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Elimatta

Spring 2012

Aboriginal Support Group – Manly Warringah Pittwater

ASG acknowledges the Guringai People, the traditional owners of the lands and the waters of this area

SAVING ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE Introducing *Tassie black fella talk*

The ears of the nation have unexpectedly turned to Tasmania in an effort to save a language.

A Federal Government hearing has recently heard that many Aboriginal languages are in danger of extinction with just 20 to 30 considered 'viable'. More than 250 languages were spoken in 1788 but the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies was able to identify only 145 languages in 2005. Of those, 110 were classified as *severely and critically endangered*.

The standing committee for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs has been told it could cost \$90 million to save the languages under threat. But Tasmania has been leading the way with the teaching of *palawa kani*, that translates to *Tassie black fella talk*.

Radio 936 Breakfast was joined by Aboriginal Children Centre's Alison Overeem who attended the standing committee hearing in Canberra to outline what we have been teaching Aboriginal children since the early 1990s.

The committee wanted to know how Tasmania was leading the way in saving its native languages.

From *ja* (hello) to *wulika* (goodbye), *palawa kani* is a reconstruction of around 12 Tasmanian Aboriginal languages and is taught to young children at the ACC that is located at Risdon Cove. Risdon Cove was the site of the first British settlement in Tasmania in 1804. It was handed back to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community under the 1995 Aboriginal Lands Act.

Listen again to the work being done in Tasmania to teach *palawa kani* and find out what our word of the day – *nayri mapali*. Download the audio file:

<http://blogs.abc.net.au/files/palawa-kani-thurs-june-14-2012.mp3>

The original Tasmanian languages became extinct in 1905 when the last native speaker died. As part of community efforts to retrieve as much of the original Tasmanian culture as possible, efforts are made to (re)construct a language for the indigenous community.

Damien Brown, 14th June 2012

GURINGAI PEOPLE ACKNOWLEDGED at Bilgola Plateau Public School

Bilgola Plateau Public School celebrated NAIDOC week with two special events. The first was an unveiling ceremony for a sculpture constructed at the front of the school to represent the partnership between the local Guringai community and the school.

The sculptor, Craig Kerlake, is an Indigenous parent of the school and a talented architect. Craig worked with the school's Aboriginal Education Committee to create 'Darinyung'. *Darinyung* is Guringai for stingray which is

one of the local animal totems. Craig sourced the 150 year old timber posts from Kempsey and had them transported down to the school. The indigenous students at the school helped carve stingrays and Aboriginal drawings. The tallest post represents the teachers, the middle post represents the primary students and the smallest steel post represents the infant students. On another level, *Darinyung* represents the transient movement of the old people through *Country*.

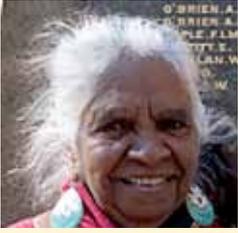
Craig wanted to leave the various bolts and notches in the timber as a mark of respect for the history of the timber posts. *Darinyung* is not finished yet and over the next few weeks they will continue to work on the carvings until Craig's vision becomes a reality.

Local descendants of the Guringai people were present during the unveiling ceremony to acknowledge the work done by the school as a sign of respect of the culture of the traditional owners of the land.

Pictured: Craig and son unveil Darinyung



PITTWATER COUNCIL VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2012



Our esteemed member Nancy Hill Wood was nominated by Lizzie Landers on behalf of the Aboriginal Support Group – Manly Warringah Pittwater for an award from Pittwater Council's 2012 Volunteer Awards.

Nancy was one of a number of people to be awarded a Certificate for over two decades of service in Pittwater.

I was very fortunate to be invited by Nancy to be her guest at the dinner held at the Bayview Golf Club on 5 May to recognise wonderful volunteers in 10 categories.

After a very nice dinner, the winners in all these categories were asked onto the stage to receive their certificates. Details of their volunteering were read out to the large audience.

Nancy has been recognised for her work, especially in advocating for the Indigenous community, particularly those involved in the struggle to gain rights for the *Stolen Generations*, *Stolen Wages* and *Land Rights*. Nancy became Chair of the NSW *Sorry Day* Committee in 2005. She is a published poet and respected elder in the community. Now in her seventies, Nancy continues to travel to Aboriginal communities across NSW and southern Queensland sharing her stories and experiences.

I am sure that all members of the ASG-MWP appreciate the way Nancy educates and informs us all on Indigenous issues from her own life experiences.

Well done Nancy and thanks to Lizzie Landers for nominating her.

