



Elimatta

Aboriginal Support Group - Manly Warringah Pittwater

ASGMWP Newsletter Spring 2018

TWO ABORIGINAL LEADERS LIVE ON



PEMULWUY



BUNGAREE

NT Intervention

Over eleven years too long

TASMANIAN ABORIGINES TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED BY MPs

ABORIGINAL ANCESTORS LAID TO REST ON KAURNA LAND

ABORIGINAL RANGERS KEY TO REINING IN MASSIVE FIRES BURNING 'OUT OF SIGHT' ACROSS THE COUNTRY EVERY YEAR

Bikalabarley murraring walla giballee yaddung Guringai Wanangini Wahroong yennieubu

Let us /walk/together/in/Guringai/Country/as one

ASG ACKNOWLEDGES THE GURINGAI PEOPLE, THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LANDS AND THE WATERS OF THIS AREA

NT INTERVENTION

Over eleven years too long

The young are tempted to become like balanda (becoming without souls) or just fall away under the strain. Since the Intervention we have experienced the highest rates of imprisonment and suicide ever!

In 2007 the Howard Government introduced the NT Intervention as an “emergency”. In the absence of prior consultation, the Commonwealth imposed a host of draconian controls over Aboriginal lands and communities. In 2012 the Rudd/Gillard Government essentially extended the Intervention for a further ten years, under its “Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory” legislation.

The Intervention was based on the shameful lie that “paedophile rings” were operating in Aboriginal communities. A thorough investigation by the Australian Crime Commission found there was no evidence of paedophile rings at all.

Under the Intervention, incar-

ceration, youth detention, child removals, suicide and self-harm have increased at alarming rates. The Royal Commission into Youth Detention revealed more shocking treatment of young people, plus vindictive over-policing.

According to Solidarity “Child protection” teams focus entirely on surveillance and removal of black children. The number of Aboriginal youth in detention has doubled and the number of children going into foster care is more than four times higher than 2007. Former NT Children’s Commissioner, Howard Bath, summed up the Intervention years, saying, “on the whole, the child well-being indicators in remote communities are getting worse”.

Ironically, while the Intervention

was pitched as necessary to “save the children” from abuse, the Don Dale Royal Commission investigated the systematic torture of Aboriginal children by government employees in detention centres.

The racism and assimilation of the Intervention has set devastating new norms for Indigenous politics nationally. Now, the only government solutions for chronic poverty and associated social problems created by dispossession are various forms of welfare quarantining. A new “Healthy Welfare Card” is set for trial across regional and remote WA despite the enormous administrative cost and the documented failure of the BasicsCard. (See: <https://www.solidarity.net.au/aboriginal/nt-intervention-decade-racist-brutality>)

Under the work-for-dole CDP program, workers have no right to join a union, to safety or compensation if injured. Remote Aboriginal communities carry 80 per cent of eight-week losses of unemployment “benefits” nationwide, resulting in malnutrition and despair as poverty becomes more entrenched.

Removal of the permit system, which previously allowed people to refuse access to their land, has made it more difficult for communities to now protect their land. Changes to laws in relation to native title and community living areas has made access easier for mining companies and other speculators. The ALP government has now opened 51 per cent of the Northern Territory to fracking.



The Intervention, and the Stronger Futures policy that followed it, has meant the undermining of Yolngu autonomy and sovereignty.



We did not agree to these laws and they have made everything worse.

The Rudd Labor government in 2009 endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples but so far this Declaration has not been utilized in formulating policies affecting First Nations people, thus ignoring their inherent rights.

Policies of the NT Intervention and Stronger Futures contravene some of the most fundamental human rights, as enshrined in the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which include the right to self-determination.

