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# Elimatta

Autumn 2015

Aboriginal Support Group – Manly Warringah Pittwater

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

## SYDNEY AIRPORT TO HONOUR ABORIGINAL AVIATION AND AIR FORCE HERO

Sydney's proposed new airport at Badgerys Creek could be named after Indigenous aviation hero Len Waters

Len Waters was the first Australian Aboriginal military pilot, and the only one to serve as a fighter pilot in the Royal Australian Air Force during World War II – flying a staggering 95 missions in the sky above New Guinea.

The fourth of eleven children, Waters was born on an Aboriginal mission in northern NSW but grew up at Nindigully, near St George, Queensland, and went to Nindigully State School before finishing his education at the age of fourteen.

Despite his ties to Queensland, he has already emerged as a sentimental favourite in the race to name Sydney's long-awaited second international airport.

Western Sydney MP Craig Kelly is among a host of voices calling for the airport to be named after Mr Waters.

The Federal MP didn't even seem to mind the small detail that Mr Waters was a Queenslander, and has written to the Prime Minister's office with the recommendation.

He was born in NSW so we'll claim him," Mr Kelly said. "He made an amazing contribution to this nation and is someone we should put up on a pedestal."



Len Waters' daughter Dianne Russell is also lobbying for the new Sydney Airport to be named after her famous father.

Mr Waters' daughter Dianne Konowec said it would be a tremendous honour and a worthy one if Sydney's next airport was named after her dad.

"We would be so proud," she said. "He just went to show that even if you were born on an Aboriginal mission and had the odds against you, you could really make something of yourself."

Despite eventually being promoted to Flight Sergeant, Waters received little recognition for his feats.

A brave pilot, his *kitty hawk* fighter plane was once hit by a 37mm cannon shell that landed in the cockpit – fortunately the shell didn't explode.

Len maintained his love of aviation right up until his death in 1993 aged 69. Shortly after Waters was commemorated on an Australia Post stamp as one of Australia's aviation heroes – though he has never received the accolades accorded to the likes of Charles Kingsford Smith or Bert Hinkler.

Source: *The Courier-Mail*

## ABORIGINAL LAND GRANT AT MOSMAN!

See full story on page 2

**Always Was – Always Will Be  
Aboriginal Land**

26 May - 12 July 2015

## Guringai FESTIVAL



see events details next issue *Elimatta*

# BUNGAREE:

## THE 200-YEAR CELEBRATION OF A MOSMAN LAND GRANT



31st January 2015 marked the 200th anniversary of a land grant, made by Governor Macquarie, to Bungaree and his tribe of about 100 people and 16 families to establish a farm on Middle Head, where they could produce food with European farming techniques and catch fish using a rowing boat made available to them.



It is ironic that Macquarie was granting land back to a people who had occupied the land for probably more than 40,000 years! Nevertheless Macquarie was a very good Governor for the early years of the colony, and did make an effort to maintain good relations between the Kooris and convicts, settlers, soldiers and officers of the new, very British settlement.

The *Bungaree Farm* experiment was doomed to failure. Bungaree's people already knew how to live off the land of the lower north shore. The soil was too sandy for European crops, given the seed, knowledge and tools available at the time. They also knew how to catch fish, using simple bark canoes, and even cook the fish while out on the water! But using the boat given to them did mean they were able to sell surplus fresh fish at the colony in Sydney Cove, after providing for their own needs.

It is very appropriate that *Cubba Cubba* (Middle Head) be chosen as the site for a major Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands cultural centre, that acknowledges the contribution of Bungaree and his people to the future of Australia, and also recognises the powerful contribution of art produced by Indigenous people to bringing together people of all racial backgrounds in the Australia of the 21st century.

Bungaree was the first Aboriginal to have been called an 'Australian'. He was given a land grant at Middle Head in Sydney from colonial authorities and was famous for greeting ships as they entered Sydney Harbour. He also joined explorers, including Matthew Flinders, and travelled around Australia.

As part of the anniversary of Bungaree as the *first Australian*, the Mosman Art Gallery brought together 16 contemporary Aboriginal artists to critically re-interpret his fascinating story. The exhibition, curated by Djon Mundine, features artists Frances Belle-Parker, Mervyn Bishop, Daniel Boyd, Karla Dickens, Fiona Foley, Blak Douglas (aka Adam Hill), Warwick Keen, Gary Lee, Peter McKenzie, Danie Mellor, Caroline Oakley, Rea, Lynette Riley, Gordon Syron, Leanne Tobin and Jason Wing.

