way towards creating an environment for industry and employers to work with a responsive and competitive workforce.

"A workforce where Aboriginal participation becomes the norm rather than the exception."

Results from the past financial year show the RAW model is working, with significant revenue growth.

More than 70 per cent of RAW's workforce are Indigenous, while 30 per cent of its female staff are employed in non-traditional trades, well above industry benchmarks.



Female participation in non-traditional trades is a focus at RAW Group.

No more legal aid clients

DAVID PRESTIPINO

The Northern Territory's primary Indigenous legal aid service has vowed to rebound quickly after announcing a staff shortage will prevent it taking on new clients this year.

The North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency's decision follows the departure of several criminal lawyers from the agency's Alice Springs office since June, and could lead to some First Nations people having to represent themselves in court until December 31.

NAAJA acting principal legal officer Jared Sharp told National Indigenous Times he was extremely concerned the agency was unable to meet all its obligations and some of the town's most vulnerable residents might need to represent themselves.

"NAAJA will continue to fight for justice for all our current clients, and we hope that — with this short break until the end of the year — we'll be able to (be) back and resuming our full services from the beginning of 2024," he said. Mr Sharp said the NT Legal Aid Commission was also facing staffing challenges and did not have capacity to take on matters the NAAJA couldn't, with more resourcing required.

"There's no doubt more resources are needed at this critical time to enable (NT) Legal Aid to pick up the shortfall here, to make sure that creditably vulnerable people are represented," he said.

"Resources just must be found, it has to happen . . . it's got to be the top priority."

Mr Sharp visited staff in Alice Springs earlier this month, telling lawyers they would be given a day a week away from court to undertake other legal duties such as court visits and research.

"There's no magic wand, the existing staff are there and really dedicated," he said.

"It's just making things more manageable for them . . . giving them that time during the week — if you're a junior lawyer so you have access to support and supervision from senior lawyers."

He said many lawyers who had left NAAJA were suffering exhaustion, often working more than 80 hours a week, including weekends, to meet professional obligations to clients and the court. The exodus of experienced lawyers from NAAJA's Alice Springs office is not the only staffing challenge that has hampered the agency, with high-profile departures including acting CEO Olga Havnen and long-time chief executive Priscilla Atkins in late 2022.

This month the NT Government announced a high-visible police operation over summer to combat crime in Alice Springs.



Melissa Cole the creator of Yaye.

'Big sister' takes care of your skin

DIANNE BORTOLETTO

COVID-19 was the demise of many businesses, but in Melissa Cole's case, it was the catalyst for Yaye.

Ms Cole noted the constant use of hand sanitiser during the pandemic dried out her skin, and wanted "an antibacterial option that was a little less aggressive".

"I couldn't find anything on the market, so I made one," she said.

"The first product I made was a handwash using the extracts of native Central Australian plants that I knew had antibacterial properties. I realised pretty quickly that I couldn't have a business with just a single product, so I created a suite of complementary bath and body products."

The name Yaye, meaning "big sister" in the Arrernte language, pays homage to her husband Anthony's heritage.

Ms Cole, of Warumungu and Luritja descent, grew up in Alice Springs, and for 30 years, worked in the education sector.

She still holds a full-time job while her passion project Yaye grows. Yaye is 100 per cent Aboriginal-owned with 100 per cent Australian-made products.

Its three ranges, each with a different fragrance and bush medicine extract, include body butter, body scrub, body wash, bath crystals, and bubble bath.

Cole has expanded the Native Silky Lemongrass range to include hotel amenities such as shampoo and conditioner.

The brand recently secured its first large resort at Kings Canyon, which offers Yaye to guests in their premium bathroom suites.

Manipulation of ownership rules a worry for bosses

JESS WHALER

More than 460 Indigenous and non-Indigenous delegates travelled to Wonnarua Country, in Maitland, NSW this month for the Indigenous Chamber of Commerce Inc's third annual infrastructure and construction conference, the largest event of its kind in Australia.

