



Elimatta

Aboriginal Support Group - Manly Warringah Pittwater

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2023



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



GARMA FESTIVAL: THE LARGEST GATHERING OF FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE HAD HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Amongst the red sand and stringybark trees on an escarpment overlooking the Gulf of Carpentaria, thousands will converge this weekend for the 23rd Garma Festival, the country's biggest gathering of First Nations politics and culture.

WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this article contains the name of a deceased person.

The festival is held annually at Gulkula – about 40 kilometres from the town of Nhulunbuy in North-East Arnhem Land – a prominent ceremonial place for the Gumatj clan of the Yolngu people, whose stories tell of dancing on its grounds since the beginning of time. As the referendum for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament draws nearer, discussions this year will centre around constitutional recognition and economic empowerment.

THE ORIGINS OF GARMA

The word 'Garma' is Yolngu Matha for "two-way learning process", because the intention behind the very first gathering in 1999 was for leaders, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to come together to discuss the health and wellbeing of First Nations people.

One man present on that day more than two decades ago

was Murphy Yunupingu, who told the ABC the first Garma was made up of immediate family, from aunties to elders.

"We have elders, leaders, decision makers," he said.

"This is bush parliament."

He said the first meeting was crucial in building a road map to improve education for their people.

"It was an opportunity for our community. In the end, it's not for myself. It's giving what was taken from them," he said.

Murphy stayed true to his passion for education, founding the Dhupuma Barker School in 2021, which he said has high success rates teaching children in both English and their first language, Yolngu Matha.

Today, Garma Festival is an agenda-setting political event that attracts not just immediate family but thousands of people from across the country.

The festival opens with a traditional welcome dance, the Bungul, when Yolngu songmen summon all those present to the ceremonial grounds.

This is the first year since the festival's inception that it will be without one of its

co-founders, prominent Yolngu elder and land rights campaigner Yunupingu, who passed away in April from illness.

Yunupingu's life and legacy will be remembered in a memorial on Friday, which will mark the beginning of the four-day cultural event.

THE NEXT CHAPTER FOR GARMA

Amongst Yunupingu's many great achievements, he was appointed the inaugural chairman of the Northern Land Council in 1977, where he served eight terms over a 23-year period.

Yunupingu's younger brother Djawa Yunupingu has said this year's festival will "stay true to his vision of Garma as a place where Australia comes together, and where we can forge pathways for the future".

Djawa also steps into his older brother's shoes as the leader of the Gumatj clan.

"To be honest, I feel very very fortunate because my family have put me into the shoes of my brother," Djawa told the ABC at the Garma Festival on Thursday.

"I happened to be right alongside him, and that's what he told me all along, 'When I go, you take over'."

YIRRKALA BARK ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Yirrkala Bark Petitions, which Yunupingu assisted in drafting as a teenager alongside his father, Munarrawuy Yunupingu, and his uncle, Djalalinba Yunupingu.

The famous documents, which are being commemorated at this year's festival, are acknowledged as having paved the way for the Aboriginal land rights movement. The petitions, presented to the federal government in 1963, protested the government's decision to approve a bauxite mine on Yolngu country, and asserted Yolngu Law over the land.

They also called on the government to send a committee to speak to the elders.

"I still remember their faces when they were signing the bark petition. I was still a boy, I was in kindergarten, but I saw grown men cry," Djawa said.

"The bark petition was a silent way of protest, to leave our country alone."

The committee went on to recommend that compensation be paid to the Yolngu peoples for their lost livelihood, that sacred sites be protected, and that the mining be

monitored by a parliamentary committee.

"I've seen a lot of changes in my lifetime. That's a journey that we attempt to think back, at our highs, failures, and all that. But these days, we just think of the future, and what the future holds," he said.

GARMA HIGHLIGHTS THE VOICE

This year's Garma Festival is shaping up to be significant, with the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum a key focus.

Over the years, Garma has been a platform for prime ministers to outline their vision for Indigenous affairs, and Anthony Albanese is expected to make a formal address tomorrow.

Despite widespread speculation that Prime Minister Albanese would announce the official voting date for the referendum at this year's festival, he has since stated he has no plans to do so. Instead, he has indicated the date of voting will be somewhere between October and December.

Last year's Garma Festival saw the prime minister

announce a draft question for the referendum and the proposed amendment to the constitution.

Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney said if the Voice campaign is successful, she would dedicate it to Yunupingu, whose absence will be felt greatly this year.

