



asgmwp.net

Elimatta

Autumn 2014

Aboriginal Support Group – Manly Warringah Pittwater

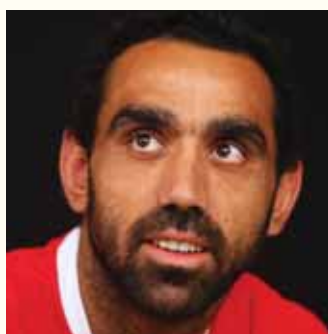
ASG acknowledges the Guringai People, the traditional owners of the lands and the waters of this area

GREAT AUSTRALIANS OF THE YEAR!

ADAM GOODES

NSW Australian of the Year Award winner

Adam Goodes is the first sports person to win the award since former Australian Test captain Steve Waugh in 2004, and before that the likes of Pat Rafter (2002), Mark Taylor (1999) and Cathy Freeman (1998). "I believe racism is a community issue which we all need to address and that's why racism stops with me," Goodes said.



The 34-year-old has been a strong role model for kids, especially in Indigenous communities, through his work in youth detention centres and through his Goodes-O'Loughlin (GO) Foundation.

This year the foundation will be offering scholarships to ten Indigenous girls and boys to attend private schools in Sydney.

<http://www.australianoftheyear.org.au/honour-roll/?view=fullView&recipientID=1144>

FRED CHANEY

Senior Australian of the Year Award winner

Mr Chaney, Co-founder of *Reconciliation Australia*, is confident Australia is ready to support constitutional recognition of indigenous people. The full involvement of Indigenous people is essential; the programs must engage Aboriginal people.



"We have to work in partnership with Aboriginal people ... and if we do that then the political firepower that's being directed, the bureaucratic firepower and the community firepower will enable the Aboriginal people of Australia to have their rightful place in this country."

In 2014, fourteen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were state and territory finalists for the *Australian of the Year Awards*.

<http://www.australianoftheyear.org.au/honour-roll/?view=fullView&recipientID=1125>



JOURNEY TO RECOGNITION See article on page 8

Guringai FESTIVAL 2014

Wellness and Wellbeing for all People **MAY 26 TO JULY 13**

for events that will be hosted by the Aboriginal Support Group – Manly Warringah Pittwater

<http://asgmwp.org/festival>



**Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians
WILL WE GET IT RIGHT?**

Be advised – this Newsletter contains images of Aboriginal people who have passed away

The Best We Forget

From the Boer Wars onwards, *Aboriginal Diggers* have served the Australian Defence Forces in every major armed conflict.

“Unable to vote but eligible to die.”—Richard Wynne, Victorian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

Additionally, Indigenous Australians were the backbone of the cattle industry which helped feed soldiers in both world wars, while Aboriginal women assisted in hospitals and factories although they were not paid equal wages.

“When my uncle came back from serving in Korea he couldn’t even get a beer in a pub let alone a pension, and he wasn’t permitted to become a citizen until 1968”.

—John Kinsella, nephew of Australia’s most famous Aboriginal soldier, Captain Reg Saunders MBE.

Len Waters was the first Aboriginal fighter pilot to serve in the Royal Australian Air Force during WWII.



When Aboriginal men and women who tried to enlist were rejected they were sent back to their communities and often arrested because they were not allowed to leave their prescribed area.

In 2008 just over 1,000 Aboriginal people were in the Australian Defence Forces, representing 1.4% of all employees. Aboriginal people comprise about 2.3% of the total Australian population.

It is little wonder our Indigenous population regard Australia’s settlement as an *invasion*.

The following is a list of armed conflicts in which Aboriginal soldiers served Australia. Note the number of conflicts they served in prior to 1967 before receiving recognition as *Australian citizens*.

OVERSEAS ARMED CONFLICTS

First Boer War	1880 -1881	Transvaal, South Africa
Second Boer War	1899 -1902	Transvaal, South Africa
World War I	1914 -1918	mainly Europe
World War II	1937 -1945	Europe, SE Asia, Middle East, Africa
Occupation of Japan	1946 -1951	Japan
Korean War	1950 -1953	Korea
Malayan Emergency	1950 -1960	Malaya
Indonesian Confrontation	1963 -1966	Indonesia, Malaysia
Vietnam War	1962 -1975	Vietnam

Aboriginal people are counted as Australians 1967

First Gulf War	1990 -1991	Iraq, Kuwait
Afghanistan	2001 -present	Afghanistan
Second Gulf War	2003 -present	Iraq
Peacekeeping	1947 -present	Worldwide