The Gallery is marking the anniversary of his land called *Bungaree's Farm* on 31 January 2015. With an exhibition held at the Camouflage Fuel Tanks, Headland Park, it was opened by Mary Darwell, Executive Director, and Arts NSW. The artists in this exhibition include Daniel Boyd, Blak Douglas (aka Adam Hill), Karla Dickens, Leah Flanagan, Amala Groom, Warwick Keen, Peter

McKenzie, Djon Mundine, Caroline Oakley, Bjorn Stewart, Leanne Tobin and Jason Wing. With a performance work developed in consultation with Andrea James.



*Images courtesy Mosman Art Gallery and Community Centre*



## BUNGAREE'S DESCENDENT VISITS OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE



The *Aurora Project* runs an international study tour for Indigenous students to visit some of the world's leading universities – including Stanford, Harvard, Columbia, Berkeley and New York in the United States, as well as Cambridge and Oxford in the United Kingdom.

The aim is for high achieving Indigenous Australian students to experience what overseas study entails – and redress the current imbalance in numbers of Indigenous students in high degrees of university education. It is open to those currently studying at any Australian university and are considering the possibility of a higher degree be it research or coursework based.

I was lucky enough to have been selected for the UK leg of the 2014 tour. With a strong background in science, Cambridge holds over 60 of the Nobel Peace prizes and was the university of such famous people as Newton, Whittle (developer of the jet engine), Crick and Watson (discoverers of DNA) – even John Cleese.

Staying in Steven Hawkins' building was most humbling to say the least!

At the other end of the spectrum is Oxford University which is ironically older than Cambridge – the name derived from the ford where the oxen used to cross. In fact you can still bring 3 head of cattle should you be studying there – something to try out! Oxford University had a more homely feeling about it – perhaps because there were quite a number of Australians there. And we must not forget Bob Hawke completed his Masters degree whilst staying at Rhodes House.

A highlight was seeing Bungaree's club at the Pitts River Museum at Oxford (not forgetting one of his boomerangs which is located in the British Museum).

But most importantly, the tour provided a wonderful opportunity for us to discuss career aspirations with the relevant academics, pursue scholarship possibilities and compare different colleges.

*Brett Rowling*

*Bungaree-Matora-Charlotte Webb*

For more information:

[http://www.auroraproject.com.au/Aurora\\_Indigenous\\_Scholars\\_International\\_Study\\_Tour](http://www.auroraproject.com.au/Aurora_Indigenous_Scholars_International_Study_Tour)

## ASG Information Night Join us in a discovery of Aboriginal Sites in Sydney's North

With Special Guest Speaker Bob Conroy



Come and see a fascinating presentation by Bob, a former senior manager of NPWS, who will describe the many heritage sites found along the Hawkesbury River. Then enjoy freshly cooked *Johnnie cakes* and listen to the sounds of a didgeridoo!

This is a free event and supper – all welcome.

Monday 9th March at 7.30pm

Mona Vale Memorial Hall, 1606 Pittwater Rd, Mona Vale

Hosted by ASG-MWP (Your Donations are welcome)

## STATE FUNERAL OFFERED TO BANDLER'S FAMILY



The federal government has offered a state funeral to the family of Aboriginal rights campaigner Faith Bandler, who has died aged 96.

“Our country has lost a champion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians,” Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Indigenous Affairs minister Nigel Scullion said in a statement on Saturday 14 February.

Ms Bandler led the campaign for the 1967 referendum to recognise indigenous Australians as full citizens and give them rights under the constitution.

The Order of Australia winner and national living treasure also helped establish the Aboriginal Australian Fellowship and was general secretary of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

“Her legacy lives on in our journey toward the constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples,” Opposition Leader Bill Shorten and opposition indigenous affairs spokesman Shanye Neumann said.

Ms Bandler is survived by her daughter, Lilon Gretl.





# CHANCE FOR INDIGENOUS CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION MAY BE SQUANDERED

## One Point of View

Crucial bipartisanship on a move to recognise Indigenous Australians in the Constitution risks being *squandered* and the momentum exhausted if a form of words and a voting date are not released this year, according to the Business Council of Australia (BCA).

The BCA, which represents the 100 biggest companies in Australia, said in its submission to parliament's joint select committee on the matter that it would prosecute the case among its members but could not do so without basic scaffold for the debate.

"Setting a clear process and time line will allow for a proper awareness campaign, community discussion and a clear advocacy agenda for supporters," the submission says. "Failure to do so could squander current bipartisan support and lose important momentum *Recognise* and others have built over the past three years. If the current process is not followed through, it may be difficult to generate the political will in the near future to restart the agenda."

The BCA submission says the process, whatever it looks like, must involve indigenous Australians and be developed in advance of a date being announced.

Allen's chief executive partner Michael Rose, who leads BCA work on the possible referendum, told *The Australian* the idea was for it to be more than tokenistic.

"I don't think anybody is suggesting this is the only answer to the many issues which are relevant to Indigenous Australians," he said. "This is another important step in a long process of reconciliation, just like the previous amendment and national apology.

