

# Elimatta

Aboriginal Support Group - Manly Warringah Pittwater

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2021

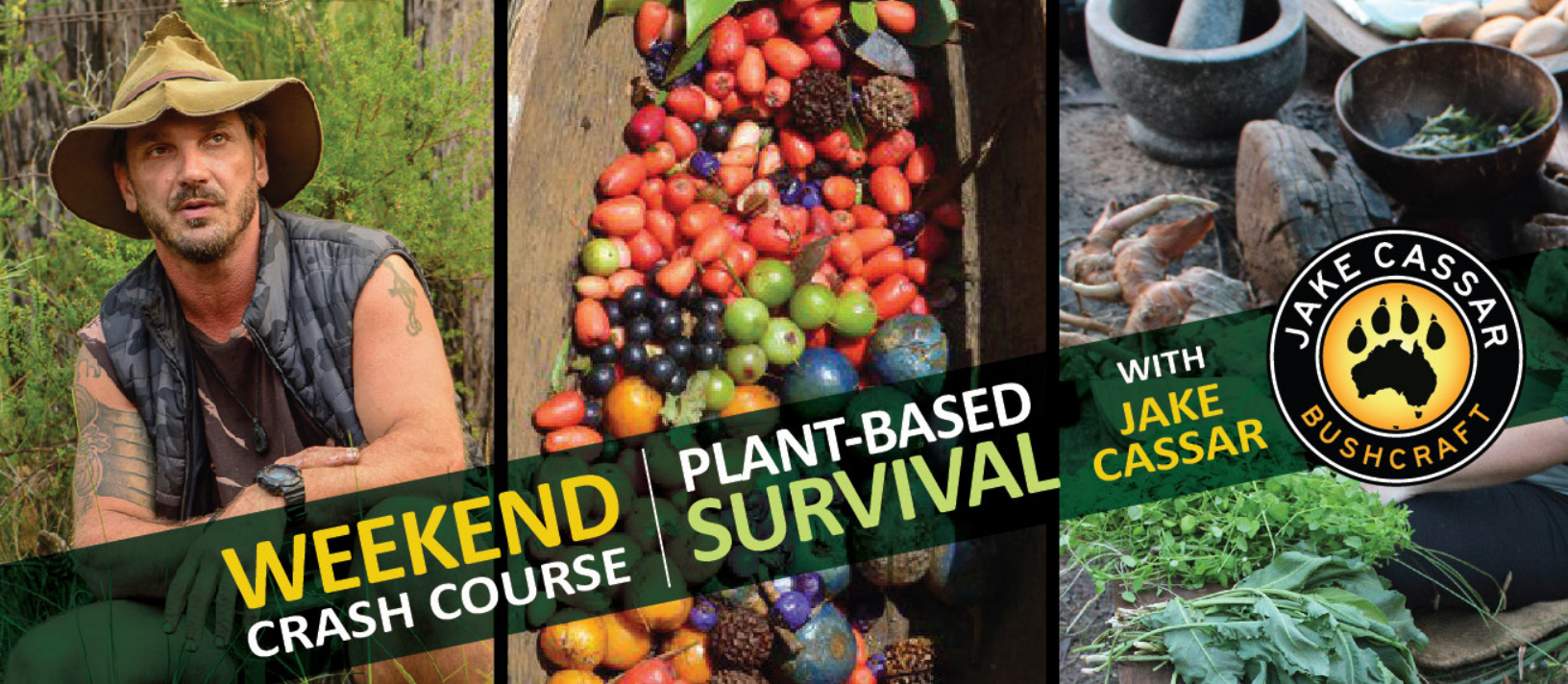
Photo by @huntingthehomelands



**RIDE WITH ABORIGINAL PEOPLE**



ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER READERS ARE ADVISED THAT THIS NEWSLETTER CONTAIN NAMES OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIED  
ASG ACKNOWLEDGES THE GURINGAI PEOPLE, THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LANDS AND THE WATERS OF THIS AREA



**J**ake Cassar is a passionate conservationist, youth mentor and Bushcraft teacher specializing in edible and medicinal native and introduced plants (weeds) in Australia.

Jake is well known for leading successful campaigns to create new National Parks and Nature Reserves on the Central Coast.

Jake is fast becoming known as one of Australia's foremost authorities on edible and medicinal plants, and has been referred to as a "Bush Tucker Guru" by the Daily Telegraph and "Aussie Bear Grills" by the Today Show. Jake has featured on Triple J radio, ABC radio, The History Channel, and National Indigenous Television (NITV).