NSWICC is the peak body for Indigenous business within NSW and is an independent, non-government funded body developed by Indigenous entrepreneurs who represent over 500 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses.

The organisation has been operating for seven years and was established to support business owners and provide networking.

NSWICC have said despite targeted procurement policies and reconciliation action plans, the spend with First Nations suppliers is less than it could be and should be.

This year's event was bustling with positive energy as attendees participated in a trade show, followed by a series of speakers and a gala dinner awards.

Guests were Welcomed to Country by Uncle James Wilson Miller, a senior Elder of the Guringai Clan of the Wonnarua nation. He shared his knowledge of family, childhood and connection to country before Waagan Galga and Mui Mui Bumer Gedlam performed traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance.

Yamatji man Ernie Dingo MC'd the event, which ran over two days delivering a program intended to connect, educate and unlock best practice within Indigenous procurement, job creation and sector growth.

Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney spoke via pre-recorded video.

"The New South Wales Indigenous Chamber of Commerce and its members is so important. Empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses doesn't only help those businesses, it goes the communities that our businesses support. It builds our culture," she said.

NSW Premier Chris Minns also presented via video and said the ICC hads helped grow thriving Indigenous business sector for nearly two decades.

While the Federal Government have voiced a commitment to Indigenous Procurement policies, many attendees on the ground running construction businesses told National Indigenous Times they are not feeling the benefit or impact.

Supply Nation's definition of an Indigenous business is at least 50 per cent owned by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islands person(s).

This definition is also applied by Federal and State Government and most corporate organisations. Any business that is 50 per cent or more owned by Indigenous Australians is eligible under the IPP and State-based Indigenous procurement policies. The Indigenous party in the business should receive equal benefit from the arrangement.

Other concerns included non-Indigenous businesses taking on employees who have been trained by Indigenous businesses and subsequently using them to be eligible for Indigenous funding or projects.

Wiradjuri man Paul Towney, who is making waves in the industry by speaking out about the inequities faced by mob in construction and trades, said he was fed up,

Gumbaynggirr and Dunghutti man Desmond Ahoy of Ahoy Traffic Control said some businesses are manipulating rules around the percentage of Indigenous ownership, sometimes strategically recruiting newly-identified people with very distant Indigenous heritage.

"If you want to embrace your culture, embrace your heritage — but don't do it just for a contract," he said.

NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area*	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Exploration Licence	15/2024	BRADLEY, Joseph Robert	1BL	12.9km N'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 50' S Long: 121° 7' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	28/3367	MIRAMAR (GOLDFIELDS) PTY LTD	3BL	71.7km E'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 7' S Long: 122° 24' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Exploration Licence	29/1243	WESTERN EDGE RESOURCES PTY LTD	12BL	37.8km N'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 2' S Long: 120° 55' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	36/1089	BLACK CROW (WA) PTY LTD	20BL	36.3km S'ly of Leinster	Lat: 28° 14' S Long: 120° 39' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	38/3894	GOLD ALPHA INVESTMENTS PTY LTD	7BL	7km NE'ly of Laverton	Lat: 28° 34' S Long: 122° 26' E	LAVERTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	38/3896	GTT METALS GROUP PTY LTD	61BL	187.1km E'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 26° 39' S Long: 122° 6' E	WILUNA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	39/2288	GTT METALS GROUP PTY LTD	3BL	62.8km N'ly of Edjudina	Lat: 29° 14' S Long: 122° 20' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	39/2432	GOLD ALPHA INVESTMENTS PTY LTD	111BL	87.6km E'ly of Edjudina	Lat: 29° 39' S Long: 123° 14' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	51/2177	GREAT WESTERN EXPLORATION LIMITED	45BL	86.2km NW'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 25° 59' S Long: 119° 41' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	51/2182	GREAT WESTERN EXPLORATION LIMITED	68BL	78.2km NW'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 25° 58' S Long: 119° 50' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1413	AURUMIN SANDSTONE PTY LTD	12BL	26.2km S'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 13' S Long: 119° 21' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1414	YEE HA RESOURCES PTY LTD	1BL	65.4km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 25' S Long: 119° 29' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	57/1415	YEE HA RESOURCES PTY LTD	1BL	64.1km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 26' S Long: 119° 30' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/2829	MCCLAREN, Kym Anthony	2BL	4.7km SW'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 31° 16' S Long: 119° 18' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6850	XIAO, Zhiqiang	55.76HA	4.8km N'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 54' S Long: 121° 8' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3431	RIO TINTO EXPLORATION PTY LIMITED	181.22HA	27.3km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 20' S Long: 120° 46' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3432	RIO TINTO EXPLORATION PTY LIMITED	193.22HA	27.6km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 21' S Long: 120° 46' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	24/5681	KING, Alex Bruce	22.17HA	2.7km W'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 26' S Long: 121° 17' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5694	MURTAGH, Jason Lee	199.85HA	6.4km NE'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 24' S Long: 121° 22' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4621	CAMPBELL, Graeme	120.58HA	4.8km W'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 45' S Long: 121° 25' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4624	CAMPBELL, Graeme	139.34HA	4.1km W'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 45' S Long: 121° 25' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4687	ASRA MINERALS LIMITED	197.92HA	29.9km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 31° 1' S Long: 121° 53' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2566-S	BLEAKLEY, Peter Craig	10.11HA	56.6km NE'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 13' S Long: 121° 51' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2567-S	BLEAKLEY, Peter Craig	10.28HA	56.6km NE'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 13' S Long: 121° 51' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	27/2568	NORTHERN STAR (KANOWNA) PTY LIMITED	24.97HA	19.9km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 27' S Long: 121° 31' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	59/2323	MORRIS, Sam Adam	199.80HA	17.1km N'ly of Yalgoo	Lat: 28° 11' S Long: 116° 42' E	YALGOO SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	77/4624	MCLEVIE, Devin William	2.00HA	18.9km SE'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 36' S Long: 119° 35' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	77/4639	LARSEN, Jake Thomas	9.71HA	11.8km SE'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 31' S Long: 119° 35' 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: 29 November 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 **29 February 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. **29 March 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 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 km²**

NOTICE TO GRANT AMALGAMATION APPLICATIONS

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following amalgamation applications under the *Mining Act 1978:*