"What we've tried to say is that symbols matter. We're not arguing that it should be merely symbolic but, even if it is, that does not mean it is not worthwhile.

Symbolism matters."

The BCA says, however, that this doesn't mean "substantive change to the body of the Constitution" should be avoided.

It backs an introductory statement or preamble recognising indigenous Australians and the removal of "outdated references to race, in particular section 25".

"If the final referendum proposition includes a *recognition* preamble or statement and the removal of outdated race references, while preserving the ability of parliament to make laws to benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the current generation of Australians will be in a position to significantly and meaningfully progress the ongoing process of reconciliation," the submission says.

"The experience of business council member companies shows how recognition and respect are fundamental to creating conditions for improved material outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples." Tony Abbott has previously said his preference would be for a vote in 2017 on the 50th anniversary of the 1967 referendum but nothing has happened on either setting the date or devising the question.

The Prime Minister also warned people advocating for change to "temper their ambitions" so it had the "best possible chance" of succeeding. Legal experts told *The Australian* that developing a model beyond mere symbolism should not be rushed as referendum dynamics are more complex than in 1967, when more than 90 per cent of voters agreed to amend the Constitution.

*The Australian*  
Rick Morton Social Affairs Reporter Sydney

## The government is asking you to blindly vote for changes in a referendum, without even clarifying the final wording.

### Another point of view...

The real hidden agenda of the proposed referendum is to coerce Aboriginal Nations and Peoples to become part of the Australian Constitution and by doing so consent to be governed. The Commonwealth government can then claim that Aboriginal Nations and Peoples have acquiesced. This is the main weapon the Crown has to counter our sovereignty movement.

The High Court *Mabo No.2* judgment affirmed that Aboriginal *Native Title* burdens the Crown's assumed radical title.

So how does the Commonwealth government's *Recognise* campaign for a referendum to the recognition of Aboriginal people as the preamble to the Constitution fit with the Sovereignty movement? The short answer is – it doesn't.

In respect to the millions of dollars being spent on the *Recognise* campaign, many First Nations people are asking: Who they are trying to convince – non-Aboriginal people or Aboriginal people?

*Continued on Page 4*



## TIME TO FIX A SILENCE AT THE HEART OF AUSTRALIA'S CONSTITUTION

If they are trying to convince First Nations people then what is the specific wording that is being proposed?

Surely those running the *Recognise* campaign must understand that it is criminally deceitful to conduct a campaign asking people to blindly support a referendum to change to the Constitution that does not specify the final wording.

It is a proverbial case of *putting the cart before the horse*. We also know that our sovereignty position is excluded by the terms of reference of the Expert Panel on the Constitution.

The real hidden agenda of the proposed referendum is to coerce Aboriginal Nations and Peoples to become part of the Australian Constitution and by doing so consent to be governed. The Commonwealth government can then claim that Aboriginal Nations and Peoples have acquiesced. This is the main weapon the Crown has to counter our sovereignty movement.

For the Commonwealth Parliament to put the terms of an amendment to the Constitution to the Australian population, it must have the absolute free prior and informed consent of Aboriginal Nations and Peoples before that referendum can become valid, otherwise it is a unilateral action and will have no validity.

A Commonwealth debate on 1 April 1965 resonates with the current Constitutional debate.

When former Prime Minister of Australia, Sir Robert Menzies, addressed the Commonwealth Parliament 1 April 1965, he drew attention to the recurring issue of *Aborigines* and the Constitution. Menzies was telling the people of Australia that if the word 'Aborigines' is taken out of the Constitution the Parliament would have no specific constitutional powers to pass laws for *Aborigines*. Then the only way in which the parliament could make a law for Aboriginal Peoples was to treat them as aliens, that is non-citizens, and use the race power to pass laws *for the Aboriginal race*.

Any federal legislation specifically directed at providing a Commonwealth service for Aboriginal Peoples must have as part of its definition an Act for the people of the *Aboriginal race*. Without this definition all Commonwealth legislation relating to Aboriginal Peoples would be invalid. Sir Robert Menzies is recorded by Hansard as stating:

"...the removal of what has been called the "discriminatory provisions" of section 51. On that I would, with great respect, challenge the assumption that is made. May I read the provision to the House in order to refresh its memory. Section 51 states — The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the