Jake has spent most of his life fine tuning his survival knowledge in what he calls "The University of the Bush" and has taught himself much of what he knows through personal experience living from the land for weeks at a time on his annual "survival missions."

Jake has worked with much respected Aborig-

inal elders in NSW and Central and Western Australia and has given presentations with well-known people in Botany such as Les Robinson, Alan Fairley, Costa Georgiadis (Gardening Australia) and Aboriginal Bush Tucker Chef, Mark Olive.

Jake's presentations/tours are upbeat, interactive, engaging and include a comprehensive display of native and exotic plants and an in-depth description of some of the plants uses. Jake will share information on how to make rope from natural fibers, fire from sticks, soap from Wattle leaves and much, much more.

#### **BUSHCRAFT PRESENTATIONS & TOURS**

Jake is available for 1 hour Bushcraft presentations and 3-hour walking tours.

#### **OVERNIGHT BUSHCRAFT TRIPS**

Jake is also available for overnight (Midday-midday) camps, and for corporate team building exercises.

**JAKECASSARBUSHCRAFT.COM**



# RIDE WITH ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

**D**ear Supporters and Friends, Warami or All-a (Hello)

Your invitation to the 2022 Bike Ride with Aboriginal People on 26th January 2022

This is not just for Bike Riders, so come along and support Aboriginal people by being involved in the ceremony at Kay-me-my Country (Manly) or Garigal Country (Church Point.)

Be at the start of the 26.8k ride on 26th January 2022, 7.00 am at the Manly Memorial, part way between the wharf and the Manly Art Gallery where you will enjoy the beautiful sounds of the didgeridoo to send you on your way.

Or join us about 10.00 am in Garigal Country at Church Point Wharf. There will be with a Welcome to Country. Then listen to a special Aboriginal song by Aleta Wassell in Dharug language with the sounds

of the didgeridoo, clap sticks and a sing along.

We all come together as one, the way it should be!

This ride is a gesture to acknowledge that not all Australians see Australia Day in the same way and to stand with Aboriginal people's and aim for unity for all Australians.

It's difficult to understand or accept.

- The number of coal and gas fracking operations that have and are being approved by the Australian Government over objections from Aboriginal People's.
- The Australian Government spent \$10.3 billion 2020-21 subsidising coal and gas companies yet there are many Aboriginal communities without adequate housing, health care, quality food and clean water.
- The Federal Government

in March 2021 announced Aboriginal communities were in phase 1B Covid 19 vaccination rollout, 9 months later over 80% of non-aboriginal Australians are fully vaccinated and only 55% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait people are fully vaccinated.

- The Ride supports the rights of the Wangan and Jagalingou Peoples to stay on their country and protest to stop the Adani coal mine. Waddamuli or hello to Coedie.

We look forward to seeing you there and hope you like the new T shirt design with contemporary Aboriginal artwork.

We would like to acknowledge the help and support of Aunty Clair Jackson and Karen Smith AHO.

Thank you.

**Colin Hutton and Uncle Neil Evers.**

**0404 353 253**

**PS: Please tell your friends. We now pick up riders at Dee Why, Narrabeen or Mona Vale.**

**If you would like more more information please see our Facebook page.**



**[FB.com/ridewithaboriginalpeoples](https://www.facebook.com/ridewithaboriginalpeoples)**

# HISTORIC LAWS PASSED TO PROTECT WA'S ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE



**H**istoric laws to better protect Western Australia's Aboriginal cultural heritage - the oldest continuous living culture in the world - have passed State Parliament.

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill 2021 (the Bill) provides a modern framework for the recognition, protection, conservation and preservation of Aboriginal

cultural heritage while recognising the fundamental importance of Aboriginal cultural heritage to Aboriginal people.

The Bill repeals the outdated Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 and removes the controversial Section 18 approvals process.

In line with Native Title laws, the Bill embraces the cultural authority of Traditional Owners who will define what is

protected and negotiate agreements with land users to ensure significant cultural heritage is managed and protected.

The agreement-making approach enshrines the principles of free, prior and informed consent and will transform and reset the relationship between Aboriginal people, proponents and government with respect to cultural heritage

management.

The State Government will convene a working group of Traditional Owners, industry and Government representatives to oversee the co-design process for the mechanisms that will enable the laws to be implemented, including the drafting of regulations, capacity development and detail around the consultation and agreement-making processes.