AUSTRALIAN CIVIL ‘FRONTEIR’ WARS

Hawkesbury and Nepean Wars	1790 -1816	New South Wales
Black Wars	1803 -1830	Tasmania
Port Phillip District Wars	1830 -1850	New South Wales
Kalkadoon Wars	1870 -1890	Queensland
Western Australian Conflict	1890 -1898	Western Australia

‘Yininmadyemi’

Aboriginal artist Tony Albert whose family has over 80-years of combined military service will create a public artwork for Hyde Park to honour the sacrifices and bravery of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service men and women. His dramatic and *confronting* sculpture work is inspired by his grandfather’s story about himself and six soldiers who escaped from a prisoner of war camp in Germany during WWI, only to be caught by Italian

soldiers who lined them up to be executed.

The Italians shot three of the men before realising their mistake – the men were POWs and should have been returned to Germany.

Mr Albert’s artwork is a reminder of how his grandfather and fellow service people were treated differently to their white comrades after the war.

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When service men and women returned to Australia, they were given land for their service. However, not only was Eddie and his fellow Aboriginal soldiers not given any land, their land was still being taken away. Eddie and fellow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women defended our country, they were prepared to fall but upon returning to our country, they were left to fall again – *yininmadyemi*, thou didst let fall,” Mr Albert said.

The City of Sydney-commissioned artwork will be installed in Hyde Park South by Anzac Day 2015, to mark the centenary of Australia’s involvement in WWI. The artwork will be composed of four bullets standing seven metres tall to represent those who survived and 3 three fallen shells in remembrance of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Author and Wiradjuri woman Anita Heiss will work with Mr Albert to help capture service people’s war stories to inscribe on the bullets.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have served Australia in the military from before 1880 to the present, but it may never be known how many officially served as ethnic origin and were not required to be documented.

The artwork was selected by representatives from the City’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Design Advisory panels, the Eora Journey Public Art Working Group, the Art Gallery of NSW and the Australian War Memorial. The selection followed a competitive and open submission process that attracted proposals from 14 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, which were evaluated by the panel.

The City’s History Unit is calling for current and former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service men and women to share their stories of war and peace for a special oral history project.



“I feel that the most powerful artworks relating to war are those that use bold and evocative images to stir strong emotions in visitors. I feel that the scale of the bullets, at 100 times their original size, also lends power of abstraction to this artwork ...and I have chosen to arrange the bullets with some standing and some fallen over, to tell a story.” – Tony Albert, Artist.

Culture the focus of new management plan for the historic Aboriginal site

A new management plan for the historic Mt Grenfell site near Cobar will be on display until March.

A new management plan for the historic Aboriginal site, Mount Grenfell, near Cobar is focusing on the cultural significance of the area.

A management plan developed by the Ngiyampaa people and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is on public display until March.

It focuses on the cultural significance of the site, as well as ecological values and focuses on the actions that need to be undertaken over the next few years.

A spokesperson for the NPWS said the plan will also look at better ways of managing pests including goats and looking after significant rock art sites while boosting tourism to the area.



The Mount Grenfell site was handed back to traditional owners in 2004.

Cobar Local Aboriginal Lands Council spokesperson said it is hoped a new management plan for the site will encourage the traditional owners to reconnect with the country.

“A lot of effort has gone into the plan to try to identify ways in which the Ngiyampaa people can access Mount Grenfell and get that reconnection occurring.”

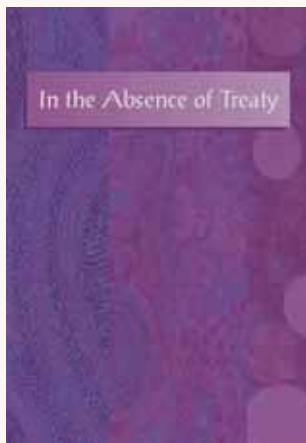
At Mount Grenfell, art featuring all facets of Aboriginal life covers rocky overhangs surrounding the park’s waterhole.

Many are linear paintings done by applying wet pigment with a fingertip or natural brush. Others are hand stencils. In some places, ochre and white pipeclay have been applied thickly and left to dry.

More recent paintings have been superimposed over older ones. There are stick figures, human figures, images of birds and animals, medicine, food, the landscape and dreaming stories. This art remains deeply significant to Ngiyampaa people.