According to an article published by SBS last year 10 impacts of the NT Intervention are as follows:

1. Many more Aboriginal children are being forcibly removed from their family and culture
2. Punitive measures have not increased school attendance
3. The Intervention saw an increase in youth suicide and huge spike in self-harm
4. The Intervention housing program has had a minimal impact on shocking rates of overcrowding
5. Income Management has made life harder for many and remains racially discriminatory
6. The abolition of the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) has created mass unemployment and exploitation
7. Restrictions on courts consid-

ering Aboriginal culture, custom and law in bail and sentencing decisions continue

8. The number of Indigenous people in prison has exploded

9. Discriminatory alcohol bans remain in force and there is no evidence they have reduced harmful drinking

10. Extreme rates of family violence have not decreased

For further details, see: <https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/2017/06/21/10-impacts-nt-intervention>

Yolngu Nations Assembly Spokesperson, Yingiya Mark Guyula, Member for Nhulunbuy NT Legislative Assembly, said the following at the President's National Ministers' Conference Uniting Church in Darwin last year, "The Intervention, and the Stronger Futures policy that followed it, has meant the undermining of Yolngu autonomy and sovereignty.

As a normal part of life we continue to be subject to:

- blanket welfare quarantining
- the threat of fines and further welfare cuts for not attending school
- the abuse of our children's minds in 'English Only' and Direct Instruction – schools are making our children dumber not smarter
- work for the dole branded Remote Jobs and Community Program- and now called the Community Development Program

- the demand for leases in exchange for housing and basic infrastructure

- the rejection of Aboriginal customary law in court judgments of

THE PROCESS OF COLONIALISATION MUST BE HALTED

- the criminalisation of kava use
- the unregulated movement of strangers in our communities – the permit system that was once required to enter our land was removed.

We are now also subject to:

- continuous police intimidation with lower resourcing of legal aid
 - the threat of a 99-year lease over our communities
 - the slander of our culture
 - and we are daily subject to permission by mainstream culture for outsiders to assume superiority.
- Unbeknown to most, the Intervention also coincided with a raft of NT government actions:
- the stealing of assets away from community-controlled associations to create new regional councils
 - the destruction of bilingual or 'two-way' education policies replaced by 'English Only policies' (and now Direct Instruction)
 - And the 'Growth Towns' policy which diverted almost all funding from homelands.

And then, the NT government

released the Wilson education review, calling for the closure of all remote high schools, threatening to force our young people into

towns from 11 or 12 years old.

The result is that today our Maayin law and governance, which was handed to us by Djan'kawu and Barama/Lany'tjun is being pushed aside. The result is that our leaders, the lawmen and lawwomen, the Djirrikaymirr, the Dalkarramirr and the Goḡ-ganmirr are being disempowered. We are being left to become dependent and weak, forced to accept the priorities of outsiders. And where does this lead our young? The young are tempted to become like balanda (becoming without souls) or just fall away under the strain. Since the Intervention we have experienced the highest rates of imprisonment and suicide ever! We did not agree to these laws and they have made everything worse.

The process of colonialisation must be halted.

SABINE KACHA

You can read the whole speech here: <https://assembly.uca.org.au/images/events/PNMC2017/Treaty-Yingiya-Mark-Guyula.pdf>

ABORIGINAL JEWISH WOMAN APPOINTED DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR AT SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver



An Aboriginal and Jewish professor has been appointed deputy vice-chancellor of Indigenous Strategy and Services at the University of Sydney.

Lisa Jackson Pulver is the first known Aboriginal person to receive a PhD in medicine at the University of Sydney.

The newly appointed deputy vice-chancellor is a former president of Sydney's Newton Synagogue and currently a member of Sydney's The Great Synagogue.

Jackson Pulver played a key role in the development of a designated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health unit, Muru Marri, in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of New South Wales in Sydney and was the inaugural chair of the Aboriginal Health department. She cites one her proudest achievements

as co-founding the Shalom Gamarada Scholarship Program at UNSW, offering residential scholarships to Indigenous students studying medicine and other disciplines. The Shalom Gamarada is a Sydney Jewish organisation which sponsors and accommodates Aboriginal medical students.

Jackson Pulver tied herself to trees as fledgling environmental activist's protesters waged a peaceful war against the damming of Tasmania's Franklin River in the 1980s.

The Jewish Aboriginal president of Newtown Synagogue battled a Sydney municipality in 2011 when it passed a resolution to invoke boycotts, divestment and sanctions against Israel in protest against the treatment of Palestinians in the West Bank. The Marrickville Council is twinned with Bethlehem.

University of Sydney Vice-Chancellor and Principal Dr Michael Spence said he was delighted Jackson Pulver had accepted the role. "The selection panel and I have been enormously impressed with Lisa's commitment to embed belonging and key Aboriginal frameworks and world views into initiatives across the education, research and government sectors, as well as into the RAAF where she is a specialist reserve member," he said.