Carol Ritchie Member ASG-MWP

LOCAL SCHOOL INITIATIVES “Under the Starry Sky”

The Peninsula Community of Schools (PCS) acknowledged NAIDOC Week 2012 with an event called *Under the Starry Sky* at Bilgola Plateau Public School. NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. NAIDOC is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians in various fields.

Country by Neil Evers, a local descendant of the Guringai people was given.

Parents, staff and students all enjoyed a BBQ dinner with delicious tomato relish. Following these activities students participated in Indigenous games and as the night sky unfolded students listened to *Dreamtime* stories *under the Starry Sky*.

The next event was a film called *My Place* shown in



The 13 schools from the PCS (three high schools and ten primaries) nominated up to six students from their school community and a staff member to participate in a series of activities to acknowledge NAIDOC Week.

The celebration was held at Bilgola Plateau Public School and began with students pitching their tents on the school oval. This was followed by a performance by *Didgeribone* in the school hall and then students participated in an artwork shop run by two of the school's art teachers. Students painted an indigenous canvas which will be taken back and presented at their respective schools.

Following the indigenous art workshop the more formal part of the event began. A traditional smoking ceremony was performed by Uncle Max to ward off evil spirits. As the smoking ceremony took place two Bilgola students played the didgeridoo and a *Welcome to*

the hall and then Primary students were off to bed. The High school students stayed up a little later to view *Dust Echoes*.

After a goodnight's sleep, students enjoyed a breakfast of damper with jams such as Lilly Pilly Bush Tucker Conserve, Rosella Jam and Hibiscus Desert Quandong accompanied with Wattle seed, Lemon Myrtle, Aniseed Myrtle and Native Peppermint teas.

Principals from the thirteen PCS schools were joined by Rob Stokes MP, Mayor Harvey Rose Pittwater Council, Dave Lardner, DEC Aboriginal Education Regional Support Officer, Ruth Tregale from Macquarie University Widening Participation and other local Indigenous representatives, parents and students.

Then back to School.

*Sharon Smithies
Peninsula Community of Schools Coordinator*



NATIONAL NAIDOC AWARDS HOBART 2012

This year's NAIDOC *Lifetime Achievement Award* went to 62-year-old Mirning Elder Bunna Lawrie, who is a medicine man and songwriter.

He grew up on South Australia's Nullarbor Plain and is best known for founding the band *Coloured Stone*, which won an ARIA Award in 1986.

Mr Lawrie says young Indigenous people need to be encouraged to follow their dreams.



"It's all about hope, inspiration and really help everyone to look at the right way to achieve what they want to achieve in life and how to go about it without drugs and alcohol," he said.

"It's all in my songs, you know."

The 2012 National NAIDOC Award recipients are:

- ★ *Lifetime Achievement Award*
– Bunna Lawrie, South Australia
- ★ *Person of the Year*
– David Wirrpanda, Victoria
- ★ *Female Elder of the Year* (shared)
– Margaret Lawton, Queensland
– Maureen Kelly, Western Australia
- ★ *Male Elder of the Year*
– Hezekiel Jingoonya, Northern Territory
- ★ *Caring for Country*
– Bunya Bunya Country Aboriginal Corporation, Queensland
- ★ *Youth of the Year*
– Benson Saulo, Victoria
- ★ *Artist of the Year*
– Stephen Page, Queensland
- ★ *Scholar of the Year*
– Sarah Bourke, Australian Capital Territory
- ★ *Apprentice of the Year*
– Michael Clinch, South Australia
- ★ *Sportsperson of the Year* (shared)
– Vanessa Wilson, South Australia
– Joshua Robinson, Queensland.

Our deepest congratulations go to all the 2012 National NAIDOC Award winners. Your achievements and commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culture is exceptional.

COLOURED DIGGERS MARCH – ANZAC DAY 2012

On Anzac Day this year Nancy Hill Wood and I again attended the annual commemoration to honour those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who served in all armed conflicts overseas over so many years from the Boer War, WWI, WWII and up to the Vietnam War.

This special day for *The Coloured Digger* is always very moving.

Starting from Redfern Park where there is a smoking ceremony, *Welcome to Country*, Welcome Dance, laying of wreaths and the national anthem, a march begins to the Redfern Community Centre where a service is held.

Special guests, the Governor Prof. Marie Bashir, Hon. Tanya Plibersek, Hon. Victor Dominello and Hon. Linda Burney, spoke to the large crowd after Pastor Ray Minnecon had addressed the people.

The singing by Vic Sims of *And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda* and the song *The Coloured Digger* by Warren Morgan and interpreted in dance by Terry Olsen were very moving.