YOUR SPECIAL INVITATION TO ASG-MWP INFORMATION NIGHT **MONDAY MARCH 10**



BOOK LAUNCH *In the Absence of Treaty*

This book explores the current inadequacy of the process used in engaging with Aboriginal people, which results in control slipping away from them. It provides concise but incisive account from recent reports about the reasons for the ongoing and growing frustration of many Aboriginal people in the NT. In doing so it hints at possibly the only solution - treaties.

This important book Published by 'concerned Australians' and possibly a DVD will be available for sale on the night. To read the review by The Hon Alastair Nicholson AO RFD QC online visit <http://asgmwp.org/review>

This is a FREE EVENT which includes a light supper

Your donations are welcome

Venue: Mona Vale Memorial Hall, 1606 Pittwater Rd, Mona Vale. 7.30pm start



FREE MOVIE SCREENING *UTOPIA – The Award-winning documentary*

A vast region in northern Australia, *Utopia* is home to the oldest living culture in the world. The film will describe not only the uniqueness of the *first Australians*, but their trail of tears and betrayal and resistance – from one utopia to another. The Aboriginal Support Group-MWP is also proud to present our special guest speaker for this *Information Night* – Paddy Gibson, Associate Producer of the film.

See the trailer:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ht8_5UlcgSQ



LAST LOOK



Redfern's symbolic mural was restored by members of the local community. Elouera-Tony Mundine Gym manager, Alex Tui originally painted the flag in the year 2000 to give the local kids a sense of pride in their heritage.

Alex Tui recruited kids from the community to help repaint the Aboriginal flag on the back of the gym, before it is torn down to make way for redevelopment.

Its days are numbered but Alex Tui is determined Redfern's famous Aboriginal flag mural will "go down looking pretty".

The painting has become a local landmark, gradually becoming more exposed as the derelict houses around it were knocked down. The gym, too, is slated for demolition as the Block is redeveloped, but an image of the mural will feature in a replacement gym.

The once-notorious neighbourhood is set to be transformed with student accommodation, open space and affordable housing, managed by the Aboriginal Housing Company, under the Pemulwuy project.

THREE SISTERS DECLARED ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SITE

Blue Mountains' most striking landmark, the *Three Sisters*, has been declared an Aboriginal heritage place by NSW Heritage Minister Robyn Parker in a ceremony on Sunday 19th January 2014.

"The Three Sisters are significant to Aboriginal culture as a mythical place of legends and stories," Ms Parker said. "The area down into the valley below the *Three Sisters* was used as a ceremonial space with legend telling how the *Three Sisters* came to be the land formations commanding a view of the *Megalong Valley* in traditional times.

The area is highly valued by the Aboriginal peoples of the Gundungurra, Wiradjuri, Thurawal and Darug nations for its majestic land formations, incredible views across the ranges and down into the valley to the Kedumba River below."

Gundungurra elder Aunty Merle Williams said her father was born in a tin humpy in the gully below the famous rock towers. She secretly records the location of the carvings and paintings that tell its history.



Acknowledgment of the site as an Aboriginal place will "bring recognition of its cultural heritage and the right to be consulted if things are going to be done", Aunty Merle said.

In the past, the *Three Sisters* had been damaged by rock climbing and hang-gliding, which is now prohibited.

WA's largest marine sanctuary to be protected

Western Australia's largest marine sanctuary, to be created in the state's north, will be jointly managed by the state and traditional owners, the government has confirmed.

At a ceremony at Camden Sound in the Kimberley, WA environment Minister Albert Jacob signed the first ever joint management agreement for a marine park with the Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation.

The new Lalang-garram Camden Sound Marine Park will safeguard the primary calving area of humpback whales that migrate annually along the WA coast between the Antarctic and the Kimberley.

Other species that will be protected include the newly-discovered snubfin dolphin, marine turtles, dugongs, saltwater crocodiles, and several species of sawfish.

The park ultimately will cover more than 7000 sq km, or 700,000 ha, once the park boundary is extended to the high water mark.

Montgomery Reef, in the Kimberley, to be protected as part of the Lalang-garram Camden Sound Marine Park.

The agreement will also see the employment of existing indigenous rangers in the area.

"The creation of this park ...will not only protect the ocean environment, it will pave the way for training and employment opportunities for traditional owners," Mr Jacob said.



A humpback whale breaches in the Kimberley marine park.

Picture: Annabelle Sandes Source: Supplied

Conservation group Environs Kimberley said the sanctuary was destined to become a tourism icon which would be protected for future generations.

"The natural and cultural values of the Kimberley coast are now truly on the map," director Martin Pritchard said.

Pew Charitable Trusts oceans director Michelle Grady said the sanctuary put WA in a national leadership position on marine conservation.