Professor Jackson Pulver said she was looking forward to re-joining the University of Sydney next

month. "The University of Sydney gave me the opportunity to enter tertiary education. I was the first in my family to do so," she said.

Jackson Pulver's husband, Mark, was a non-observant Jew when they first met, though she began attending services at a local synagogue. She eventually underwent a two-year conversion process, completing her Orthodox conversion in 2004.

She has said she celebrates all the Jewish festivals, keeps a kosher home and has other community members around the house for Friday night dinners. "For me," she said, "being Jewish is not contrary to my beliefs in spirituality as an Aboriginal woman."

Though one would think that Aboriginal Jews might comprise the smallest minority in Australia, Jackson Pulver says there are "quite a lot" of them.

Pulver Jackson told JTA she hopes she will be able to help deal with anti-Semitism on the campus. "There is a lot of it. I hope so. I will be in a senior executive position and hopefully there will be some common sense to come through. The whole equity argument is central to what I do," she said.

HENRY BENJAMIN (JTA)

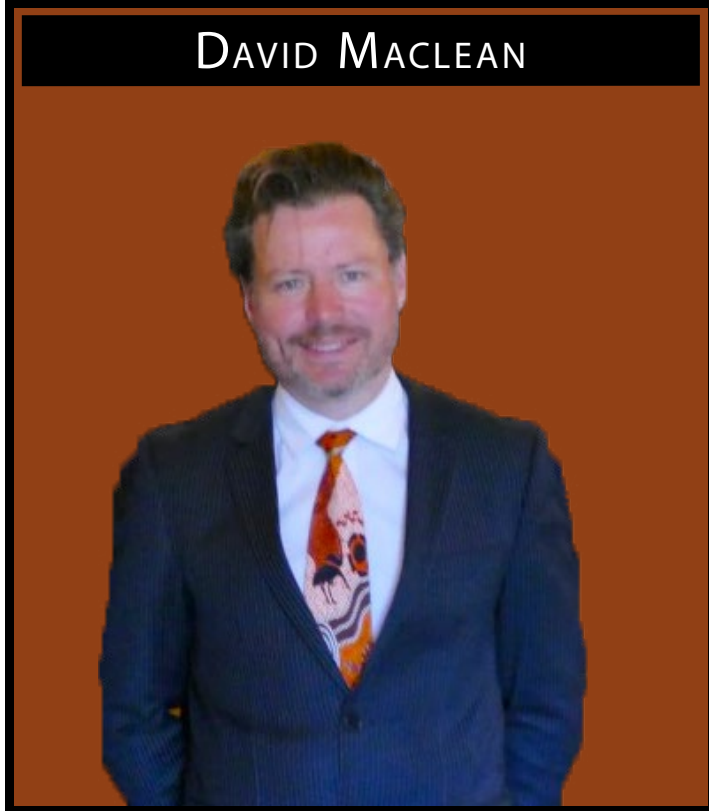
SEPTEMBER 3, 2018

TO READ THE FULL STORY PLEASE VISIT THE ASGMWP FACEBOOK PAGE

FIRST MALE ABORIGINAL MAGISTRATE

FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

DAVID MACLEAN



Experienced lawyers Christian Mioceovich and David Maclean have been appointed magistrates in Western Australia.

Experienced lawyer David Maclean has become the first indigenous man to be appointed a magistrate in Western Australia, following in the footsteps of Sue Gordon.

Mr Maclean worked for the Aboriginal Legal Service from 1998 to 2001, joined the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in February 2007 and became a full-time ordinary member of the State Administrative Tribunal in 2015.

Former Aboriginal Legal Service of WA counsel Christian Mioceovich, who has been chairperson of the Legal Aid Review Committee since 2005, has also been appointed a magistrate.

ABORIGINAL ANCESTORS LAID TO REST ON KAURNA LAND AS FIGHT TO RETURN REMAINS CONTINUES



PHOTO: Aboriginal elders at the reburial of remains in South Australia. (ABC: Simon Royal)

AFTER SPENDING MORE THAN A CENTURY ON FOREIGN LAND, THE REMAINS OF TWO ABORIGINAL ELDERS HAVE RETURNED HOME AND BEEN REBURIED IN THE SAND DUNES AT TENNYSON BEACH IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The remains were returned by overseas institutions to the Kaurna people, the traditional owners of the Adelaide Plains, after years of negotiation.