This year special mention was paid to honouring the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Vietnam Veterans with them receiving a special art work in commemoration of their service.

This is a really wonderful afternoon and brings to people's attention the often unrecognised contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Veterans on behalf of our country.

After the service, entertainment from Vic Sims and the every-year donation of meat pies from the owner of Harry's Café de Wheels were welcomed and enjoyed by the large crowd.

Carol Ritchie Member ASG-MWP

Photo courtesy cyclopspress.com.au



BUNGAREE GETS HIS OWN ROOM

In May this year, David Walsh, NSW State Director for the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, and also the Department's Reconciliation Champion formally requested permission from The Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation as Bungaree's descendants for the use of Bungaree's name for a conference room at their offices at 26 Lee Street, Sydney.

The Department has an Indigenous Employees Network (IEN) and a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and an initiative of the RAP is to rename the Department's significant meeting rooms and conference rooms with Indigenous names and words.

The Plaque read:

Bungaree Room

Bungaree (1775-1830) was an Australian Aborigine from the Broken Bay Tribe who moved to Sydney from the Central Coast of New South Wales.

He was known as a diplomat and mediated between the English colonists and the Aboriginal people.

Bungaree was also an explorer who sailed with Matthew Flinders on his circumnavigation of Australia, acting as an interpreter, guide and negotiator with local Aboriginal groups.

He also circumnavigated Australia with Phillip Parker King, 14 years after his journey with Flinders.

This room was officially renamed on 28 May 2012 during National Reconciliation Week by Reconciliation Champion and NSW State Director David Walsh

The artwork was by Lyndy Delian, *Three Stories*.

Three Stories: The design used on this plaque is an element of Lyndy Delian's *Three Stories* screen print series which features cross hatched gum leaves and journey lines connecting waterholes and meeting places.

The *Three Stories* series is about family. The selected elements represent the journeys we all take through culture. These journeys occur through storytelling, dance, work, learning, caring for community and by community taking care of us."

A note of thanks – "On behalf of the Department thanks to you and your family for the permission to use your ancestor Bungaree's name for our conference room".

Descendants of Bungaree Gai Rowling (in pink) and Neil Evers (in suit) thanked the Department on behalf of the Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation.



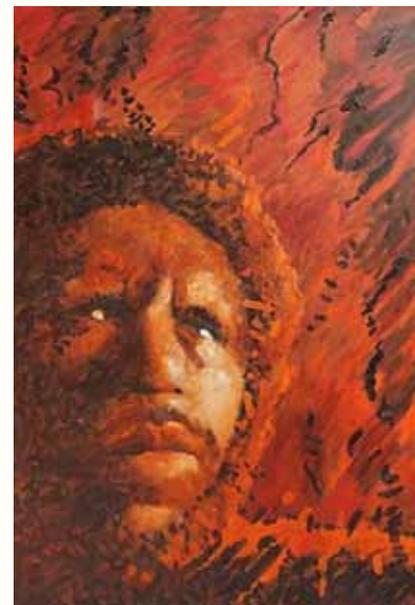
Photo courtesy Neil Evers

Arts Minister unveils portrait of Eddie Mabo

A NAIDOC Week celebration was a fitting time for Arts Minister Simon Crean to unveil a portrait of one of Australia's most inspirational figures, Eddie *Koiki* Mabo at the National Convention Centre in Canberra.

The portrait is part of the Aboriginal and Islander Inspirations display and marks the 20th anniversary of the Mabo decision. It is one of 15 colourful and people-filled artworks by artist Gregory Ferguson that depict Indigenous pride and connection to culture.

The portrait is an important acknowledgement of Eddie Mabo's decade long struggle for recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' land rights and the significance of the High Court of Australia's landmark decision that rewrote Australia's common law.



AUSTRALIAN INTERVENTION CONCERNS UN

The United Nations human rights commissioner fears the continuation of a federal government *Intervention* program in Northern Territory Aboriginal communities will not benefit indigenous people.

The Labor government's *Stronger Futures* legislation, passed by parliament in late June, continues for another 10 years the program begun under the Howard coalition government to address abuse and drunkenness.

But the laws have been widely opposed by Northern Territory indigenous communities.

A March 28 letter obtained by AAP under freedom of information laws, from UN Commissioner Navanethem Pillay to Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin, also reflects concerns.

Ms Pillay said the government's consultation process for the legislation "may not have been sufficient to elicit meaningful participation of indigenous communities in the review and devising of new legislation. Without the genuine participation and support of indigenous communities...the measures contained in the legislation may not achieve their full potential to improve the lives of indigenous peoples in Australia," she wrote.