"In an equally historic step, jointly managing the Kimberley's marine life with traditional owners is a logical step to take to harness local knowledge," Ms Grady said.



The proposed defunding of the peak body for Aboriginal Legal Services would undermine the Abbott Government's efforts to improve education and employment for Aboriginal people, according to ANTaR.

ANTaR National Director, Gary Highland said that defunding the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (NATSILS) would lead to more Aboriginal people going to prison and undermine efforts to improve Aboriginal community safety.

"Over the past decade the numbers of Aboriginal women imprisoned has increased by 59 percent and men by 35 percent. We need more action, not less from Government to turn this situation around," said Mr. Highland.

The Australian newspaper reported today that the Abbott Government will defund the peak National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services and all law reform and policy officer positions within each state and territory affiliate saving \$9 million over three years.

"The money saved will be a fraction of the damage done to Aboriginal families by neutering the legal peak body that represents them," Mr. Highland said.

Mr. Highland said that the Abbott Government has a genuine commitment to improving Aboriginal education and employment, but the continued high rates of incarceration are a major barrier to achieving its reform agenda.

"We won't give Aboriginal children a good education while they are 25 times more likely to be incarcerated than other Australian children."

"The fact that Aboriginal people are more than 18 times more likely to be imprisoned than other Australians is one of the major factors preventing participation in the workforce," he said.

"In order to turn this situation around we need to develop sound, evidence based policies. It makes no sense to defund one of the organisations that is best able to do this."

Mr. Highland said that in recent years the leadership of NATSILS had significantly improved the professionalism and effectiveness of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal sector. These gains would be lost if the organisation was defunded.

The decision to defund NATSILS was also against the wishes of the Chair of the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council, Warren Mundine.

"We urge the Prime Minister to take this matter in hand and reverse the decision to defund NATSILS and the policy officer positions in state Aboriginal Legal Services," Mr. Highland said.

Gary Highland
ANTaR Media Contact
telephone 0418 476 940

OUR NATIVE STINGLESS BEE



Ngarruu is an Indigenous name for our native stingless *sugarbag* bee. It has been, and still is, a valued source of food, medicine, sealant and glue through its wax and honey amongst Aboriginal people.

Tetragonula Carbonaria (*sugarbag* bee) is currently growing in popularity within communal urban environments, through being box-hived, for honey production and garden pollination.

There are about 10 species of stingless bees in Australia. Each nest has a queen, drones and thousands of worker bees. The nests of stingless bees contain a central structure of horizontal cells where the eggs are laid, surrounded by a network of honey pots.

Here at Permaculture Northern Beaches we are launching a Native Bee Program. Our primary vision is to help educate, pollinate and preserve this bee's future existence, cultural importance and expansion on our land and within our community.

We will be producing our own Stingless Bee Boxes and are looking for community places, gardens or areas of cultural importance to displace our spring propagation of box-hives. This will be an ongoing annual multiplication of harmless bee populations within our community.

If you would like to be active and participate in this initiative, or help by donating to our initial hive stock, then please visit: www.permaculturenorthernbeaches.com.au



BIALA GRADUATION 2013

In mid-November 2013, I was invited by Lara Ruttley, Senior Houseparent at Biala Hostel, Allambie Heights NSW, to attend the graduation ceremony hosted by the Dubbo Hostel. I am very fortunate that I have now been to many such graduations.

We all set-off from Biala on Friday morning for our road trip to Dubbo – a long way but very well driven by Di, assistant to Lara, and Norman the weekend cook. Lara did not have to do any driving this time so she could relax a bit after a very busy year.

Accommodation was great – plenty of room for us all, including Narelle, a support teacher from Mackellar, and myself. We stayed in a holiday park for two nights in a dormitory block. Four years ago we stayed here and it was very hot but this time the weather was much milder.

On the first night we all went for a very tasty Chinese meal with the boys from Sylvania Hostel, which was fun.

The next day the younger girls stayed at the park with Di and spent time in the swimming pool, while the rest of us went into the township, a couple of girls going to the movies, the rest going shopping. Then back to the park to get ready for the graduation that night.

Once the girls had done their fingernails, hair, etc., and got themselves dressed, we were ready to go! All the girls looked really beautiful in their graduation outfits and shoes, very well groomed and very excited.

The graduation dinner was held at the Racing Club which was wonderfully decorated by Dubbo hostel. A really nice meal was served, including entrees of kangaroo and crocodile (I had never tasted crocodile and it was delicious).