During the late 19th and into the 20th centuries, thousands of sets of Aboriginal Australians' remains were collected in the name of science.

The remains were dispersed across the world into the collections of museums, universities and other institutions.

Kaurna elder Jeffrey Newchurch, who is leading the charge for ancestral remains to be returned, said the return of the old people to country today was an emotional and happy occasion.

"You can never explain in words what it's like," Mr Newchurch said.

"We're dealing with the repatriation of our old people, and more significantly, those old people that are coming home to country from overseas."

After perhaps 150 years overseas, then many years of negotiations and a flight from Sweden,

the remains of eight Aboriginal elders were recently returned to Australia.

Seven of the elders are in temporary care awaiting further provenance testing, but one is known to be a Kaurna elder from Port Adelaide.

That elder, along with the remains of another elder from Henley Beach returned from Austria in 2009, were reburied today in the sand dunes.

The dunes at Tennyson are culturally significant because the wetlands provided food and the dunes were commonly used as burial grounds.

Mr Newchurch said the repatriation of remains was not just an issue for overseas museums.

"There currently appears to be ancestral remains of over 800 Kaurna old peoples held at the South Australian Museum's bulk store," he said.

"This is disrespectful and wrong.

"I have been working for many years on the return of Kaurna old people, and one day I hope all ancestral remains of the Kaurna old people will be returned to country."

In 2014, the Federal Government's Advisory Committee on Indigenous Repatriation recommended a national keeping place be established in Canberra to care for the remains of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestors that cannot be reunited with their traditional lands.

To date, no final resting place for these remains has been announced.

SIMON ROYAL AND SARAH SCOPELIANOS

ABORIGINAL RANGERS KEY TO REINING IN MASSIVE FIRES BURNING 'OUT OF SIGHT' ACROSS THE COUNTRY EVERY YEAR



FIRES THE SIZE OF SYDNEY

“SERIOUS THREAT TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Often caused by a pattern of lightning strikes in the spring and summer

”

In the heart of Western Australia, far from the big cities or even the smaller towns, massive wildfires burn across the deserts in the warmer months

The fires — in some cases the size of Sydney — were often caused by a pattern of lightning strikes in the spring and summer, and have long been part of the natural landscape of remote Australia.

While a bushfire near Perth or Melbourne might cause millions of dollars in property damage, those in more sparsely populated parts of the country can go almost unnoticed. But Aboriginal rangers and fire management experts have warned

that as the fires spread further and burn more ferociously than before, they were increasingly a serious threat to the environment.

The solution, they say, is a revival of traditional methods of fire management used by Indigenous peoples for thousands of years before European settlement.

“Fire is special because people, when they burn [the land], plants and animals would come and grow, because the green grass

will grow and animals will come,” said Ethan Hansen, an Aboriginal ranger in Tjuntjuntjara in south-east WA. “It keeps the balance of the land. When the old people used to live there, that’s what they used to do.”

Mr Hansen and his team of rangers at Spinifex Land Management consult with elders in the community to plan where to implement smaller, strategic burns that will act as barriers to larger fires.



fires throughout desert areas of WA had grown over recent decades, and rangers were now battling to catch up.

"We've seen a change in the fire regimes, and now we're kind of chasing that to try and bring back.

"That's what the intention is among the groups in the desert who are trying to do [traditional techniques] again."

"It's been happening a lot recently in other areas where you can see the whole country is just burnt," Mr Hansen said.

"Once a month I'll go in the chopper and just press the button. They're like a little tablet, and drop it down," he added, referring to his team's method of using small fire starters. Earlier this year, the WA Government announced \$8.5 million for 13 Aboriginal ranger programs around the state, funding about 85 new jobs and 80 training roles.

According to Dr Burrows, it was an important investment to continue.

He said Aboriginal rangers held the front line in remote fire management across much of the country.

ABORIGINAL RANGERS KEY

Aboriginal ranger groups from WA, the Northern Territory and South Australia shared fire management expertise at a conference last month at Credo Station near Kalgoorlie.