Commonwealth with respect to:— (xxvi.) The people of any race, other than the aboriginal race in any State, for whom it is deemed necessary to make special laws: It has been suggested that provision discriminates against the Aborigines of Australia. I would have thought that the contrary was the fact. Parliament has been given power to make discriminatory laws in relation to the people of any race—special laws which would relate to them and not to other people; laws which would treat them as people who stood outside the normal grasp of the law, enjoying its benefits and sustaining its burdens in common with all other citizens. I would have thought that the perfect state of affairs in Australia would be that any Aboriginal citizen felt that he did stand equal with every other citizen before the law, enjoyed its benefits and took his own part on a proper basis in sustaining its burdens. I have no doubt whatever that this provision in the Constitution was designed having regard to conditions that existed at that time and the possibility of having to make a special law dealing with, for example, kanaka labourers—perhaps a special law to deport them from the country or to confine them to some particular area. There was a good deal of discussion about this at the time this provision was framed. Therefore the framers of the Constitution inserted this provision, but they left out the Aboriginal race because they did not want to discriminate against the people of the aboriginal race. All we have to do now is to cross out this reference "other than the aboriginal race" and we confer on this Parliament a power to make a special law which relates to the Aborigines and to no other people. ... If you do not mind I want to pursue this. I do not think it is at all out of place. There is a second point about it, and this does concern me. If the Commonwealth, as one of its heads of power under section 51, has the right to pass special laws with respect to the Aboriginal race, I wonder what limitations will be on that separate head of power. Would this enable the Parliament to set up a separate body of industrial laws relating to Aborigines or some other kind of law—health laws, quarantine laws or laws under any of the other powers of the Parliament? It may well be true that it could because, make no mistake about it; this would be a head of power standing not inferior to any other power contained in section 51. That is a matter that requires a great deal of thought. I do not want honorable members to think that I have arrived at some positive conclusion about it. I am raising it here in order to indicate that it wants a good deal of thought and that we would want to give it a great deal more investigation than we have before we favoured changing the provision in section 51. But we would be very happy to see the end of section 127".

Continued on Page 4



**The High Court Mabo No.2 judgement affirmed that Aboriginal Native Title burdens the Crown's assumed radical title.**

**So how does the Recognise campaign for a referendum fit with the Sovereignty movement?**

**It doesn't**



[533 & 534 Hansard No. 13, Thursday, 1 April 1965 25th Parliament, 1st session, 3rd period]

In the same debate Mr. Beazley Snr, Freemantle WA (Kim Beasley's father) further clarified the position of Aboriginal people being outside the Australian Constitution.

... but I do suggest that a whole series of discriminatory laws with respect to Aborigines is necessary. We say that we do not intend to discriminate. What rubbish! Aborigines have been occupying land in various parts of Australia since time immemorial. Yet we deny them the slightest entitlement to one square inch of that land and push them off it as soon as anything of value to a European is discovered on it. At the same time, we content ourselves with this mealy mouthed

statement that we do not discriminate against Aborigines. I think that, in the sense of material standards, we have almost the worst native policy in the world. I can never join in the righteous denunciations of South Africa that we hear in this House, because, from what I have seen in South Africa, the material conditions of the natives there are immeasurably higher than the material standards of the Aborigines of Australia. There is a case for the Commonwealth Parliament to have power in relation to Aborigines. Those of us who travelled over much of Australia and studied the conditions of Aborigines as members of the Select Committee on Voting Rights of Aborigines realise that anyone who would say that the States have been doing a marvellous job is either very blind or very complacent. I do not want to dwell on the matter any more except to say: For heaven's sake, if we in this Australian Parliament cannot guarantee citizenship, let us accept the fact that our Constitution acknowledges only the status of subjects of the Queen and that, no matter how many acts of Parliament we pass, we cannot reach into the States and create any form of meaningful citizenship. Until placitum (xxvi.) of section 51 of the Constitution is amended, Aborigines can have no effective Australian citizenship.

As can be seen from this we have been lied to with deceit to this day and the Commonwealth government employees modern day *Black trackers* to keep the dust flying to conceal the truth and the *Recognise* campaign is part of this.

We need to have lot more talk on our status as sovereign independent First Nations and Peoples otherwise, through acquiescence, everything Aboriginal People have fought for till this day will be given up.

Isn't it bad enough that they are asking you to give up all your rights through the Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) process?

Even worse are the governments' *Native Title by consent* where, in order to have the governments to sign agreements, you have to give up all other claims of right.

Don't be deceived for short-term gain. Why agree to be part of a racist Constitution from a foreign country – Britain – when we still hold and can assert our own sovereignty.

Michael Anderson  
23 May 2014

More information:

<http://nationalunitygovernment.org/content/government-asking-you-blindly-vote-changes-referendum-without-even-clarifying-final-wording>

# DEERUBBIN ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL WINS CLAIM



## Deerubbin Aboriginal Land Council in Sydney's western suburbs wins a land claim over Parramatta Gaol, one of Australia's most historic colonial sites.

The land claim was lodged in the Land and Environment Court in 2012.

Last December the group was successful in their claim over the jail and surrounding area with orders for the State Government to hand it over to the council within the next 24 months.

Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) chief executive Kevin Cavanagh said he would enter into talks with the Government over the coming months about the future of the site.