There were speeches and presentations to students from all the hostels (Biala, Sylvania, Newcastle and Dubbo). Biala had some year 10 graduates but no year 12 students this time. However, in 2014 there will be a couple of girls doing year 12.

There was a good band playing and it was not long before girls and boys were up dancing together and having a lot of fun. A good night was had by us all.

Quite a few of the girls had family members who had come to the graduation, some from western NSW and some came up from Sydney. It is always nice for the girls when families are able to do this.

Everyone slept well that night and we awoke ready to leave for Sydney at about 10am. We arrived back home, all tired but satisfied with the weekend.

Thank you Lara for inviting me. To the staff and the girls also thanks to for this very special weekend.

Next year the graduation will be hosted by Biala, so a busy year for Lara to get this organised.

2013 was a good year for Biala, Lara and the staff. The teachers at Mackellar were very supportive to the girls. Lara still had homework centre helpers and also used the *Youth Reach* programme at Brookvale for homework.

Biala ended the year with 14 girls, Tarminya, Jessica, Charlie, Rebecca, Mia, Skye, Chrishnia, Ali, Pam, Tjanara, Nadia and TJ (Tjanara), Amanda and Beverley.

The girls have been very busy with outings, sport (I watched two girls play AFL), others played league, union and touch footie. Last term they played indoor basketball, organised with *Youth Reach* on Saturday nights at Narrabeen (I also watched a couple of times, it is great to see). This will be on again this term if Youth Reach can get sponsorship. They also had a special outing to *Jamberoo* at the end of the term. This group of girls at Biala were a really nice lot and I hope they all come back this year.

Carol Ritchie
ASG Member



BRE YOUTH AMBASSADORS Warringah/Brewarrina Sister City Youth Exchange

Our Sister Cities Youth Exchange Program sees six young people from Warringah spending a week in outback Brewarrina every winter school holidays for free. Activities include visiting Lightning Ridge, learning about Aboriginal language and culture and seeing the 40,000-year-old Aboriginal fish traps. For more information contact 9942 2312.

For the group of six girls that visited Warringah this year their Itinerary included:

- Beach Safety with Council Lifeguards at Dee Why



- Lunch at Dee Why with WYAC and Warringah Youth Ambassadors
- Visit Aboriginal Learning Centre at Northern Beaches TAFE
- Harley Ride with *Northern Beaches Social Riders*
- *Home and Away* visit at Palm Beach plus a lot more.



INDIGENOUS RECOGNITION PLAN REVIVED



The PM has promised to pursue the proposal for recognition of Australia's Indigenous people in the Constitution.

After allocating \$10-million to promote the concept, the former Labor government shelved plans for a referendum on recognition of Indigenous Australians in the Constitution. The Labor government argued there was no point in pursuing the matter because there was insufficient community support.

Now, as Zara Zaher reports, the idea has been taken up by the Coalition government. In his New Year message, Prime Minister Tony Abbott highlighted Indigenous recognition as a key priority for 2014.

"I'll also start the conversation about a constitutional referendum to recognise the first Australians. This would complete our Constitution rather than change it. We are a great country and a great people. We believe in family, in community, in doing things for love and not just money, and living our ideals."

Following the Coalition's election win in September, it established a new parliamentary committee to advise on proposed changes to the wording of the Constitution.

The committee is led by Australia's first Indigenous Lower House MP, Ken Wyatt, with Labor Senator Nova Peris as deputy chair.

One area of debate centres around removing so-called race provisions of the Constitution.

First, there's Section 25, which raises the possibility of state laws disqualifying people of a particular race from voting at state elections. And there's Section 51, which gives the federal government power to make special laws for people of any race.

The chair of the Abbott government's Indigenous Advisory Committee, Warren Mundine, told the ABC the provisions potentially affect every Australian.

"It actually talks about the race laws; it actually means the race laws are about all Australians. In theory – and I can't ever see this happening – but in theory we could make laws about people of Indian descent in Australia. We could make laws about people who come from eastern Europe, the Slavic people in Australia. So yes, the race laws not only involve Indigenous people, but involve every Australian."

The previous Labor government allocated \$10-million for community consultations on Constitutional change, led by the group called *Recognise Australia*. The group's Deputy Campaign Director, Tanya Hosch says there's still a long way to go before an Indigenous recognition proposal is ready to be put to voters at a referendum.

"There's no question that there's an enormous amount of work to do and it's really going to require the heart and commitment of Australians everywhere to help us reach this milestone because you do need a very strong people's movement and a committed people's movement to make something like this happen. We've got really good reasons I think to be optimistic about our chances on this but we should never underestimate just how much work has to take place to make sure that Australians are feeling well informed about this come referendum day and understand the significance."