## HISTORY: BIRTHINGONCOUNTRY.COM

**F**or more than 60,000 years Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have birthed their babies on traditional lands.

Birthing on Country has been described as an international movement with the overarching aim of returning birthing services to Indigenous communities and Indigenous control to enable a healthy start to life.

The Birthing on Country agenda relates to system-wide reform and is perceived as an important opportunity in 'closing the

gap' between Indigenous and non-Indigenous health and quality of life outcomes.

In 2012, the Australian Maternity Services Inter-jurisdictional Committee, in collaboration with the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, held the first national Birthing on Country Workshop to progress Australian Government commitment to Birthing on Country.

People gathered from across Australia, with a strong Indigenous presence, to discuss Birthing on Country and determine the next steps.

Participants agreed that the Birthing on Country project, should move from being aspirational (policy) to actual (implementation). They recommended exemplar sites be set up in urban, rural, remote and very remote communities and funded for success and sustainability.

The Birthing on Country agenda relates to system-wide reform and is perceived as an important opportunity in 'closing the gap' between Indigenous and non-Indigenous health and quality of life outcomes.

**"BIRTHING ON COUNTRY RESULTS PROVE THE GAP CAN BE CLOSED. NOW SUCH SERVICES NEED TO EXPAND"**

Croakey Health Media





ON JAN 26TH, 2022, YABUN CELEBRATES 20 YEARS SINCE INCEPTION

Yabun is set to execute the largest marketing campaign in the event's history and is looking to connect with sponsors/brand partners who can help us bring the event to new heights in 2022.

Yabun is currently looking to connect with brands that are eager to make a statement and take a stand alongside Aboriginal & TSI persons. January 26th marks an important day of survival for our traditional landowners, and on this day Yabun festival takes place drawing in crowds of over 80,000 people. On Jan 26th, 2022, Yabun celebrates 20 years since inception and we are looking to go bigger with our largest campaign to date while integrating our live stream alternative and our physical event together. We are looking to connect with potential brand sponsors and like-minded partners so we can collaboratively create change and awareness whilst championing First Nations people.





## COALITION UNVEILS MAP TO INDIGENOUS VOICE

**“THE IMPORTANCE OF WHAT WE PROPOSE CANNOT BE UNDERSTATED.”**

Up to 35 Indigenous advisory bodies would be established Australia-wide under a path to a long-awaited national voice empowered to advise federal parliament. The local and regional advisory bodies designed and led by Indigenous communities would be up and running from July 2022 under the proposal accepted by the Morrison government. It would also be obliged to consult a related 24-member national voice on proposed laws that overwhelmingly affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

“We heard in chorus - from our own people, along with non-Indigenous Australians - how much it would mean for Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples to have our voices heard,” the final report on the Indigenous voice process says.

**“The importance of what we propose cannot be**

**understated.”**

The report was authored by prominent figures including Indigenous academic Marcia Langton and delivered to the federal government for consideration in July before its release on Friday.

It's the product of a two-year consultation process to establish an Indigenous voice.

The coalition opted against enshrining a voice in the constitution as called for by the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Instead, the proposal would establish local and regional advisory bodies based on cultural groupings, and spread across each state and territory as well as the Torres Strait Islands.

They would be formally recognised through legislation and work with all levels of government.

A related national voice established as an independ-

ent Commonwealth entity and able to table formal advice in parliament would be drawn from these bodies. Proposed laws that overwhelmingly relate to Indigenous people would need to include a statement setting out how the voice was consulted.

But there would be no legal mechanism to challenge laws and legislation would not be invalidated should this not happen.

The national voice would include three members each for all states and territories bar Victoria, the ACT and Tasmania, which would have two.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the proposal would help ensure Indigenous community voices were heard.

This would help close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in terms of life expectancy, quality, education and employment.

“This is about listening to local indigenous communities, and that's where the voice must start,” Mr Morrison told reporters in Sydney.

Indigenous Australians Minister Ken Wyatt said it was important to get the process right.

“For the Indigenous voice to work, it must have a strong foundation from the ground up,” he said.

Labor's spokeswoman for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney criticised the proposal for having no resemblance to that recommended in the Uluru statement.

“There may be legislation ... there may not be. This doesn't provide the certainty that Uluru asked for,” she told the ABC.

The opposition has pledged to establishing a constitutionally enshrined Indigenous voice if it wins power at the election due by May.