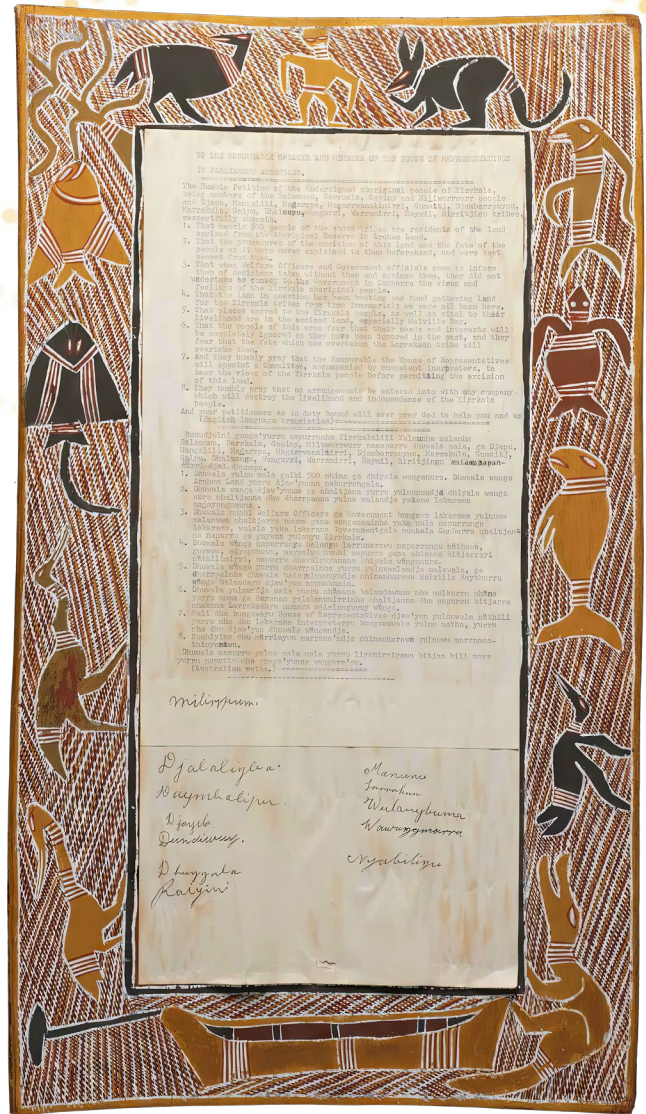
"One of the founders of the festival, the late Gumatj leader Yunupingu, will be greatly missed at this year's event but his words live on that 'the future is our responsibility,'" she said.

Ms Burney has also announced the federal government is providing \$775,000 in funding over two years to the Yothu Yindi Foundation, which hosts the Garma Festival.

Yunupingu's daughter Binmila said her "dad's loss will be felt in many hearts and minds" this year.

"We ask you to mourn his passing in your own way, but we as a family encourage you to rejoice in the gift of his life and leadership," she said.

"THERE WILL NEVER BE ANOTHER LIKE HIM."



HOW MANY VOTES DOES THE REFERENDUM NEED TO PASS?

aec.gov.au/referendums/pamphlet.htm



For the referendum to succeed, it doesn't just need more than 50 per cent of the vote.

A quirk of federation means that referendums are slightly more complex.

They require a “double majority” — a majority of people in a majority of states.

What that means in practice is both a majority of the country as a whole, and a majority of people in at least four of the six states.

Unfortunately for residents of the Northern Territory and ACT, their votes will only count towards the nationwide majority.

What will voting look like?

Referendum day will look a lot like a normal election day — with polling places in all the usual places, like schools, churches and community halls.

But the ballot paper might not be quite what you expect.

If you were thinking you

would tick a box labelled “yes” or “no”, you’re wrong.

The ballot paper will ask the question (mentioned above), and then ask you to write in “yes” or “no” in a box.

If you mark the ballot paper some other way — like ticking or crossing it — your ballot might still be counted but can be disputed.

And you’ll be using a pencil, as you do on a normal election day.

The AEC is required to distribute a pamphlet to

Australian voters, containing the Yes and No cases prepared by parliamentarians who voted for and against the proposed law.

The AEC was not involved in the development of the content in the Yes and No cases.

The words in the Yes and No cases are as supplied by the respective parliamentary committees who wrote each case.



BONGIN BONGIN BAY MONA VALE

The 'Friends of Bongin Bongin Bay' evolved in February 2023 from a group of swimmers who traverse the bay each morning taking in the wonders of nature. The group is currently seeking to mobilise the community, seeking its support in having the area declared by the NSW Government as a 'no take' aquatic reserve. The primary objective of aquatic reserves in NSW is to conserve the biodiversity of fish and marine vegetation.

We are not anti-fishing.

Marine sanctuaries provide a refuge for fish from being caught, allowing them to aggregate freely, grow large, and reproduce. Sanctuaries are an important tool not just to halt biodiversity loss and to create climate resilience, but to ensure food security. As fish and invertebrates grow larger they produce exponentially more eggs; the bigger the fish, the more babies they produce.

We believe that establishing areas where larger fish can proliferate free from extractive pressures is of great val-

ue to areas adjacent that are open to fishing.