Ms Pillay said laws aimed at improving the lot of indigenous people should encourage communities to "take control of decision making about their own development goals".

The intervention program, which began in 2007, attracted criticism from the UN human rights arm at the time. Ms Pillay said in the letter some measures included in the original legislation had a "disproportionate and discriminatory impact on indigenous communities" and would continue under the updated regime.

She urged the government to commission additional studies and provide credible evidence to justify the education, alcohol management and compulsory income management policies.

"In particular, the education measures in the bill seem to be of a punitive nature," she wrote.

"(Welfare payments) would be withdrawn from entire families if just one child in the household is not attending school."

Lisa Martin

AAP 2nd August 2012

ABORIGINAL FLAG FLYING IN BLAYNEY

Blayney's skyline has a lot more colour in it now – red, yellow and black to be precise.

Outside the local council chambers, the Aboriginal flag is now flying permanently beside the Australian flag.

For the first time, Blayney Shire councillors unanimously voted to fly the flag outdoors at Tuesday night's council meeting.

The decision overturns the longstanding policy of not flying the Aboriginal flag outdoors, except for when special events are held.

Indigenous Blayney resident Nyree Reynolds has been asking council for 10 years to fly the flag.

She praised the council for changing its stance on the issue. "Virtually every other council in the region flies it and now Blayney has got with the times and shown it really supports reconciliation and recognises the contribution Aboriginal people, as the first Australians, have made to shaping our country," she said.

Ms Reynolds had planned to write a formal request to council, asking for the flag to be flown at Heritage Park.

In the end she didn't need to because the issue was raised in a report at the council meeting.

Prepared by general manager Glenn Wilcox, the report recommended council fly the flag outside the council chambers.



Ms Reynolds said she never expected the day would come. "I wanted it at Heritage Park because I thought they'd never fly it outside the council chambers – this outcome is just fantastic," she said.

"I'm particularly impressed with the general manager's leadership and the councillors as well, who have also shown great leadership. It's taken a long time but they have done the right thing and I thank them."

Ryan Young, 4th June 2012



SAD PASSING OF A TRUE WARRIOR

Tracker April 5, 2012



Former NSWALC Councillor Steve Gordon has passed away.

SNIPPET: The Aboriginal community throughout Australia are mourning the passing of legendary activist Steve Gordon earlier this week.

He was known throughout Australia as a tireless advocate for the rights of our people for more than four decades.

Raised as one of six children in an old tin shack on a riverbank near the famous Brewarrina fish traps Mr Gordon left school at fourteen to build fences and work in shearing sheds.

He was appalled by the working conditions he saw around him.

He refused to be paid in tobacco and demanded cash for a stint in one of those shearing sheds.

He soon set out on his lifelong work as a forceful advocate to improve the rights and well-being of his Aboriginal brother and sisters.

In the 1960s he established the Aboriginal Movement in Brewarrina with the *Bush Queen*, the late Essie Coffey and the late Tombo Winters.

He recalled establishing the movement because they saw Aboriginal people rounded up on the back of trucks and sent to reserves in appalling conditions.

They resolved to see change in their lifetime and to fight discrimination head on.

Mr Gordon went on to be appointed the first Aboriginal Ombudsman in NSW and was the first elected Aboriginal person to address the NSW Parliament in June 1997 during a special sitting of the *Black Parliament*.

He came to national prominence as an ATSI Commission Commissioner and was known for successfully advocating, with others, to secure \$450 million in Federal Government funding as a response to the Royal Commission on *Aboriginal Deaths in Custody*.

He worked to get another \$500 million as part of the National Aboriginal Health Strategy.

Mr Gordon was the longest serving ATSI Commission Commissioner.

While his exploits on behalf of Aboriginal people were legendary he was also famous for his sartorial splendour.

He'd often turn up to events in a red suit, yellow shirt and black tie.

ASG-MWP extends their sincere condolences to the Gordon family.

AUSTRALIA'S INDIGEOUS OLYMPIANS DOING US PROUD AT LONDON IN 2012



Benn Harradine
Athletics



Joshua Ross
Athletics



Khalen Young
Cycling



Lee Neki
BMX



Pattie Mills
Basketball



Cameron Hammond
Boxing



Damien Hooper
Boxing



Jesse Ross
Boxing



Joel Carroll
Hockey





INTEGRICARE PLAYGROUPS

Integricare is a non-profit Christian charity organisation that has been providing family and children's services since 1882 seeking your support in their programme of Playgroups for Indigenous children.