Chairman of Indigenous Central Land Council, Maurie Japarta Ryan, says Indigenous recognition in the Constitution is achievable. He says all political parties must unite on the matter, and involve Aboriginal elders in drawing up a referendum proposal.

"What needs to be included and Australians should not be afraid of this is the recognition of the first nation's people of Australia of our laws that should be embedded within the Constitution of Australia. This is why I'd like to bring lawmen and lawwomen and elders to sit down with politicians and re-write sections. Its 113 years with government procrastinating for that long. And I congratulate Tony Abbott for getting up and saying this and maybe this year it can be done with the cooperation of all Australians."

The Australian Greens have welcomed the issue returning to the political agenda. Greens Senator Richard Di Natale says his party will be supporting efforts to reach agreement on a referendum proposal.

"The Greens certainly support the commitment from the Abbott government. We support the fact that this has been recognised as a priority. We're a little disappointed that progress to date has been slow. But now's the time to lay the groundwork, to work very hard on getting our founding documents right so that it recognises the original inhabitants of this land, our indigenous brothers and sisters."

The federal Opposition's Indigenous Affairs spokesman, Shayne Neumann, says the Labor Party will seek to achieve bi-partisan agreement on a proposal to put to a referendum. But Mr Neumann says he's not expecting much progress in relation to other aspects of the Coalition's approach to Indigenous affairs.

"I think what Indigenous people want around the country is real change in *Closing the Gap*, on health education, employment and a whole variety of areas including disability and justice. But the Prime Minister seemed to think that you change the constitution that have limited impact and limited activity with respect to *Closing the Gap*. And I think the Prime Minister really has a lot to answer for if he wants to be the Indigenous Affairs Prime Minister, I think it's really in his own imagination at the moment. So I'm anticipating some really big cuts to Indigenous Affairs and that's what Coalition governments have done in the past when they've come to power and that's what I'm expecting from Tony Abbott next year

Zara Zaher
World News Australia Radio



SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL EVENTS IN 2014

February 13

National Apology Day

This event marks the anniversary of the *Apology* to Australia's Indigenous peoples in the House of Representatives in 2008 by former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, apologising for past laws, policies and practices that have impacted on Australia's First Nations Peoples, particularly members of the *Stolen Generations*. The motion was supported by the Opposition and passed through both houses of Parliament; Brendan Nelson (former Leader of the Opposition) gave a formal response. Many members of the *Stolen Generations* were present in the Chamber to hear the *Apology* and thousands more filled the Great Hall of Parliament House and flowed out onto the lawns to watch it on big screens. The *Apology* was broadcast across Australia.

March 20

National Close the Gap Day

Every year people are encouraged to hold their own event on this day to raise awareness about the 17-year life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Since 2006, the *Close the Gap* campaign has achieved an enormous amount with community support. In 2013, there were over 900 *National Close the Gap Day* events around Australia.



March 21

Harmony Day

A day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in *Harmony Day* activities, people can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and enrich it.



May 26

National Sorry Day

A significant day for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and particularly for *Stolen Generations* survivors. The idea of holding a *Sorry Day* was first mentioned as one of the 54 recommendations of the *Bringing Them Home* report, tabled in Parliament in 1997. This report was the result of a two year National Inquiry into the forcible removal of Indigenous children from their families, communities and cultural identity. On 26 May 1998 the first *Sorry Day* was held in Sydney – and is now commemorated across Australia, with many thousands of people participating in memorials and commemorative events to honour the *Stolen Generations*.



May 27 – June 3

National Reconciliation Week

This is an ideal time for everyone to join the reconciliation conversation and reflect on shared histories, contributions and achievements. Held annually it is a time to celebrate and build on the respectful relationships shared by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians. *National Reconciliation Week* is framed by two key events in Australia's history, which provide strong symbols for reconciliation:

27 May 1967 – the referendum that saw more than 90 per cent of Australians vote to give the Australian Government power to make laws for Indigenous people and recognise them in the census.

3 June 1992 – the Australian High Court delivered the *Mabo* decision, which recognised that Indigenous people have a special relationship with the land. This paved the way for land rights known as native title. *Mabo Day* is held 3 June to celebrate the life of Eddie Koiki Mabo.



July 6 – 13

National NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians in various fields. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920s which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians. *NAIDOC* stands for *National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee*. Activities take place across the nation during *NAIDOC Week* and All Australians are encouraged to participate.