"Deerubbin LALC is sensitive to the heritage significance of the Parramatta Gaol site and will be meeting with the NSW Government shortly to discuss future uses for the site," he said.

"The Land and Environment Court's orders require that the land be transferred to Deerubbin LALC by 23 December 2016.

"The Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 provides for the return of certain Crown land to Aboriginal people as compensation for the past dispossession including land that is not being used occupied."

The jail was opened in 1842 and closed its doors in 2011. During that time, it housed some of the country's most notorious criminals including Arthur 'Neddy' Smith's and underworld crime figure George Freeman.

Prior to the jail being built it was an important place for the traditional owners of Parramatta, the Darug people.

NSW Aboriginal Land Council deputy chairman Roy Ah-See said some in the community might not agree with the court's decision, but believed that land claim victories like this one were long overdue.

"The fact that it's got a historical building like this on it makes it interesting or engages the non-Aboriginal people out in the community," he said.

"I think it's a win-win for everyone. I think this is a good example of how our legislation is starting to compensate us as Aboriginal people from our dispossession since 1788."

I think it's a win-win for everyone.

*Roy Ah-See*

*Deputy Chairman, NSWALC*

Repairs to the jail are estimated to be at least \$500,000, while redevelopment of the premises could run in excess of \$100 million.

The council could develop residential properties on the land behind the jail to cover those costs, but that may prove difficult because the area was littered with asbestos and has more than two centuries of archaeological artefacts within the soil.

Parramatta MP Geoff Lee said the best course of action would be for the council to lease or transfer the site to the State Government.

Mr Lee said it would make a great arts and cultural precinct. "Clearly it's early times, but for me personally, this is not a Government point of view, I would love to see it become an arts and culture precinct," Mr Lee said.

"We could make an iconic place, people could walk around it, and we could restore it and have the whole precinct open up to the public."

*Allan Clarke and Jessica Kidd*



## NSWRC Contact Details Change Monday 9 February

### The new NSWRC postal address:



**NSW Reconciliation Council  
Studio 213  
3 Gladstone Street  
Newtown  
NSW 2042**

### The new NSWRC landline:



**(02) 8095 9600**

### Email address:

**[info@nswreconciliation.org.au](mailto:info@nswreconciliation.org.au)**



## FORMER ABORIGINAL PRISON TO BECOME CULTURAL SITE

Founded on Rottneest Island in 1863, *The Quod* was originally built to house Aboriginal male prisoners, where sadly and hundreds died in squalid conditions.

Later in 1911, *The Quod* was turned into tourist accommodation and formed part of the Rottneest Lodge.

Under a proposed \$20 million redevelopment plan, the tourist accommodation facility will be relocated, so *The Quod* may be returned to the Rottneest Island Authority.

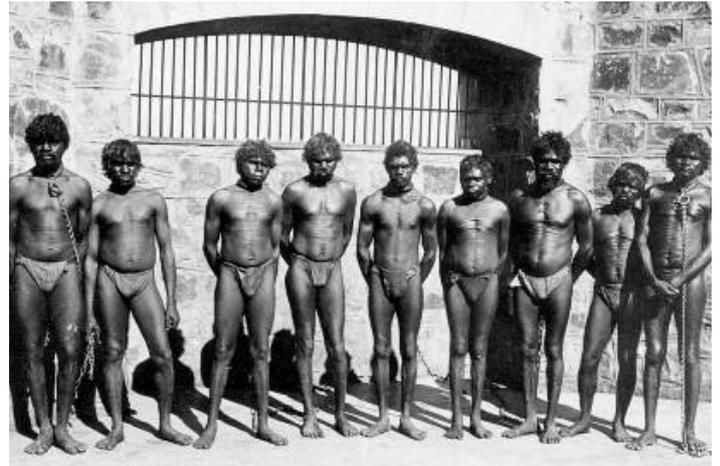
Acting Tourism Minister John Day said that Accommodation in former Aboriginal prison was no longer deemed appropriate.

"If we were starting from scratch now there's no way *The Quod* would be used for accommodation these days," he said. "It goes back to close to 100 years when it was converted for accommodation and obviously the public sensibilities and so on were quite different then but I think we have a much more enlightened view these days. Mr Day said it was too early to say how *The Quod* would be used in the future.

"The details of what will be provided in *The Quod* are yet to be worked out but there will be extensive involvement with the Aboriginal community, the Whadjuk people in particular, and they have in fact expressed their support," he said. "It is very important that the history and what's so important to the Aboriginal community is appropriately reflected.

"It's been an issue for the Rottneest Island Authority over a number of years, to try and ensure that there would be a more appropriate use of this site.

"I think there's been a much increased interest by the Aboriginal community, completely understandably, in recent years and all of that has played a role in getting to the point where we are now."