Integricare currently has five Long Day Care Services, three Preschools, and three Family Day Care schemes, an Occasional Care Centre, two Supported Playgroup Schemes and a Family Worker. We care for over 1800 children and their families each year. These services are conducted pursuant to *Integricare's* philosophy: *to provide for the care, support and protection of families and their children and the provision of child care services.* All children's services within *Integricare* are inclusive; encouraging the enrolment of children with additional needs and those from marginalised families. Underpinning *Integricare* activities is the belief that strong family units are the core of our society, therefore the nurture and love of a family is to be supported, strengthened, and encouraged.

MEDIA RELEASE

STRONGER FUTURES: We Are In Mourning

Dr Djiniyini Gondarra, Yolngu Nations Assembly spokesperson, is calling on the Federal Government to lower the Aboriginal flag in Canberra, in the wake of the *Stronger Futures* bill being passed.

"The Government has shown absolute disregard for our wishes and our human rights", Dr Gondarra said. "By overruling the wishes of the people, the Government has declared a war on democracy. We call on it to lower our flag to half mast, to acknowledge the hurt *Stronger Futures* will cause our people."

The *Stronger Futures* legislation, which passed through the Senate in the early hours of June 29, has been condemned as racist by the Yolngu Nations and many Aboriginal, community and church organisations. 42,000 Australians signed a petition calling on the government to withdraw the legislation.

"It is hypocritical and disrespectful for the government to continue to fly our flag after ignoring our pleas, our statements, our alternative proposals, time after time", Dr Gondarra continued.

The North-East Arnhem Land leader also called on Aboriginal Tent Embassies to lower the flag to half-mast. "This is part of our mourning. The fight is not over, but for now we are mourning. At the same time, we are planning the next stage in our campaign. We put the government on notice: this is not over."

CONTACT: Rev Dr Djiniyini Gondarra OAM

ABORIGINAL FRESH FOOD HITS SUPERMARKET SHELVES

Australia's first commercial-scale indigenous fresh food line has been launched today in Adelaide.

The *Matjarra* brand provides fresh herbs and spices to IGA and Foodland supermarkets across South Australia and employs 25 Indigenous workers from the Yorke Peninsula, west of Adelaide.

Company founder Ron Newchurch says there is potential to expand the concept across Australia.

"During our winter a lot of our stocks stops growing. If we can get indigenous people around Brisbane and the top of NSW growing in the winter, they can sell produce to us down here."

Mr Newchurch initially had to borrow money to get the business up and running. But after receiving support from Indigenous Business Australia and developing the business, he has paid back his loans and the business is now a profitable enterprise.

"Now we've had to buy a refrigerated van to bring 50-60 boxes down...three times a week."

Mr Newchurch is hoping to triple production in coming years.

"We've got 80 acres of land, we've got three hectares under irrigation and we want to develop another ten hectares of produce to become one of the main suppliers to the [Adelaide] market."

Mr Newchurch's son Kirk Newchurch grows parsley, chives, spring onions and other herbs on the Yorke Peninsula. He says one of the best things about the project is the employment opportunities it provides.

"We're trying to create jobs now to get the Aboriginal people out and get them off welfare."

Flint Duxfield, 4th June 2012



Ron Newchurch (centre) celebrates the launch of his new food Indigenous Food Company with AFL player Gavin Wanganeen and South Australian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Paul Caica.



Aboriginal Heritage of Narrabeen Lagoon and the Catchment

Monday 28th May

A Forum was held at the Narrabeen Tramshed Hall.

This event was hosted by the Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment with guest speakers Dennis Foley and Julie Janson. Along with other members of the Aboriginal Support Group I attended the forum.

It began with Dennis performing a *Smoking Ceremony* where he explaining the significance and meaning of the Ceremony. Specially chosen leaves were used to help us to take in the knowledge that we would be hearing.

Dennis is known to many of us and is always a thought provoking speaker. He brought along some interesting artefacts and explained the Aboriginal history of the Lagoon.

Many of us have read his book *Repossession of our Spirit* which includes descriptions and tales about Narrabeen Lagoon past and present.

A very informative and interesting night was enjoyed by all with a nice supper provided.

Next Meeting 7pm Aug 27th at the Tramshed more information contact:

Judith Bennett email@narrabeenlagoon.org.au

Dinner and Conversation with Auntie Ali Golding

Friday 15th June

This event was hosted by members of St. Anthony in the Fields Catholic Church at Terrey Hills.

Tarminya, Janie, Telisha and Mikayla, Senior girls from Biala Hostel, Nancy Wood and I attended the Dinner.

Tarminya was asked by Anne Lanyon from St Anthony's to participate by reading a prayer before proceedings began. She was proud to do so and read it beautifully.