# VOLUNTEER CALL TO ACTION FOR JANUARY



## THE CAMPAIGN FOR AN INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT IS GAINING MOMENTUM AND AS WE HEAD TOWARDS A FEDERAL ELECTION IN 2022, WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT MORE THAN EVER!

The Voice from the Heart Alliance is calling on all of our member organisations for a series of actions to increase awareness of the Uluru Statement and ensure that the message to our politicians is clear:

An Indigenous Voice to Parliament

IS A **FAIR GO** FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

IT'S **PRACTICAL** – OUR BEST CHANCE TO CLOSE THE GAP

IT'S A **UNIFYING MOMENT** FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS

To start, on 26 January 2022 we will be coordinating actions across three locations in Sydney and will be looking for volunteers to join us in distributing information and having conversations about the Voice with as many people as we can reach on the day. Materials and support will be provided so we just need your energy and enthusiasm for making a difference at a crucial time in our history. If you can join us, reach out to the volunteer coordinator at the location of interest listed below.

The **Yabun Festival** (Victoria Park) is the largest one day gathering and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures in Australia and will be celebrating 20 years in 2022. Contact Tracy De Geer: [degeertracy@yahoo.com](mailto:degeertracy@yahoo.com)

**Parramatta** (Parramatta Park) - Contact Richard Maguire: [richardandmaria@unfoldingfutures.net](mailto:richardandmaria@unfoldingfutures.net)

**Northern Sydney** (Various Locations) - Contact Ros Madden: [rrmadden@iinet.net.au](mailto:rrmadden@iinet.net.au)

While we do have a focus on these actions we want to encourage and support actions large and small right across the country. So if you do have some thoughts or would like to talk to us about coordinating on an action please reach out to Robyn Hutchinson: [rjhutchinson48@gmail.com](mailto:rjhutchinson48@gmail.com)

It has been more than 50 years since Indigenous Australians were counted. It is time for their voices to be heard, and with your support, we can help make that happen.

The Voice from the Heart Alliance is a growing coalition of networks, organisations, and individuals supporting the enshrined VOICE to Parliament. We are part of the national campaign, and working to amplify the key messages across the nation, with mass action at all levels.

**Find out more at [www.fromtheheart.com.au](http://www.fromtheheart.com.au) & <https://ulurustatement.org>**

Paul Dohing with the 'Voice fromtheheart Alliance' Coordinating Team



# JAILING OF NEARLY 500 CHILDREN AGED 13 AND UNDER A 'FAILURE' BY AUSTRALIA'S TOP LEGAL OFFICERS, ADVOCATES SAY

JUSTICE AND HEALTH GROUPS SAY AT LEAST 65% OF THE CHILDREN JAILED IN 2020 ARE ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER

The ongoing "failure" of Australia's top legal officers to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years old has seen 499 children aged 13 and under sent to jail in the past year alone, according to a coalition of 47 justice and health organisations.

The coalition – representing welfare, youth and legal advocates, including Anglicare and AcoSS – says attorneys general have "failed" to take action, "despite being handed an expert report overwhelmingly recommending that all states and territories and the federal government change laws to keep children out of prison."

In 2020, 499 children aged between 10 and 13 were imprisoned. At least 65% of them are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children. 68% of all children in detention were on

remand, meaning they were yet to be convicted of any crime.

"Every day that attorneys general refuse to act, they are condemning a generation of our children to a lifetime behind bars. Ten-year-old children who get trapped in the criminal justice system don't come out," the co-chair of Change the Record, Cheryl Axelby, said.

"One year ago, every state and territory was given the chance to unite to close the gap and change the cruel laws that lock children as young as 10 years old away behind bars. They failed to take action then, we are calling on them to take action now to raise the age of criminal responsibility and invest in the community programs and family services that will keep our children safe and healthy and strong."

The coalition has demanded the Meeting of Attorneys-General (Mag) make public any work it has done to identify "adequate processes and services for children who exhibit offending behaviour", including alternatives to detention, which Mag has repeatedly cited as the reason for the postponement of a decision.

The ACT is the only jurisdiction to have committed to raising the age from 10 to 14 years old.

In May, a large coalition of justice organisations accused federal and state governments of suppressing large volumes of expert evidence about raising the age, and sitting on a crucial report because they "lack the political will to act".

In 2018, the council of attorneys general (now known as Mag) began investigating potential reforms. It received roughly 93 submissions from youth, medical and legal organisations, most of which are thought to have been supportive of raising the age to 14.