Exploration No.	Applicant	Amalg No.	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
25/512	BLACK CAT (KAL EAST) PTY LTD	688552	9.65HA	32.2km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 41' S Long: 121° 48' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
27/532	BLACK CAT (KAL EAST) PTY LTD	688553	177.42HA	33.1km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 37' S Long: 121° 47' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
27/532	BLACK CAT (KAL EAST) PTY LTD	688554	177.45HA	33.6km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 37' S Long: 121° 47' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
27/532	BLACK CAT (KAL EAST) PTY LTD	688555	163.21HA	34km NE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 37' S Long: 121° 47' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
39/1760	MATSA GOLD PTY LTD	681470	6.78HA	59.2km N'ly of Edjudina	Lat: 29° 16' S Long: 122° 25' E	LEONORA SHIRE
39/1840	MATSA GOLD PTY LTD	681436	25.45HA	55.6km S'ly of Laverton	Lat: 29° 7' S Long: 122° 23' E	LEONORA SHIRE
77/2573	SURVEYOR RESOURCES PTY LTD	673862	190.53HA	3.7km NW'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 31° 12' S Long: 119° 17' E	YILGARN SHIRE
77/2573	SURVEYOR RESOURCES PTY LTD	673863	169.22HA	2.9km NW'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 31° 12' S Long: 119° 18' E	YILGARN SHIRE
77/2573	SURVEYOR RESOURCES PTY LTD	673864	173.81HA	2.3km W'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 31° 13' S Long: 119° 18' E	YILGARN SHIRE
77/2573	SURVEYOR RESOURCES PTY LTD	673865	159.55HA	4.8km NW'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 31° 12' S Long: 119° 17' E	YILGARN SHIRE
77/2658	SURVEYOR RESOURCES PTY LTD	673857	132.97HA	7.8km NW'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 31° 10' S Long: 119° 16' E	YILGARN SHIRE
77/2659	SURVEYOR RESOURCES PTY LTD	673859	4.31HA	4.3km NW'LY of Southern Cross	Lat: 31° 11' S Long: 119° 17' E	YILGARN SHIRE
77/2659	SURVEYOR RESOURCES PTY LTD	673860	8.23HA	4.2km NW'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 31° 11' S Long: 119° 17' E	YILGARN SHIRE
77/2659	SURVEYOR RESOURCES PTY LTD	673861	27.68HA	4.6km NW'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 31° 11' S Long: 119° 17' E	YILGARN SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of amalgamation applications which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals.
Notification day: 29 November 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 the applications. The 3 month period closes on **29 February 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 the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth, WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100.
Expedited procedure: The State of Western Australia considers that these acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure. Each amalgamation application may be granted unless, within the period of 4 months after the notification day (i.e. **29 March 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 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.

NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

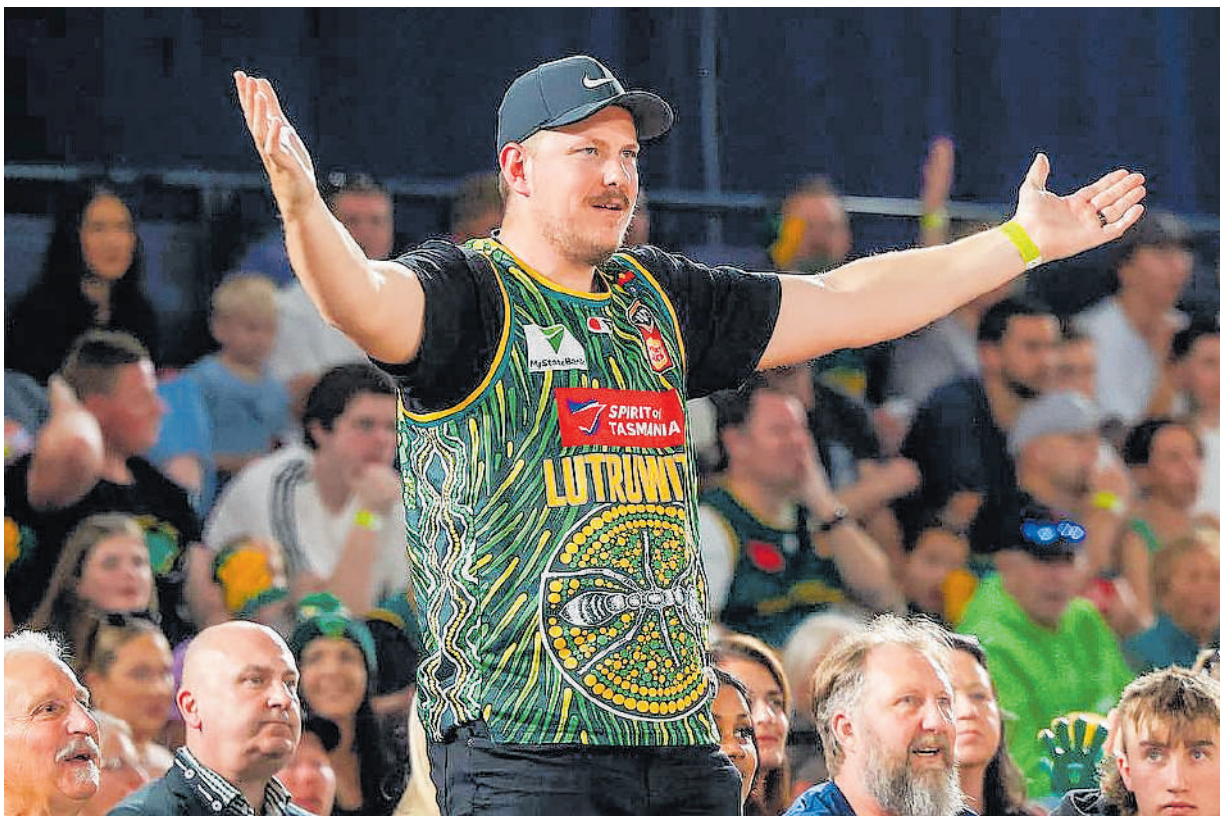
The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978:*