## HUMOUR IN THE SURVIVAL OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

Dr Pearl Duncan knows a thing or two about a good laugh. The Bribie Island Elder recently graduated with a PhD in Aboriginal Cultural Studies and Aboriginal humour.

"My thesis investigates the function of humour in the survival of Aboriginal people against all odds, including the onslaught of dispossession, powerlessness and oppression since the British invasion in 1788," Ms Duncan said. "Humour has been central to Aboriginal resilience, and a weapon of the weak in the maintenance of identity.

"My interest in Aboriginal humour is long-standing. It grows out of personal experience both as a child and as an adult when I witnessed humour being used in everyday life. Even as a small child, I noticed that humour prevailed in the daily discourse of the adults around me."

Source: *The University of Queensland*

See the full story: [www.uq.edu.au/news/article/2014/12/love-of-laughter-leads-phd-pearl](http://www.uq.edu.au/news/article/2014/12/love-of-laughter-leads-phd-pearl)

HOW ABOUT A COMPROMISE? WE KEEP THE LAND, THE MINERAL RIGHTS, NATURAL RESOURCES, FISHING, AND TIMBER, AND WE'LL ACKNOWLEDGE YOU AS THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF IT.



## 10th Anniversary of SOUTH NARRABEEN SLSC BREE TO THE BEACH

On the weekend of 30th January South Narrabeen Surf Club hosted their yearly Bree to the Beach weekend. The members bring down from Brewarrina to Narrabeen 40-50 People, mostly kids, to spend the weekend at the beach and for other planned activities.

This year 2015 is the 10th anniversary of this wonderful event. The children who come are chosen as a reward for their school attendance and apparently there is fierce competition in Bree to come.

Organisers at the surf club are so wonderful to the kids and the Elders who also come. It is such a great sight to see the smiles on everyone's faces – including the club members – as they enjoy each other's company and participate in the events held.



The Bree mob arrive early on the Friday morning after a very long overnight bus trip from Bree and stay at the surf club, returning home early on Monday morning, tired but very happy.

This year two girls had recently completed their Year 12 HSC in Bree. They were specially honoured at the very special *baked dinner* night on the Saturday night which was also attended by local community members and special guests.

Bianca Cochrane and Letisha Boney were presented with a gift for their achievements by Carol Ritchie on behalf of the Aboriginal Support Group which was humbly received by both girls. Our best wishes for their future was also imparted to both girls.

I visited to the club several times over the weekend and had a great time with the kids and their Elders. What a wonderful accomplishment by the organisers and members of the South Narrabeen SLSC – and may it continue well into the future!

Carol Ritchie

# BIALA HOSTELS GRADUATION 2014

Once again I was invited by Lara Rutley, the Senior Houseparent, to attend the graduation of Aboriginal Hostels in November. This year it was hosted by Biala and held at the Novatel Manly Pacific Hotel in Manly.

Of course, the Biala girls were very excited and dressed themselves beautifully for the night. There were some families of the girls who were able to attend which always makes it very special. I like to meet and talk to as many of these families as I can.

There were two Biala girls who graduated Year 12 this year, having done the HSC at Mackellar Girls High. Tarminya Brown and Jessica Newman were the achievers for 2014. They gave Tarminya (Jessica was not able to be present on the night) the very best wishes from the *Support Group* for her future endeavours.

There was a table of teachers from Mackellar which was great. These teachers are very good with the Biala girls, helping and supporting their education. The guest speaker was Emma Franks, as past Biala student who graduated Year 12. Emma is a wonderful young lady who spoke of her life since Biala. She is now married and is leading a very happy life in Canberra. She is really a role model for other students.

Tarminya also told me that her visual arts presentation is included in the student exhibition which is on at the Manly Art Gallery until March this year and I will ensure that I get to see her artwork of which she was very proud.

There were also five boys from Sylvania Hostel who graduated Year 12 in 2014, along with a girl from Dubbo Hostel.

A great night was had by all. It is wonderful to see all these students from Biala, Newcastle, Dubbo and Sylvania who are continuing their education through Aboriginal Hostels. In 2015 there are several girls at Biala who will be sitting for their HSC so another exciting graduation will be held.

Thanks to Lara and the girls.

Carol Ritchie

## *Thank You* to Anna Bell

Anna has recently moved to be closer to her Grandchildren.  
The ASG – MWP thank you Anna for all you have done over many years for the Aboriginal Support Group and the Indigenous community.  
We wish Anna well and much future happiness with her family.



## TWO NEW INDIGENOUS MPS MAKE QLD HISTORY



A former high school teacher and indigenous policy adviser, Ms Enoch made history this weekend by winning her Brisbane seat of Algester as Labor stunned the Liberal National Party at the state election.

She joins north Queenslander Billy Gordon, who took the seat of Cook, as Queensland Labor's first indigenous parliamentarians and the first in the state in 41 years.