Eighty-eight of the 93 submissions were tagged non-confidential, but none of them has ever been released publicly by the Cag, despite multiple attempts – including through freedom of information and questions in the Senate – to force them to.

The Cag's draft report has also been kept under wraps. A copy was leaked to media in March, and is said to recommend that the age of criminal responsibility be raised to 14 years old, with exceptions for serious crimes. Despite the leak, the report has still not been made public. It is understood to be facing strong

opposition from key states including Queensland and New South Wales.

Now, the 47 organisations are demanding clarity about what the Mag intends to do.

"When the then council of attorneys-general met 12 months ago, it outlined the need for further work to occur "regarding the need for adequate processes and services for children who exhibit offending behaviour".

"What specific work has been undertaken, and by whom, in the past 12 months to identify adequate processes and services for children who exhibit offending behaviour?" they wrote.

They say they are yet to receive a response to their letter.

A spokesperson for the federal Attorney-General, Michaelia Cash, said the issue was one for states and territories to decide.

"Ultimately, it will be a decision for each jurisdiction whether to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility. This is primarily an issue for states and territories, as the overwhelming majority of offences committed by children are state and territory, not Commonwealth, offences. "The Australian Government continues to engage with jurisdictions to ensure treatment of young people in detention meets all expectations for the safety and protection of children under government care."

LORENA ALLAM  
27 July 2021

The  
Guardian

ELMA KRIS HAS BEEN A PERFORMER AND CULTURAL CONSULTANT WITH BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE FOR OVER 20 YEARS  
SHE PLAYS THE TITLE ROLE IN OUR LARGEST EVER STAGE PRODUCTION, WUDJANG: NOT THE PAST  
HER ROLE IS A METAPHOR FOR THE WAY URBAN AND TRADITIONAL CLANS USE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PAST TO BUILD A STRONG FUTURE



# WUDJANG

## NOT THE PAST

**17 JANUARY - 12 FEBRUARY 2022**

ROSLYN PACKER THEATRE, SYDNEY

**18 - 19 FEBRUARY 2022**

THEATRE ROYAL, HOBART

**15 - 18 MARCH 2022**

ADELAIDE FEST CENTRE



## AVALON COMMUNITY CENTENARY CELEBRATION

**19TH MARCH 2022 DUNBAR PARK**

**9.00AM - 5.00PM**

Aboriginal Support Group will be there

Welcome and Smoking, Talks, Songs  
in Aboriginal language, Didgeridoos  
playing, Grace weaving with  
Karleen Green, Artefact display and  
Boomerang painting for the kids, +  
giveaways.

Come and say hello!



# ALETA WASSSELL MANLY ART GALLERY

## EXHIBITION OPEN NOW

Aleta Wassell is a young Northern Beaches based Aboriginal artist who has just opened an exhibition at Manly Art Gallery and Museum. Her original work presents a contemporary expression of dance, sound, videography and art inspired by the natural landscape, Australian animals, and her Aboriginal culture.

At the heart of the exhibition is a film that combines recorded tracks of the natural environment with traditional language and a range of melodic and percussive instruments. Visual footage that incorporates both traditional and contemporary aspects of ceremonies and dance is integral to this piece, bringing a deeper meaning to the work. The film is at the crossroads of traditional and contemporary artistic expression, using voice, rhythms, and synthetic sounds to accompany the visuals of the dancer.

This immersive work combines an array of audio recordings from National Parks, beaches and rivers around NSW with synthetic sounds, percussive instruments, the Native American Flute, and vocals in Dharug. The choreography accompanying the soundtrack was filmed in multiple locations across the Northern Beaches and features Aleta Wassell herself. The audio-visual work centres around the Burumering (Wedge-Tailed Eagle) and

explores its deep connection to the animals, land and earth.

Aleta's artwork, *Grounding Spirits* (acrylic on canvas), is also featured at Manly Art Gallery in her exhibition and explores her personal experiences with her connection to Country. She has always found the earth powerful and feels a deep-rooted connection to the land that she wanted to showcase in her artwork.

Aleta Wassell has performed at multiple Manly Warringah Pittwater Aboriginal Support Group events and is a valued young member of the committee. As well as opening this exhibition, she also recently won People's Choice for the Northern Beaches Council Art Decko competition with a great Burumering (Wedge-Tailed Eagle design). This design will be reprinted on more skateboard decks and she has decided to donate one to the ASG to raise money with a raffle in 2022. We are very proud Aleta and the work she has created.