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Mining Lease	27/519	NORTHERN STAR RESOURCES LTD	367.18HA	19km E'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 27' S Long: 121° 31' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Mining Lease	29/442	LARSEN, Jake Thomas	5.99HA	30.2km S'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 56' S Long: 121° 7' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Mining Lease	57/664	KJELLGREN, Gary Herbert MACK Christopher Geoffrey	9.03HA	5.5km S'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 2' S Long: 119° 18' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Mining Lease	77/1307	DJO MINERALS PTY LTD	109.57HA	20.6km SE'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 38' S Long: 119° 35' E	YILGARN SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of mining leases, which authorises the applicant to mine for minerals for a term of 21 years from notification of grant and a right of renewal for 21 years.
Notification day: 29 November 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 **29 February 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. **29 March 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 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.

Artist is playing defence



Reuben Oates stands out from the crowd in Launceston in his Indigenous jersey.

ANDREW MATHIESON

Indigenous artist Reuben Oates has sought legal advice on a potential defamation case after facing accusations of cultural appropriation and misrepresentation.

A number of prominent Aboriginal people in Tasmania have objected to his use of dot art, alleging it misrepresents Palawa culture and its pakana past.

The design set for the Tasmania JackJumpers jersey at the NBL's Indigenous round in November was scrapped after the complaints accused Oates of misappropriating the work from mainland Indigenous art.

The third-year basketball club had released a media statement over dropping the Indigenous jerseys which suggested, incorrectly, that it was pressured to do so after dealings with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, despite backing the work of Oates.

The jersey motif the artist has been forced to defend was the Jack Jumper ant representing the Tasmanian community while the dots inside the nest were representative of protecting their culture.

Oates has since sought legal advice to pursue a case over public remarks that wearing and selling his jersey was "highly offensive" for suggesting the dots were a legitimate method of telling a Lutrawita story.

Rulla Kelly-Mansell, one of 39 Aboriginal Tasmanians including ten Elders to speak against the design, has said "culture is culture", suggesting there was no interpretive scope for Aboriginal artists to include the dots to describe the State's customs, beliefs and traditions under the protocols of Palawa lore.

"Any organisation who supports an artist's ancestral claim for the purpose of accepting their artwork is complicit in the cultural misappropriation," the 39 Aboriginal co-signatories including Kelly-Mansell said in a statement to the National Indigenous Times. "They then only undermine our right as an Aboriginal community to determine who is Tasmanian Aboriginal through appropriate community consultation, with our Elders and our families."

In turn, it was implied the collective representatives of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community who are not directly associated with Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre express a minority view of Palawa mobs and "they only represent who they want to represent".

This has led Oates, who is reportedly the seventh great grandson to recognised tribal warrior Chief Mannalargenna from the Plangermaireener clan, to argue no collective Aboriginal group is entitled to control the historical narrative.

"So, I am taking legal action for defamation," he told his followers on social media.

The claims could be proven to be defamatory under Tasmanian law if what was said publicly seriously harmed the reputation of the artist.