The church hall was full as we partook of a delicious buffet dinner. Auntie Ali then spoke beautifully and sincerely on the topic *Listening to the deep spirit of this land*. The whole audience seemed captivated by Auntie Ali as she shared her wisdom about the unspoken message of the spirit in this land. She is a highly respected leader and Elder in the Aboriginal Community and shows her compassion, humility and quest for justice as she speaks.

Following her talk, eight members of the Aboriginal community attending the dinner, then joined Auntie Ali on stage for question and answer time. Tarminya and Telisha were asked about their time at Biala and their hopes for their future.

The evening was very enjoyable and we all came away feeling that we had heard something special from Auntie Ali.

Auntie Ali had spoken to the Biala girls earlier in the evening and showed a great interest in them. The girls were very impressed by her presentation.

Carol Ritchie Member ASG-MWP

Discovery Walk in Guringai Country

Saturday 23rd June Sponsored by ASG-MWP and NPWS

A guided tour is an understatement. We all had ochre painted on our faces and hands to protect us. The explanation of the rock carvings by Aboriginal Les McLeod was amazing the time he spent on helping us to understand to know how and why these carving were made and why it is so imported we all must respect them.

The walk was in two parts, at the half way we enjoyed refreshments – then off again for another exciting experience.

On our return Lunch was being prepared Uncle Laurie, barbecuing marinated kangaroo and then Les got to make the *jonny cake*.

What a day, nobody wanted to leave but all good things must come to an end.

Can't wait to do it again!



*Pictures (from Left) Morning tea time
Les cooking jonny cakes*





Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians WILL WE GET IT RIGHT?

Hosted by the Aboriginal Support Group – Manly Warringah Pittwater on Monday 9th July

The night was well attended with the *Welcome to Country* by Uncle Laurie Bimson.

After the panel was introduced to the audience a lively discussion took place with all three members of the panel explaining the reasons why the Constitution needs to be changed.

Jacqueline Phillips, National Director of ANTaR started the discussion and stated that there needs to be a clear, straightforward proposal put forward so the Australian public can understand the issues and to vote Yes. There needs to be a unified well-timed campaign to succeed and bipartisan Government support from all political parties, unions and community groups. Constitution Panel Answering Questions

Many sections of the Constitution seem simple but there are different interpretations and legal arguments.

The High Court's interpretation is used to resolve these issues and the Constitution can only be changed at a referendum.

There have been 44 separate proposals to change the Australian Constitution put to the Australian people since 1901. Only eight have been agreed to. In a recent poll, 97% of participants were in favour of repealing the recommended sections.

ANTaR's stance is that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be recognised in our Constitution, we would be acknowledging their role as custodians of the world's oldest continuing culture, a positive step towards reconciliation and building a nation based on mutual respect between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and other Australians.

Tony McAvoy continued discussing the more legal aspects of the Constitution. It being Australia's founding document, gives no acknowledgment of the place of Indigenous Australians in our nation's history or our contemporary society.

The sections of the Constitution that need to be changed allows for the continuation of a level of racism that is antiquated and does not belong in a modern

document. At any time, by the law of any State, all persons of any race can be disqualified from voting at elections. It does not recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants with a continuing culture and traditions. It allows for the Government to make laws with respect to Indigenous people though not just for the benefit of them.



Alison Bejma is a high school student doing her major work on Aboriginal Studies. She has recently been elected Youth Minister for Aboriginal Affairs at the YMCA NSW Youth Parliament. Alison said that the general teaching in school on Aboriginal study is tokenistic, shallow and boring and does not address the injustices and discrimination in the past and what is still happening. How do we reconcile what is happening with the Northern Territory Intervention and the Government advocating new changes in the Constitution.

There is much that we can do to help by supporting ANTaR, youmeunity and similar groups.

Questions were invited from the audience and answered adequately.

All panel members were given gifts from the ASG-MWP in appreciation for their time.

The Constitution was being discussed on the ABC at the same time. See link to download and listen; <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/bigideas/big-ideas-09-july-2012/4107550>

Remembering the Myall Creek Massacre

On June 10, 1838, the infamous *Myall Creek Massacre* took place at Myall Creek Station where twenty eight Aboriginal men, women and children were massacred and their bodies burned. The ensuing court case marked the first time in Australian history that white men were tried for crimes against Aborigines. Seven men were hanged as a result.

Tracy Morgan and her partner Chris visited Moree in June, where they attended the Myall Creek Massacre Commemoration – a moving and important event.

They were very happy to see the friendly face of Helen Ford from the Northern Beaches Aboriginal Support Group there.