Whilst in some aquatic reserves you can fish with a few restrictions, in the case of Bongin Bongin Bay, we are advocating for a "No Take" Aquatic Reserve which means that fishing or collecting of any kind is prohibited.

Cabbage Tree Bay (Shelly Beach) in Manly is a local example of a "No Take" Aquatic Reserve. In this case it has proven to be a very successful model benefitting both the marine life and the humans

who daily enjoy their aquatic pursuits.

Each aquatic reserve has its own rules but all of them allow you to enjoy a range of marine activities such as boating, scuba diving, snorkelling, and swimming.

In area the proposed aquatic reserve will be approximately 451,000 square meters (45 hectares). It will have a boundary (perimeter) of 3.8km.

Bonginbonginbay.com.au

[Youtu.be/PZ4b-IPmKnM](https://youtu.be/PZ4b-IPmKnM)

LIZARD ROCK PETITION DEBATED IN PARLIAMENT



The petition calling for the Government to save local bushland at Lizard Rock and 5 other sites was tabled by Michael Regan MP and debated in NSW Parliament on Thursday 29 June 2023. Speeches in support were given by the three other local MPs; Matt Cross (Davidson), Rory Amon (Pittwater) and James Griffin (Manly). All four spoke in favour of conservation of the bushland, with discussion of the significant biodiversity value of the land, the connectivity of the land to habitat for endangered and iconic species, significant bushfire risks to future inhabitants, and other town planning and infrastructure issues raised by the proposal.

As the site is owned by the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, the proposal is complex because part of the proceeds of clearing and developing the land would benefit members of the Land Council. As noted in Michael Regan's

speech;

The community recognises that the land was granted by the State Government to the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council in recognition of past wrongs committed against First Nations people by governments of the past. The community does not criticise the desire of the land council to want to improve the economic circumstances of its members given the structural disadvantage faced by Indigenous people as a consequence of colonisation. However, the community is concerned that we are now committing wrongs against wrongs and trying to fix past wrongs against First Nations people by committing new wrongs against nature. We must work harder and smarter to find solutions that are a win-win for both nature and society. This petition calls for that balance to be struck.

The Minister for Planning, Paul Scully, replied

to the speeches from the local MPs with a summary of the process for the planning proposal being considered. Of note, the Minister indicated that if the Rural Fire Service did not support the proposal, this would lead to its refusal. Disappointingly, the Minister also indicated that the State Government is unwilling to commit funding towards pursuing an alternative solution.

A recording of the debate at: [Youtu.be/1eFfG2sOQzM](https://youtu.be/1eFfG2sOQzM)

The petition was written and collected by the Northern Beaches Bushland Guardians, who have been organising the campaign to save the land from development. The group stated:

"We're disappointed that the State Government intends to continue to allow the Lizard Rock rezoning proposal to progress through the process, but our petition has forced the Minister to engage with the issue. This means the community must maintain pres-

sure on the government to refuse the application.

In the next month or two, the proposal will come to public exhibition and it is critical that we have a large community response to write submissions opposing the planning proposal, and we will share a template to assist. We will also continue to liaise with local stakeholders to build momentum for alternatives".

Those interested in the Northern Beaches Bushland Guardians campaign can find out more and join their mailing list at www.envirolink.net.au. The Northern Beaches Bushland Guardians are Dr Conny Harris, Councillor Kristyn Glanville, Rachael Leah Jackson, Sarah Baker, Pamela Dawes, Deb Harris, Marion Kiss, and Sue Denham.

Northern Beaches Bushland Guardians campaign team

SORRY DAY 2023

WE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF MATTHEW JEFFREY RECITING HIS POEM "OUR HOME."

Consirific Ngar O'er
the Clifface of Sorry!
SORRY! SORRY!

Welts bedding, melting o'er
shoulder.
Had the Limerick spun
Courage with the Oar of
Image?

Asat their Whardi & Way-
jinn as Wiradjuri Journo
was dealt the Sisyphean
Boulder.

Dawaandi flickers, a-tsun-
dere austere air
The Grains then Dug In, the
Moon repeated the Sun's
Glare,

And at the very last a reg-
ulation not outer imposed,
The degustation of sites
could destroy a thousand
Emperors Clothes!

The Candle's at a Wafer.
The Nations Might!
And yet bite their hungers.
Naturally the Wicko
jammed the Wick o' the
Summer.

Tomed a gift encas'd in the
the Winter Fold

Our Sleeping Spirit did not
Haunt,
It Holds,
It overwhelms the ar-
moured with Love
And bellows to Karma,
You're Old, but not THAT
old!

"Come and Have a Go if You
Think You're Hard Enough"

Why even Baiame wasn't
Made of the Right Stuff!