Oates has spent more than 20 years working in a contemporary Aboriginal art space out of the Huon Valley.

Legal advice to Oates has suggested there is "no legal restrictions in place to prohibit the sale" of JackJumpers jerseys in spite of criticism of the dots from some mobs.

The dispute has opened up a debate whether Aboriginal customs and traditions evolve, which Oates essentially believes they do.

"To say that the past two weeks have been the most difficult of my life would be an understatement," Oates said.



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.

Woodside Energy

SPORT

Saints & Dogs swoop

JARRED CROSS
& JACKSON CLARK

A pair of highly touted Indigenous youngsters have been picked up by the Western Bulldogs and St Kilda in the first round of the AFL national draft.

Ryley Sanders (pick 6) heads to the Kennel, despite early indications he could find a home at North Melbourne, as a Next Generation Academy pick-up, while Lance Collard (28) — who could have been an West Coast Eagle per NGA availability — will move across the Nullarbor to Moorabbin.

Sanders arrives at the Dogs after a strong year in underage competition, starring in 30-plus average disposal campaigns with APS school side Melbourne Grammar, in a premiership team with Sandringham in the Coates Talent League, and with the Allies at this year's national U18s championships.

The latter saw the 186cm midfielder and Launceston product handed the Larke Medal for the carnival's best-and-fairest.

AFL Draft guru Kevin Sheehan described Sanders as "a polished player who prepares so well and produces from week to week".

After his name was read out on draft night one, Sanders told Bulldogs media he was keen to get "stuck in" to training, get a "good bond" going with fellow Indigenous players Jamarra Ugle-Hagan, Arthur Jones and Liam Jones and work prove his worth as a "a really hard working player who just prides himself on being really professional and just getting the best out himself".



New draftees Ryley Sanders and Lance Collard. Pictures: Western Bulldogs and Jack Foley (Subiaco FC)

After finishing in the bottom half of the ladder for scoring despite playing finals in 2023, St Kilda welcome Collard, a proven goal-scorer, into their forward mix.

The electric medium-sized forward averaged almost three majors a game with Subiaco in the WAFL colts competition.

The 18-year-old overcame an injury-interrupted bottom-age year to kick 32 goals from his 11 appearances.

Collard kicked five in each of the Lions finals matches to round-out junior footy, with showings of what is destined to be a lengthy highlight reel at AFL level.

"Lance is a creative and energetic small forward who has the ability to turn a game on its head through his dynamic skill set," St Kilda list manager Stephen Silvagni said.

"He is a proven match-winner whose high energy and knack for producing game-changing moments is something we're very excited to see."

Across 2023, Collard rose up the ranks of eligible draftees into first-round contention, ultimately ending West Coast's chances of securing the mercurial talent.

It came as a surprise even to himself.

"Everyone thought I would go West Coast next gen but I started improving," Collard told The West Australian last week.

"Then I went first round, which is pretty amazing. I didn't even expect it myself.

"I'm just thankful and grateful for the opportunity. I'm a bit emotional but excited, I'm just happy.

"I can't wait to live my lifelong dream."

NRL star winger talks up potential Wallabies switch

JARRED CROSS

Canterbury-Bankstown winger Josh Addo-Carr says he would "100 per cent" consider a code switch to rugby union if the opportunity presented.

Speaking on his Let's Trot podcast Addo-Carr, pictured, told co-host and former NRL player Josh Mansour he believes he would "carve up" if given "the chance" to pursue a jump to rugby and follow previous league products who pulled on a Wallabies jumper at stages in their careers.

The NSW Origin and Kangaroos representative said he played "a couple" of rugby union games growing up.

"I reckon it would be fun. Meet new people, travel the world . . . I'd give it a crack," Addo-Carr said.