Craig Sailor, a ranger with the Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa ranger program in WA's Pilbara region, spoke of his pride in the work he does.

"My favourite part is going to look after my grandfather's country because I love my grandfather, and I live in that area," Mr Sailor said.

"There are all sorts of really good environmental, cultural, social and biodiversity reasons why we need to try to rein in these really big bushfires, and get back to what traditional owners were doing years ago," Dr Burrows said.

"There's no way we can revert back to how it was done in days gone by, but we can still have the same effect in reducing the impact of these big bushfires by combining traditional burning techniques with modern technology."



The aim is not to attempt to fight the fires directly with water or other retardants — but rather to alter their path and manage their impact.

"That involves a lot of planning, where we sit down with the old people and decide where to burn. It's all about protecting the country," Mr Hansen said.

FIGHTING AN UPHILL BATTLE

But there is a sense among Indigenous rangers and fire management experts of fighting an uphill battle.

"Some of the bushfires we have in central WA and across central Australia for that matter are among the largest bushfires in the world — some get to 3 or 4 million hectares in size, said Neil Burrows from the WA Department of Parks and Wildlife.

Dr Burrows, who has long studied the impact and management of wildfires, said large-scale fires were having a devastating impact on biodiversity, particularly in combination with feral predators.

"Most people in the urban-

ised parts of Australia have no clue that these fires are occurring because they are in remote areas by and large away from population centres — out of sight, out of mind."

Chris Curnow from Rangelands NRM, a WA land care organisation, said there was a turning point during the 20th century when many Aboriginal people were moved off their traditional lands.

This left areas untended by the traditional techniques which for many thousands of years had maintained balance in the landscape.

"People who roamed the country kept alive that patchwork of fire. That was missing for a [great deal of] time," he said.

"Certainly when people were forced off country and there's been less public investment in getting [traditional techniques] back into those areas of the country, we're seeing much more devastating and long-burning [fires], and just [on a] bigger scale."

Mr Curnow said the scale and destruction of modern

TASMANIAN ABORIGINES TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED BY MPS

MPs in Tasmania's parliament will now start each sitting day by acknowledging the Aboriginal community.

They will also be asked to stand in silence and reflect if they do not want to join in saying the lord's prayer.

The House of Assembly agreed to a motion moved by the leader of the government Michael Ferguson to make the changes to standing orders. Speaker Sue Hickey described the changes as "historic."

"This is an historic occasion for the Tasmanian parliament which voted unanimously in a tripartite effort to make changes to the 100 plus year old standing orders of the parliament," Ms Hickey said.

The parliament of Tasmania agreed to start each sitting day with a statement of inclusion and acknowledgement for the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land, and an invitation to members for a contemporary prayer and



reflection in the service of the people of Tasmania. "The preamble has been revised to focus on the true welfare of the people of Tasmania."

Michael Mansell, chair of Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council, was almost lost for words at the move to acknowledge Aborigines.

"I think this is the first I have heard of a parliament opening like that," Mr Mansell said. "It is very positive".

"In essence we have had a white Tasmanian parliament acting in the interests of white people

since 1850." Mr Mansell said he was pleased that the speaker and parliament had agreed to the changes without being lobbied.

"It shows the maturity of the Tasmanian parliament and is one way to send a message of inclusiveness not just to the Aboriginal community but to the whole Tasmanian community."

Mr Mansell said the next step would be to have designated seats in parliament for Aborigines.

Each sitting day of parliament will now start with:

"WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND PAY RESPECT TO THE TASMANIAN ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL AND ORIGINAL OWNERS AND CONTINUING CUSTODIANS OF THIS LAND ON WHICH WE GATHER TODAY AND ACKNOWLEDGE ELDERS, PAST AND PRESENT."

The Speaker will then invite members to "join me in reciting the lord's prayer or to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of Tasmania."

SUE BAILEY (THE EXAMINER)

// SPEAKER SUE HICKEY DESCRIBED THE CHANGES AS HISTORIC
This is an historic occasion for the Tasmanian parliament which voted unanimously in a tripartite effort to make changes to the 100 plus year old standing orders of the parliament **//**

ABORIGINAL MEN HONOURER FOR 1852 RESCUE

Two Aboriginal men who saved the lives of 68 people during a flood are being officially honoured for their bravery more than 160 years after their heroic feat.