"It's almost overwhelming, it's incredible – an incredible feeling," Ms Enoch told AAP on Sunday.

As the first Aboriginal woman elected to Queensland parliament, Leeanne Enoch has vowed to floodlight the path first set by her famous forebear, Aunty Kath Walker.

She said it was the slashing of funding to community organisations which triggered her decision to follow in the footsteps of her "Aunty Kath" – pioneering activist and poet Oodgeroo Noonuccal.

"We're from the same people, the same nation (Nunukul-Nughi), and she was the first Aboriginal woman to run as a Labor candidate after the 1967 referendum," Ms Enoch said. "She set a beacon on the path where you could go that path is lit up, I wonder what's down there?"

Ms Enoch, who paid credit to her passionate volunteers, said the onus was on her and Mr Gordon to transform the excitement of their success to a lasting legacy.

Mr Gordon was born in Innisfail and describes himself as a long-time local with strong ties to the far north Queensland community. He is a father of five who has worked in a wide range of different industries and spent time in the Army Reserve.

According to his Queensland Labour online profile, Mr Graham has worked cutting sugarcane and on banana farms, in the construction of houses in the Gulf of Carpentaria and has even been a barman at a pub in Normanton. "Forty years it's been since we've seen an Aboriginal person in parliament and that was Uncle Eric Deeral and he was there for one term and that was it," she said. "My job and Billy's job is just to put the floodlight on the path – to say this is possible."

Source: AAP

## NSW'S FIRST KOORI COURT OPENS IN WESTERN SYDNEY

Aboriginal Elders hope a new court for youth at the Parramatta Children's Court will help to drive down high rates of Indigenous incarceration.

Presently around 60 per cent of the young offenders locked up in juvenile justice centres in New South Wales.

Magistrate Sue Duncombe said she wanted to open the new court because she said current approaches were not keeping Aboriginal teenagers out of jail.

"They're here really because of disadvantage, because they don't have strong connections to family, community and they just go off the rails," she said.

"I found it shocking and I really just wanted to make a difference, I wanted to do something differently, I wanted to give them a chance to show that they can make a difference themselves."

When an Indigenous offender comes to the Koori Court, two elders and a magistrate will sit face-to-face with the offender.

Magistrate Duncombe said the court was interested in finding out the reasons behind why the offender had been arrested. "Instead of sentencing and then getting them to do programs, we're saying, *show us that you can make a difference and show us you can stay out of trouble.*"

Several elders have agreed to take part in the trial, including David Williams, from the Bundjalung tribe in northern NSW. "I always advise the young people I'm with that it doesn't take brains to do the wrong thing, any dipstick can do that. But if you want to stay on the right side of the fence, I'm here to give you a hand," he said.

The year-long trial will give the offenders more say in which kinds of programs they attend, in the hope of keeping them out of jail.

The elders will look at whether young offenders have lost connections to their culture and community.

Indigenous offenders will sit down face-to-face with the elders, rather than standing up in front of a magistrate, creating an informal atmosphere.

"If you see elders there and you look at those elders and you think 'I've told these people I'm Aboriginal and yet here I am fronting up in front of Aboriginal elders and I'm letting the team down', they are going to get that sense of responsibility," Mr Williams said.

"That is so important, that there are consequences if you screw up."

If the trial is considered a success, the state government will consider running a Koori court at Bidura and Campbelltown.

Victoria's Koori Court was established in 1989, and New Zealand also has a similar system for young Maori offenders.

Bridget Brennan  
ABC News – The World Today



# THE COLOURED DIGGER By Sapper Bert Beros

*He came and joined the colours, when the war god's anvil rang,  
He took up modern weapons to replace his boomerang,  
He waited for no call-up, he didn't need a push,  
He came in from the stations, and the townships of the bush.  
He helped when help was wanting, just because he wasn't deaf;  
He is right amongst the columns of the fighting A.I.F.  
He is always there when wanted, with his Owen gun or Bren,  
He is in the forward area, the place where men are men.  
He proved he's still a warrior, in action not afraid,  
He faced the blasting red-hot fire from mortar and grenade;  
He didn't mind when food was low, or we were getting thin,  
He didn't growl or worry then, he'd cheer us with his grin.  
He'd heard us talk democracy –, They preach it to his face –  
Yet knows that in our Federal House there's no one of his race.  
He feels we push his kinsmen out, where cities do not reach,  
And Parliament has yet to hear the Aborigine's maiden speech.  
One day he'll leave the Army, then join the League he shall,  
And he hopes we'll give a better deal to the Aboriginal.*



Join us and march side by side with our Black Diggers in 2015.

For details see

<http://redfernoralhistory.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/ColouredDiggerAnzacDayMarch>

<http://redfernoralhistory.org>

## ABORIGINAL FLAG PLANNED FOR PORT LINCOLN COUNCIL

The Aboriginal flag could soon fly next to the Australian flag above the Port Lincoln City Council chambers.