August 4

National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

This annual celebration of Indigenous children was first observed by the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) in 1988. Each year SNAICC produces and sends out resources to help celebrations for this cultural event.



August 9

International Day of the World's Indigenous People

This event was first proclaimed by the General Assembly in December 1994, to be celebrated every year during the first International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995 – 2004). In 2004, the Assembly proclaimed a Second International Decade, from 2005 – 2014, with the theme of *A decade for action and dignity*.



Respect and Recognition for Indigenous Sites

PITTWATER NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT! – Neil Evers, Editor



DUAL NAMING FOR PITTWATER

I am a proud descendant of the Garigal people and my Indigenous ancestors were custodians of the lands around Pittwater and Barrenjoey for thousands of years.

Back in 1836 my Great great Uncle Bowen Bungaree lived with his family (a wife and four children) in the Customs house at the bottom of Barrenjoey Headland. Bungaree was a police tracker and one of the first Aboriginal persons to be given a rifle for his own protection. Later in 1853 Bowen was murdered by bush rangers – shot in the back while protecting the new settlers of the area on a hill in Newport. Today the site of Bowen Bungaree's murder is sign posted as *Bush Rangers Hill*. Is it appropriate that we recognise the colonial name of this site without respect to our traditional land owners?

From Tasmania, to Melbourne, Hornsby, Dubbo, and Grafton are just a few of many places that have already adopted a *Dual Naming* policy for road signs that feature corresponding Colonial and Aboriginal names. Here in Pittwater, it is our responsibility to recognise and preserve important cultural sites on Guringai land for our future generations – and the introduction of *Dual Naming* in Pittwater area is a *must*.

Please help by writing to Pittwater Mayor, Jacqueline Townsend to show your support *Dual Naming* today!

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



HANDS OFF BARRENJOEY

Barrenjoey marks Sydney's most northern point and holds significant natural and Indigenous cultural values.

For this reason, the proposed Plan of Management by the NSW Department of Environment is of great concern to our local community in Pittwater, as it commits to:

"...construction of new buildings at Barrenjoey Head, in the vicinity of the fishermen's shacks at the base of the headland or in other visually unobtrusive areas, for the purpose of accommodation for visitors and tourists, conferences, functions, retail (ancillary to visitor facilities and amenities), restaurants, cafes, kiosks and other food and beverage outlets, or other visitor and tourist purposes"

– Proposed amendments to the Plan of Management, May 2013

Please voice support the *People for Pittwater* and say "Hands Off our Barrenjoey Heritage!"

<http://peopleforpittwater.org.au/>

Neil Evers

a proud Garigal man and ASG-MWP member

"Dual naming is about recognising the Aboriginal community's rightful status as the first inhabitants of this land and celebrating their living culture, traditions and language,"

– Lara Giddings, Premier of Tasmania

Carved Tree Officially Open

Known as a *dendroglyph*, the first of what is hoped to be a collection of four Aboriginal carved trees is now on display at the Western Plains Cultural Centre (WPCC).

WPCC manager Andrew Glassop said a *dendroglyph* is an extension of a scar tree. "the carving within the area where they scarred the tree, in the heart of it". He added that they were used to mark the burial spot of an important person, being unique in Australia and only found in a region "limited to 200 kilometres within Dubbo and up on the mid-north coast."

Dendroglyphs really show off the differences within Aboriginal cultures Andrew said. "We're all very used to the idea of dot paintings but this shows the visual and cultural language of the people who lived here where it was more about using patterns like triangles and swirls."



Auntie Grace Toomey and Shirley Wilson

Mr Glassop said the trees were powerful from the sense of age it emanated as well as the acknowledgement it commanded just by its presence.

The Carved Tree is now on semi-permanent display at the WPCC on 76 Wingewarra St, Dubbo.

Philip Ly



Friday January 24 to Monday 27

BUSH TO BEACH 2014 CARING FOR KIDS

Young Brettlee was just one of the 40 Aboriginal children thrilled to participate in this years *Bush to Beach* – which was again generously hosted by South Narrabeen SLSC.

Like many of the kids, this was Brettlee's very first trip to the beach. Amazingly, despite being legally blind he conquered his very first surfboard riding experience – managing to get straight up while wearing his glasses. We hope Brettlee comes again next year!



Pictured above – the Honourable Bronwyn Bishop, a special guest at the gala dinner, having a photo with Brettlee, wearing his old specs (that are thankfully being replaced soon!). A special thanks goes to Amy for taking Brettlee to the optometrist *O'Niell-Joy* on Pittwater Road in Narrabeen and arranging for a new pair to be made by Essilor Australia.