Aleta's exhibition is now open for the public at Manly Art Gallery and Museum through to the 20th of March, 2022. You can also save the date and join her for an artist talk and interactive performance on Sunday the 27th of February, 3-4 pm at Manly Art Gallery.



## BAREFOOT BALLERINAS MAKE THE MOST OF PIVOT TO ONLINE



**W**hile the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic put restrictions on movements in and out of far north Queensland, in other ways, it brought new opportunities within reach for those in the area.

Communities in the Cape York Peninsula were closed off from the outside world in the early months of 2020 as part of a bio-security bubble in an effort to protect remote Aboriginal communities from the virus.

At the time the world was adapting to a new reality, with businesses such as dance schools switching to offering online classes in order to continue operating.

Principal of the Hope Vale campus of Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy Glenn White told the National Indigenous Times this gave the children at the school their first opportunity to take part in ballet classes.

The closest ballet classes on

offer previously would have likely been in Cairns, a four hour drive away.

"There was an opportunity for ballet lessons to be taught online and I guess our community expressed that our kids don't really get exposed enough to extra curricular activities such as dancing and things like that," he said. Mr White's wife and fellow teacher at the school Kiriana White organised the ballet lessons for prep students which are done through zoom, with a qualified ballet teacher on the screen and her assisting the kids as the class takes place in the classroom.

Mr White said participating in the classes which culminated in an end of year performance had brought a lot of excitement to the young students taking part and he hopes to continue the classes into the future.

"They've loved it its something that the young girls look forward to and get into and

aspire to and hopefully continue to grow," he said.

"The dream would be by the time they go onto year six that they're pretty proficient ballet dancers."

The Hope Vale campus has about 120 students in total and services a region which is home to 13 clan groups who mostly speak Guugu Yimithir and related languages.

**"KIDS SHOULDN'T BE RESTRICTED BY THEIR GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION, KIDS IN REMOTE AUSTRALIA SHOULD HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AS CITY KIDS."**

The Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy has schools in two remote Aboriginal communities which cater for prep to year 6.

They teach using what's called a 'direct and explicit instruction' model which covers the relevant Australian curriculum.

"What that means is a lot more explicit instruction in the way that classes are delivered and through that it helps kids retain information a lot better," Mr White said.

"It's a very I do, we do, you do model in the way we approach things."

He said it was a community decision to adopt this approach to learning for their children since the schools opened about a decade ago.

"We've made big gains in our attendance, which have improved by about 10 per cent, Hope Vale traditionally sat at about low to mid 70s and now we're consistently at 85 per cent, sometimes getting into the 90 per cent attendance rate," Mr White said.

"Academically, now our kids are working at grade level and some even above grade level just through the explicit teaching, it is working to close the gap."

By ALEISHA ORR

# YOU CAN HELP ASG BY BECOMING A SUPPORTER WITH AN ANNUAL DONATION FEE

The aims and objectives of the ASG-MWP are to:

- (a) Work particularly in the local area seeking to improve the way people understand and relate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- (b) Commit to supporting Indigenous people in their struggle for justice.
- (c) Assist in educating the Community in social justice for Indigenous Australians.
- (d) Assist and encourage the advancement of Aboriginal education to the local and greater community.

## SUPPORTER

Supporter are those who wish to join the association and support the ASG in its objectives.

## IT'S NEVER TOO LATE!

Annual Supporters Fee \$25

The annual fee is dated from the day you become a supporter.



Direct Debit:  
Commonwealth Bank  
ASGMWP  
BSB: 06 2155 Acc: 00906332

PayPal.me/ASGMWP

Post Cheque to  
ASGMWP  
P.O. Box 1235  
Newport 2106

One of the requirements within the rules is that ASG needs to maintain supporters' (previously referred to as members) details including their name, address and phone number. We do have most supporters' details though some of you will be contacted where we are still missing information. Please note that we adhere to strict privacy controls.

Do we have your correct details? If you're details need updating.

Please email your details to [info@asgmwp.net](mailto:info@asgmwp.net)

Thank you for your continued support

Supplying your email gives ASGMWP permission to send the Elimatta newsletter and other information to your email address.

ASG-MWP WOULD LIKE TO THANK DEE WHY RSL AND NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT

D E E  
W H Y  
R S L



northern  
beaches  
council



## ABORIGINAL SUPPORT GROUP MANLY WARRINGAH PITTWATER

Founded 1979

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**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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