The council voted this week to look at flying the Aboriginal flag on an additional flagpole above the civic centre building, as part of its budget considerations for 2015/16. Councillor Travis Rogers put forward a motion for three flags to be flown - the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags - but councillor Linda Davies moved a successful amendment to exclude the Torres Strait Islander flag because there was no historic connection to the area. Mr Rogers said he had been researching the idea for some time and had consulted widely including with both Barngarla and Nauo people.

He said the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags were official flags of Australia and important symbols for Aboriginal people in Australia, representing "cultural resilience, affirmation, inclusion and identity". "The culture we have here in Australia is profound and we should celebrate that," he said.

Mr Rogers said many buildings in Australia flew the Aboriginal flag as well as the Australian flag and various councils flew the Aboriginal flag from the town halls; the first being Newcastle City Council in 1977.

He said official recognition did not mean that these flags had equal status to the national flag and it did not create "nations within a nation".

Councillor Andrea Broadfoot said according to the latest Census data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Aboriginal people made up 5.6 per cent of Port Lincoln's population plus a large transient population and flying the Aboriginal flag was about the council showing leadership in reconciliation.

Councillor Neville Starke voted against the motion, raising concerns the council might be getting "bogged down in political correctness".

"I'm a firm believer of one flag, one nation."

Mr Starke said he would accept two flags, "at a push", but not the Torres Strait Islander flag.

Councillor Diana Mislov also voted against the motion because she felt the decision should include the Barngarla people. "I think this is quite an important step for Barngarla people and the Aboriginal community at large and would like their input.

"I think it would be very important to collaborate with the native title holders to make sure we don't do anything that's offensive to them and make sure we do it properly."

The council will also look at using solar power to illuminate the Australian flag so it does not have to be taken down at night.

*Billie Harrison  
Port Lincoln Times*



## Monday March 9

7.30pm start

**ASG – MWP Information Night** Free Event – All Welcome  
**Aboriginal Sites in Sydney's North** With guest speaker Bob Conroy  
Mona Vale Memorial Hall, 1606 Pittwater Road, Mona Vale. See Page 6 for details

## Monday March 16

7.00pm start

**Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment**  
Come and meet the candidates from the three electorates.  
The Tramshed 1395A Pittwater Rd, Narrabeen. <http://www.narrabeenlagoon.org.au/>

## Monday April 13

7.30pm start

**ASG – MWP Business Meeting** – All ASG Members welcome  
Mona Vale Memorial Hall, 1606 Pittwater Road, Mona Vale.

## Monday May 26

7.30pm start

**SORRY DAY**  
National Sorry Day is an Australia-wide observance which gives people the chance to come together and share the steps towards healing for the *Stolen Generations*, their families and communities. *Stolen Generations* refer to Indigenous Australians who were forcibly removed from their families and communities. [www.nsd.org.au](http://www.nsd.org.au)

## May 27 to June 3

**Reconciliation Week**  
Theme for 2015: *It's time to change it up*  
This week offers all Australians the opportunity to focus on reconciliation, to hear about the cultures and histories of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and to explore new and better ways of meeting challenges in our communities. [www.nswreconciliation.org.au](http://www.nswreconciliation.org.au)

## Wednesday June 3

7pm-9pm

**MABO DAY**  
Commemorating Eddie Koiki Mabo – a Torres Strait Islander whose campaign for Indigenous land rights led to a landmark decision of the High Court of Australia that overturned the legal fiction of *terra nullius* which had characterised Australian law with regards to land and title since the voyage of James Cook in 1770.

## Sunday July 5 to Sunday July 12

**NAIDOC WEEK**  
Theme for 2015: *We all Stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect and Celebrate*  
NAIDOC celebrations are held around Australia to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. [www.nsd.org.au](http://www.nsd.org.au)

## Tuesday August 4

**National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day**  
An opportunity for all Australians to show their support for Aboriginal children, as well as learn about the crucial impact that community, culture and family play in the life of every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child.

**ASG-MWP would like to thank Dee Why RSL, Pittwater RSL, Forestville RSL  
Pittwater Council and Warringah Council for their continued support in 2015**



## THANKS for renewing your membership!

If your \$25 renewal and optional donation has slipped your mind please direct deposit to:

ASGMWP Commonwealth Bank Dee Why  
BSB: 062 155 Acc: 00 906 332

Please use your NAME as the reference in the transfer.

Send an email to [asgmwp.net](http://asgmwp.net) direct from your bank when transferring (Banks now have this facility on the bottom of your transfer) and a receipt will be emailed to your current email address.

Alternatively post your cheque to:  
P.O. Box 129 NARRABEEN NSW 2101

**With your contribution we can make a  
difference to Aboriginal Education**

*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](mailto: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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