Wiradjuri men Yarri and Jacky Jacky used large bark canoes to save lives when the Murrumbidgee River flooded the NSW Riverina town of Gundagai in June 1852.

As the floodwaters rose to record levels over the course of three days, the men piled stranded townspeople into their canoes and took them to safety. Another 89 locals died as the town was swamped by two metres of water.

Yarri and Jacky Jacky - who later changed their names to James McDonnell and John Morley - were among 62 Australians honoured in the latest national



The Murrumbidgee River killed 89 locals when it flooded at Gundagai in 1852

bravery awards announced by Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove on Monday.

Both Yarri and Jacky Jacky, who worked day and night to rescue people, were each awarded posthumous bravery medals for their actions.

Gundagai locals last year honoured the pair with a large bronze statue in the town.

Sixteen other men and women also received bravery medals, including two teenage boys who saved a mate from a great white shark while surfing at Ballina on NSW's north coast in September 2016, and a French tourist who saved a woman from drowning at Redgate Beach in Western Australia in November 2017.

The Star of Courage was awarded to Sydney doctor Martha Knox-Haly who rescued a colleague from a violent road rage attack at Carramar, in the city's south west, in August 2015.

Another 40 Australians received commendations for their brave conduct, while group bravery citations were announced for two groups of NSW police officers from Broken Hill and Noosa, along with another from Happy Valley in Queensland.

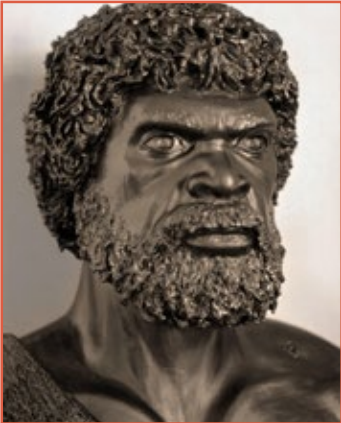
Sir Peter paid tribute to all the bravery awards recipients, describing each of them as a source of courage, support and inspiration.

"Sadly, there are those whose brave acts mean they are no longer with us," he said.

"Today, to their families, I express the nation's sadness at your loss but pride in your loved one's actions."



TWO ABORIGINAL LEADERS LIVE ON



PEMULWUY

Pemulwuy is named after the Aboriginal political leader and elder. Pemulwuy was an Aboriginal Australian man born around 1750 in the area of Botany Bay in New South Wales. He is noted for his resistance to the European settlement of Australia which began with the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788.

He is believed to have been a member of the Bidjigal (Bediagal) clan who were the original inhabitants of Toongabbie and Parramatta in Sydney.

Bungaree is named after the Aboriginal explorer and leader. Bungaree was an Aboriginal Australian from the Kuringgai people of the Broken Bay area, who was known as an explorer, entertainer, and Aboriginal community leader.

Bungaree is significant in that he was the first person to be recorded in print as an Australian.

The Emerald Class Ferries are the latest addition to the Sydney Ferries Fleet. They are designed to look similar to the iconic First Fleet class vessels.



BUNGAREE

October 1, 1889
THE MARINE ENGINEER. 287

On August 28th Messrs. Wigham Richardson A Co. launched from the Neptune Works a fine screw steamer, to register 3,400 tons, and to carry over 4,500 tons deadweight.

She is built of steel on the three-deck rule, with poop, bridge, and topgallant forecastle, to the order of W. Lund, Esp., of London, and is intended for his Australian Line, for which line the Deleontyn, and Wilcannia were also built and engined by Messrs. Wigham, Richardson & Co.

The vessel is 335 ft. long, 42 ft. beam, and 28 ft. deep, and has accommodation for first-class passengers in the poop.

She is fitted with Emerson, Walker & Co/s patent direct steam windlass, six large steam winches, and all the latest improvements for loading and discharging cargo. The engines, also by Messrs. Wigham Richardson & Co., are of the triple-expansion type (Tweedy's patent), and are intended to indicate 2,000 H.P.

The steamer is fitted with Kirkcaldy's compactum fresh water distiller, capable of raising the feed water before entering the boilers to a temperature of 280 deg. Fahrenheit with Kirkcaldy's compactum fresh water distiller, to produce 5,000 gallons of filtered water per day for crew and passengers, and also for cattle use.