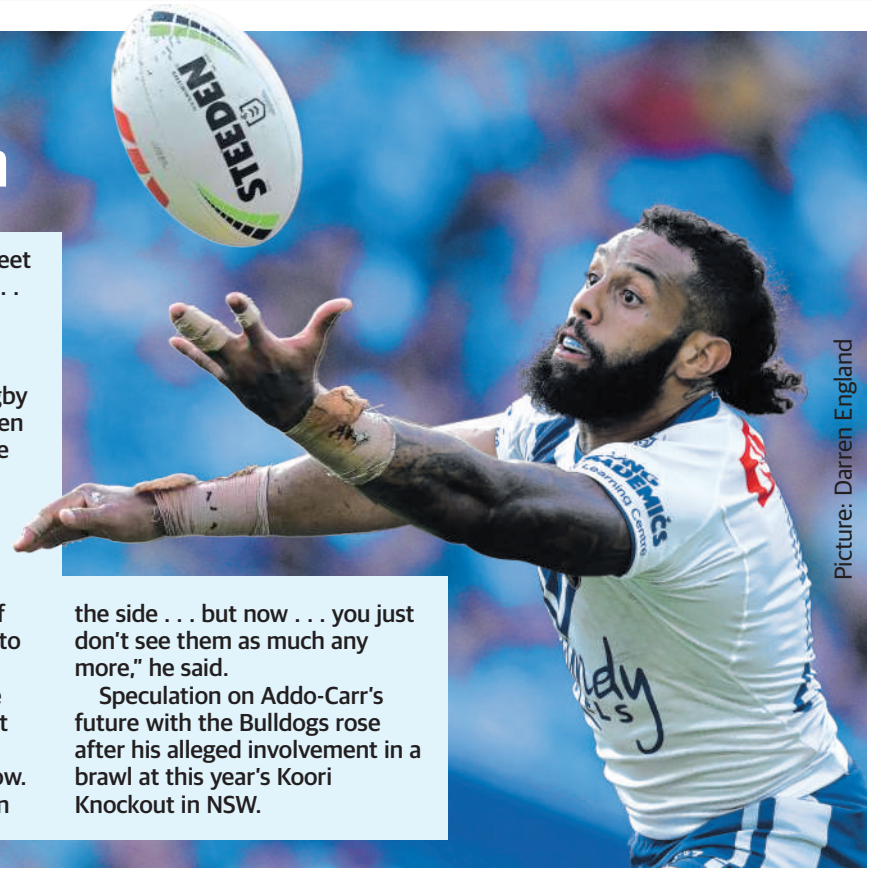
The Wallabies fell to their worst-ever showing at the Rugby World Cup earlier this year when they failed to progress past the pool stage for the first time.

After two World Cup triumphs in the 1990s, Australian rugby has endured a turbulent pair of decades.

Addo-Carr said the profile of the sport pales in comparison to what it once was.

"When I was growing up the Wallabies were massive. I don't want to be disrespectful to players that are in the team now. I just used to know everyone in the side . . . but now . . . you just don't see them as much any more," he said.

Speculation on Addo-Carr's future with the Bulldogs rose after his alleged involvement in a brawl at this year's Koori Knockout in NSW.



Picture: Darren England

Davidson may miss big one

Star Brisbane forward Dakota Davidson is in doubt for Sunday's AFLW grand final with what looms as a serious knee injury.

Davidson kicked two goals in the Lions' 6.2 (38) to 5.4 (34) win over Geelong in Brisbane on Saturday but left the field in tears during the third quarter and was unable to continue.

The Lions are into their fifth decider in the eight seasons the AFLW has been running, with Ally Anderson best on ground and Courtney Hodder kicking a goal. They will face North Melbourne who are through to their first grand final, at Ikon Park in Melbourne.

The Kangaroos held on to beat Adelaide 4.8 (32) to 4.7 (31) after Crows star Danielle Ponter kicked three goals to revive her side's hopes. Jawoyn woman Mia King had 19 disposals in the Kangaroos midfield.