Bush to Beach is a reward to kids from Brewarrina and surrounding towns for school attendance and behaving themselves – and the program is now in its ninth year.

The journey to Sydney takes over 12 hours by bus, and during their four day stay on the Northern Beaches the kids are given the opportunity to gain knowledge on water safety, surfing and basic first aid. Many also work along with members of the club's patrol and learn how a surf club is run.

And most importantly *Bush to Beach* gives these kids a chance to enjoy the beach and have a load of fun.

This year the kids were also paid a visit by NRL football star Greg Inglis! On the Saturday Greg arrived at 8.30am and played cricket with the kids before the Manly Surf School session began. Followed by a trip to Manly Waterworks and later a site seeing walk at North Head.

The hope, confidence, self-esteem and smiles of the kids during *Bush to Beach* make this event one that we at the ASG-MWP are delighted to have the opportunity to support. For more information go to:

<http://southnarrabeensurfclub.org>

BOOIN GARI Festival – COME THIS WAY!

United Synergies, 14 Ernest Street, Tewantin
Tuesday April 8 – 10am to 2pm

The name – *Booin Gari* – is Kabi Kabi (Gubbi Gubbi) language meaning *Come This Way*. Now in its sixth year, this event attracts visitors from across the state.

The 2014 *Booin Gari* festival is a great opportunity for everyone to acknowledge, celebrate and share in Indigenous culture and build positive cross-cultural relationships.

The event will feature a range of guest presentations from local community, artists and performers including renowned band *Oka*. There will also be cultural and art workshops, bush tucker tasting, traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander games, cultural dance and didgeridoo workshops.

For the kids there will be a jumping castle, badge making, boomerang painting art workshops and a climbing wall. Support services will provide displays and be available to assist with community information. All activities and performances on the day, including a sausage sizzle and bush tucker are free.

If you would like to become involved in the planning of the event, or perform or present, call 54424277 now.



**LIKE US
on Facebook!**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Aboriginal-Support-Group-Manly-Warringah-Pittwater/224483234362452>

Monday Feb 10
7.30pm start

ASG-MWP Business Meeting – All members welcome.
Mona Vale Memorial Hall, 1606 Pittwater Rd, Mona Vale.



Thursday Feb 13
6pm – 10pm

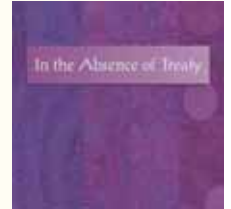
The free Apology Concert – *Heal Our Past, Build Our Future Together*
Held at Sydney Myer Music Bowl. Gates opening from 5.30pm
For more information visit <http://healingfoundation.org.au/>

Monday March 10
7.30pm start

ASG-MWP Information Night
Free event. All Welcome

BOOK LAUNCH: *In the absence of Treaty*

FREE SCREENING: *UTOPIA the award-winning documentary*
A vast region in northern Australia, *Utopia* is home to the oldest living culture in the world – A Must See!
<http://www.respectandlisten.org/miscellaneous/docos/utopia.html>
Mona Vale Memorial Hall, 1606 Pittwater Rd, Mona Vale.



Jan to March 15
Mondays to Saturdays
10am – 5pm

ART EXHIBITION: *Black Art White Walls*
The finest works from the Western Desert to the modern masters.
Venue: Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
Abbotsleigh, Gate 7, 1666 Pacific Highway, Wahroonga
Enquiries: gcsgallery@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au



Tuesday April 8
10am and 2pm

Booin Gari celebrates cultural heritage on Sunshine Coast
Indigenous culture and heritage is the focus of the Booin Gari festival .
Held at United Synergies 14 Ernest Street, Tewantin.
More info 54424277



Monday April 14
7.30pm start

ASG-MWP Business Meeting – All members welcome.
Mona Vale Memorial Hall, 1606 Pittwater Rd, Mona Vale.

Monday May 12
7.30pm start

ASG-MWP Information Night – All Welcome
Kathy Ridge from the ALC outlines the future for Gai-mariagal Aboriginal owned National Park. Areas of Belrose and most of Oxford Falls.
Mona Vale Memorial Hall, 1606 Pittwater Rd, Mona Vale.



May 26 to July 13

Guringai Festival 2014: *Wellness and Wellbeing for all People*
More information about this event in the next *Elimatta*

**ASG-MWP would like to thank Dee Why RSL, Pittwater RSL, Forestville RSL
Pittwater Council and Warringah Council for their continued support in 2014**



Warringah Council

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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