Captain Mackenzie, of Sunderland, who has superintended the erection of a number of vessels for Mr. Lund's various trades, at the Neptune Works, is also superintending the building and equipment of the ship, and Mr. Andrew Thomson, of London, the engines. As the vessel left the ways she was named the Bungaree, by Mrs. Ekins, wife of Captain F. H. Ekins, who will take command.



BUNGAREE (I)

On August 28th Messrs. Wigham Richardson A Co. launched from the Neptune Works a fine screw steamer, to register 3,400 tons, and to carry over 4,500 tons deadweight.



BUNGAREE (II)

The first ferry to carry the name was a paddlewheel horse ferry that operated from the North Shore to the city between 1872 and 1900. It ended up cut down and in use as a pontoon for a wharf at Gladesville for many years. (Lance)



BUNGAREE (III)

35 metres Length and 10 metres wide. No sails and only 3 crew

2 August 2018: Fred Hollows approaches Barangaroo while Bungaree heads over to Darling St just a few minutes ago. These great new ferries are already becoming a firm part of the Sydney Harbour landscape.

OUR THANKS TO TRANSPORT FOR NSW, HARBOUR CITY FERRIES, SYDNEY TRAINS AND TRANSDEV FOR ACKNOWLEDGING AND RECOGNISING THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

UNSW INDIGENOUS LAW CENTRE ASSOCIATE APPOINTED ACT'S FIRST ABORIGINAL MAGISTRATE

NEWLY APPOINTED MAGISTRATE LOUISE TAYLOR WANTS HER WORK TO BE AN EMPATHETIC REFLECTION OF THE COMMUNITIES SHE REPRESENTS

Criminal lawyer and UNSW Indigenous Law Centre associate Louise Taylor says she will bring empathy and commitment to hard work to her new role as an ACT magistrate and the Territory's first Aboriginal judicial officer.

"I think one of the things that I've observed in effective judicial offices is that capacity for empathy in applying the law, and I say that from the perspective of both victims and witnesses to crime as well as perpetrators of it," Magistrate Taylor told ABC Local Radio's Speaking Out program earlier this month.

"Ultimately those people come to the criminal justice system seeking a remedy of some kind and I'm hopeful that my capacity for empathy is maintained throughout the time that I'm in this role."

The magistrate was welcomed at a special ceremony in Canberra last week. ACT Attorney-General Gordon Ramsay joined ACT judges, magistrates and the ACT's legal profession in marking Magistrate Taylor's appointment at a ceremonial sitting.

"MAGISTRATE TAYLOR BRINGS A WEALTH OF CRIMINAL LAW PROCEDURAL KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE IN REPRESENTING THE MOST VULNERABLE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY IN COMPLEX MATTERS," MR RAMSAY SAID.

"With over 15 years of experience in advocacy at the highest levels, including four years as the Deputy CEO of Legal Aid ACT and experience in the offices of both the Commonwealth and ACT Directors of Public Prosecutions, Magistrate Taylor is well equipped for this challenging role."

The Kamilaroi woman told the ABC she has always advocated that the legal, health and education systems, as well as the public service, make space for other

Aboriginal people in positions of power and influence. "We need to get more comfortable with the capacity and knowledge of Aboriginal people being important in charting the destinies of Aboriginal people, and also in seeing Aboriginal people as professional, capable individuals," she said.

"And I think [my saying] that **'YOU CAN'T BE WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE'**, is just as important for the non-Aboriginal community, in the sense of seeing Aboriginal people as leaders as capable of appointment to positions of power and influence.

"And in my mind, we need to see more of it. We should reflect the communities that we seek to represent and if I can be part of that, that's fantastic."

The magistrate spent a significant portion of her career as a former specialist family violence prosecutor at the Office of the ACT Director of Public Prosecutions under the auspices of the award-winning ACT Family Violence Intervention Program.

She has a particular interest in women's issues especially in relation to family, domestic and sexual violence and is passionate about the importance of access to justice for women, particularly for Aboriginal and other marginalised women.

She told ABC Radio that it was "very problematic" that there is still a willingness to demonise and criminalise Aboriginal women before dealing with them as victims.