Learn more go to: <http://myallcreek.info/massacre/article/the-story-of-the-myall-creek-massacre/>



WEST TO ACT ON WILL ANOMALY FOR ABORIGINES

West Australian Indigenous Affairs Minister Peter Collier has promised to change a law that discriminates against Aboriginal people who die without a will.

Following reports in *The Australian*, Attorney-General Christian Porter has also added his voice to the push to have the 1972 Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act amended "so that Aboriginal people are not discriminated against".

Under current law, Aboriginal families have to wait more than eight years for their relative's estate to be distributed by the Public Trustee after their death if they do not have a will.

But non-Aboriginal people who die intestate do not have their estates automatically seized by the Public Trustee under the law. They have the option of applying to manage the estate themselves. In 2006, the WA Law Reform Commission recommended the law be repealed.

Mr Collier said he had asked his department "a few weeks ago" to finalise a proposal to take to cabinet to repeal or amend the act. "It's certainly a priority for me in the portfolio area," he said.

"I hate hearing these things, and it's only when you come into the portfolio area that you realise how many inconsistencies there are between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

"We will be certainly taking steps to correct that anomaly."

The Department of Indigenous Affairs recently gave a grant to the Arts Law Centre to help Aboriginal artists in writing wills and advising them what happens if they die without one.

Currently, WA has two separate systems for managing and distributing the estates of people who die without a will: one for Aboriginal people and one for non-Aboriginals.

"The estate of an Aboriginal person without a will vests automatically to the Public Trustee, who then distributes the estate under the provisions of the Administration Act 1903," Mr Collier said in a statement on Thursday.

*Nicolas Perpitch
The Australian April 04, 2012*

Advertisement

"This transfers Aboriginal people into a largely confusing, convoluted and unfair process, whereby the right of families to administer the estate of a deceased Aboriginal relative may be denied."

As at November 2011 there were 98 Aboriginal estates being administered by the Public Trustee.

Read more: <http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/wa-to-repeal-unfair-estates-legislation-20120705-21iui.html#ixzz20116FJ87>

\$16.7m for Indigenous arts, culture and languages in NT

05 July 2012 SC137/2012

The Northern Territory will benefit from \$16.7 million to support Indigenous arts, culture, languages and employment activities as part of a \$48 million national package.

Arts Minister Simon Crean today met with *Desart*, the Association of Central Australian Art and Craft Centres in Alice Springs and visited Tangentyere Artists and Tjanpi Desert Weavers to see local Indigenous visual art enterprises first-hand.

Mr Crean said the funding includes \$8.8 million for 245 jobs in the Northern Territory and \$7.9 million for 77 Indigenous arts, culture and languages activities. It includes support for 15 Indigenous arts, culture, languages and employment programs in Alice Springs. "Connection to culture is an important part of the work involved in *Closing the Gap*," Mr Crean said.

"This funding reinforces the important role arts and culture can play in contributing to the social and economic wellbeing of communities.

"Most Indigenous art centres are Indigenous-owned enterprises that are run by community for community generating important income and employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.

"These centres not only produce some of Australia's most dynamic visual art, they can help build capacity in these communities and continue the key task of maintaining and sharing Indigenous culture with future generations.

"Here in Alice Springs, *Desart* has received funding for an innovative pilot project that will provide an art centre manager locum on a needs basis to art centres that may be the process of recruiting a new manager or need to improve a particular area of their business.

"It's creative initiatives such as this one that are working to join the dots between arts and culture and the broader wellbeing of Australia's regional communities."

Activities have been funded through the following programs:

- Indigenous Culture Support which helps to maintain Indigenous culture through community involvement assists the transmission of knowledge and skills across generations and develops and supports new forms of cultural expression.
- Indigenous Employment Initiative which provides funding to support jobs in the arts and culture sector.
- Indigenous Languages Support which provides funding for the maintenance and revival of Australia's Indigenous languages.
- Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support which provides funding for Indigenous art centres and service organisations to strengthen the industry.

A full list of funding recipients is available at www.arts.gov.au/indigenous.

SORRY DAY EVENTS 2012

National *Sorry Day* is recognised as a National Day of Commemoration and Remembrance. The children who were removed later came to be known as the *Stolen Generations*.

It was a well-attended silent *journey of healing* from Narrabeen to Bilarong Reserve, Wakehurst Parkway, North Narrabeen to remember the *Stolen Generation*, the children and their families and the meaning and repercussions of this to all Australians today.

At Bilarong Reserve, the walkers were invited to have a cup of tea and something to eat by the happy mob in the kitchen. Also The Coal & Candle Rural Fire Service gave a demonstration of their equipment to the delight of the kids.

Inside the Scout Hall, we later listened as Jeanne Townsend spoke about her experiences as part of the

Stolen Generation and how this has impacted on her family. She has just now starting to put together her story and re-connecting with family members. Then Georgia Davies a young local girl told us her view on the *Stolen Generation*.

We all joined in a sing along with our local Aboriginal group *Bangaly* (who hope to qualify and be able to perform at the Emergenza Festival in Germany – all the best from the ASG mob).

Everybody was invited to help in the creating a wall of hands.

It was a day of healing where Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people come together.



2012 / 2013 ASG Subscription Renewal Notice

Thank you to all our members that have already renewed their 2012/2013 Subscription.

If you have not as yet, please remember that it is only with the support from your \$25 Subscription that ASG-MWP's *Aboriginal Education Program* can continue.

Thank you for your past support and we look forward to your support in the future.

Mislaid your Renewal form? Please complete and return the copy below

or Email us at The.Elimatta@gmail.com – and put *Request Subscription Renewal Form* in the Subject.



Subscription Renewal Form

Please Complete and Return with your payment

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Mailing this form will also facilitate prompt issue of a receipt

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Membership Renewal Fee \$ 25

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Payable to: ASGMWP
P.O. Box 129
Narrabeen NSW 2101



Now until Aug 19

Mon-Fri 10am-7pm
Sat-Sun 11am-4pm

Virtual Warrane II: Sacred Tracks of the Gadigal

The Gadigal people, original custodians of this beautiful land around the Sydney Harbour hunted, gathered and celebrated *Warrane* – *Warrane* is the Gadigal name for Sydney Cove. Through advanced simulation, experience what this place was like before the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788.

Where: Customs House, 31 Alfred Street, Circular Quay, Sydney For more information please telephone Brett Leavy 0421 009 279

or visit <http://whatson.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/events/14846-virtual-warrane-ii-sacred-tracks-of-the-gadigal>



Every Wednesday

from Aug to Nov

2-4pm approx

U3A Northern Beaches: Contemporary Aboriginal Life & Culture in Northern Sydney

7 fortnightly sessions of Talk and Q&A – each presented by Aboriginal people who live and work on the Sydney's North Side and the Northern Beaches.

Speakers include: Sue Pinckham, Julie Janson, Tony McEvoy, Adam Cryer, Julie Hendicott, Jessica Birk, Dave Watts, Uncle Bob Waterer and members of ASG-MWP

Where: Newport Community Centre

When: Aug 8 and 22, Sep 12, Oct 10 and 24, Nov 14 and 28

Contact: Please telephone Nancy on 8919 0243



Monday Aug 13

7.30pm start

ASG-MWP Business Meeting

Mona Vale Memorial Hall, 1606 Pittwater Rd, Mona Vale.

Monday Sep 10

7pm-9pm

ASG-MWP Information Night

An interesting night will be had, learning about the food the first Australians cooked. Listen to Aboriginal Ranger Les McLeod explain the ways it was done, taste some barbecued marinated kangaroo, try a Jonny Cake or two and have a cup of with us. Also Geoff Lambert from the North Head Sanctuary Foundation will be giving a talk *The North Head Story*. Also listen to Jess Relton, Ranger NPWS talk about Shelly Beach and his after-dark tours. <http://afterdarknaturetours.com.au/>

A free event (donations welcome)

Sunday Sep 2

10am till about 2pm

Guringai Aboriginal Tours

At the Basin Track on the West Head Rd Ku-Ring-Gai Chase National Park

Contact Laurie@GuringaiTours.com.au for more details.

Monday Oct 8

7.30pm start

ASG-MWP Business Meeting

Mona Vale Memorial Hall, 1606 Pittwater Rd, Mona Vale.

Monday Nov 12

7pm-9pm

ASG-MWP Information Night

Details of this event will be confirmed in the next issue of *Elimatta*.

An Invitation to join us

Aboriginal Support Group Manly Warringah Pittwater

Founded 1979

Membership is \$25 per year

(02) 9913 7940 (02) 9982 1685

P.O. Box 129 NARRABEEN NSW 2101

www.asgmwp.net

Elimatta is the newsletter of the Aboriginal Support Group Manly Warringah Pittwater.

Articles are welcome with the understanding that editorial changes may be made and that contributors agree that the material will be archived by the National Library of Australia.

Contributors to *Elimatta* are from many different cultures and backgrounds. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editors or members of the ASG.

Please email articles where possible to the_elimatta@gmail.com

If you use any of the material it would be appreciated if the extract is set in context and the source acknowledged.



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