"We also have to get comfortable with listening to Aboriginal women and letting them be the drivers of their future and their own destiny," she said.

"One of the challenges of the criminal justice's response to family violence is I think at times it infantilises women



Magistrate Louise Taylor with ACT Attorney-General Gordon Ramsay at the ceremonial sitting in Canberra. Photo: Justice and Community Safety Directorate

as victims and assumes they are unable to chart their future moving forward, and I think that's problematic.

"Unlike 15 years ago when I started doing this work, I'm much more open to listening to victims say what they want out of a particular intervention or what they want when they seek support. "Because ultimately it's them who have to go out and live their life, not the people operating in the system trying to assist them." The magistrate was raised in inner city Sydney but hails from the New England area of NSW.

She told the ABC that she chose law as a career as "a knowledge of the law and an understanding of how it operates and impacts rights and obligations, meant a capacity to speak to power from a position of knowledge and with a capacity to influence".

"And to me that then reflected a capacity to impact social justice and equality and outcomes, in particular for Aboriginal people, but also for people who might need assistance navigating the law," she said.

Her Indigenous influences include legal academic Professor Larissa Behrendt; Vice-Chancellor Indigenous at UNSW, Professor Megan Davis; Chairperson of the Lowitja Foundation,

Pat Anderson AO; and National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation CEO, Pat Turner AM. "They had the capacity to talk to power," she said. But her parents who were her biggest influencers.

"REALLY IT HAS TO COME BACK TO MY PARENTS AND THE WAY THAT THEY SHAPED A STRONG SENSE OF RIGHT AND WRONG WITHIN ME, AND A STRONG SENSE OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND PUTTING A PREMIUM ON PUBLIC SERVICE AND SERVICE TO COMMUNITY," SHE SAID.

"And their influence in relation to my moral compass and my ethical compass sat well with the law and being able to navigate the black and white and grey that exists in the law."

The magistrate has a long list of achievements, including being a long time Convenor of the ACT Women's Legal Centre Management Committee, a past member of the ACT Domestic Violence Prevention Council, and former Chair of the ACT Ministerial Advisory Council on Women.

She is a member of the Law Council of Australia's Indigenous Legal Issues Committee and was the 2009 recipient of the ACT International Women's Day Award.

DIANE NAZAROFF

SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

"What's On?"



2018

OCTOBER 8TH
7.30PM - 9PM

ASG-MWP BUSINESS MEETING
Mona Vale Memorial Hall, 1606 Pittwater Road
All members welcome

NOVEMBER 12TH
7.30PM - 9PM

GUEST SPEAKER: KENDALL TRUDGEN
TREATY: WORKING FOR RECOGNITION OF SOVEREIGNTY IN THE EAST ARNHAM LAND CONTEXT
Kendall Trudgen is an East Arnhem Lander, adopted by the Djambarrpuyngu group of the Yolngu Nation. He is a community development and community education worker, a mediator and advocate. He was the founding Secretary for the Yolngu Nations Assembly (2011-2017) and election campaign manager for Independent Yingiya Mark Guyula in the 2016 NT election (won on the platform of Treaty and Yolngu Law First).
Mona Vale Memorial Hall, 1606 Pittwater Road
All welcome

DECEMBER 10TH
7.30PM - 9PM

ASG-MWP BUSINESS MEETING
& END OF THE YEAR GET TOGETHER (BRING A PLATE TO SHARE)
Mona Vale Memorial Hall, 1606 Pittwater Road
All members welcome

2019

FEBRUARY 11TH
7.30PM - 9PM

ASG-MWP BUSINESS MEETING
Mona Vale Memorial Hall, 1606 Pittwater Road
All members welcome

MARCH 11TH
7.30PM - 9PM

BUSH TUCKER NIGHT - NOT TO BE MISTED
Mona Vale Memorial Hall, 1606 Pittwater Road
All welcome

ASG-MWP WOULD LIKE TO THANK DEE WHY RSL, PITTWATER RSL AND FORESTVILLE RSL FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN 2018



northern
beaches
council



**ABORIGINAL SUPPORT GROUP
MANLY WARRINGAH PITTWATER**

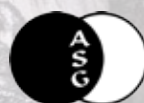
Founded 1979

MEMBERSHIP IS ONLY \$25 PER YEAR

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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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