The Drops can stiffen the
Tantric, make 'em physical
even!
Add to that odds in the fla-
vour of these Gods,

Like 2 Minute Maggi's, mi-
crowaved for the hippy to
cooker chord prog.

Shame hadn't entered, the
Two Were in a Garden.

Well, well-guarded, course
the recourses promulgat-
ed therefrom and there-
forward meted "All Roads
lead back to Rome" to even
those breathing deep the
Sleeping Rock?

When the 'Natives' "up-
start", understand, it was
always theirs, them way-
finding eels to chart up!

A life-cycle minnows, but
our shoots carry the An-
cient Heart.

Where Mirrirul and Broth-
er Rain, live in each Human
Brain

Awashing the Lucky Con-
tinent's populous to ever
Healing Lakes

It can't be quiet though, it
has to be fought

The systems of the Crown
have to be dealt with and
shorn

As the jumbucks lifted and
disappeared

The flash in the Gold Pan
Australia gleams it's first
senses aware

Rhythmic dismantlement
and recreation

Can feed the spirit healing,
and shared Liberation

I recently had a Wayjinn
Birraban, "in my hands".

She held ear close to the
words of our Mother Lands
She stalled the mechan-
ical, Nasu opened her to
Dance.

And after those moon-



lights we had, I shed tears
on many First Lands
Reconciled doesn't mean
tokens

It means coming together
unbroken

It means dealing with the
ephemeral Australia
And fashioning values that
can be generating embers
I often wondered about the
monetisation of my Sacred
Birthing Trees.

Or the Mausoleums Sig-
nage denoting where my
people's so said, "used to
be".

We have for too long been
made past tense, so as to
destroy our Dreams

And I think it's past sense
we realise we've been
leaned

It's not just stand up, get
up, it's not just Elders
It's not just Aunties and
Uncles, celebrations and
carving out tenders
It's Revolting the way so

many are Stolen today.
The only thing needed is a
Revolution.

So dustbin their ladders,
corporate hierarchies and
Titles,
They have us in their deso-
late Dune.

The Dune attuned to is no
longer a Desolate Tune.

Harm Healthy Harold,
welp, I could sorely never
sever!

But Harsher still

...is the Coming Climate
Changing DreamTime
weather.l

Lest us talk ay Garn as it
all goes extincting

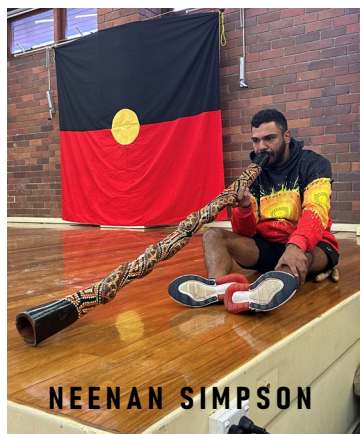
And Well My fellow travel-
lers, First Nation or not.

I'd rather share my Um-
brella - with you lot...



WERE YOU AT THE ASGMWP SORRY DAY 28TH MAY?

Thank you for joining us, we had a great night.



NEENAN SIMPSON

Hope all your plants are doing well. And you're keeping them watered like Noan Smith suggested. What a wonderful young speaker at just 17. So glad to have him and is family on Garigal Country.

Sorry Day this year was just the way it should be, everybody coming together as one.

Uncle Laurie Welcomed us to Garigal country. And smoked us.

There was afternoon tea. Freshly cooked damper, Kangaroo meat balls,

lots to eat.

What about the Pymble Ladies College dancers? What a joy to watch. Beautiful. Weaving in the corner with Auntie Karleen, Uncle Laurie with his artifacts, Neelana with the didgeridoo and how can we forget Aleta singing.

The best thing was the kids painting and then the show and tell.



We thank Michel Reagan MP and the councilors from the Northern Beaches Council for sharing the afternoon with us. Thank you.

Comments received from Sorry day 2023.

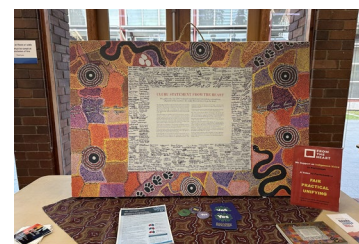
Enjoyed being at your Sorry Day

Dick and I thoroughly enjoyed being at your Sorry Day Event today to see your community come together to support Reconciliation.

You certainly pulled together a great program of activities with the support of the Indigenous and Non-Indigenous members. There was a lovely feel-good atmosphere throughout the afternoon.

Thank you for having us there.

Congratulations, it was a good event.



Good attendance - the guests participated with enthusiasm in the opening outdoor performances; the young women dancers from Pymble executed their dances flawlessly and were warmly applauded; Karleen lead a keen group of weavers who went away with some beautiful pieces of their own creation; the artefacts were very popular for a wide range of guests who got to handle them and ask many questions; the Uluru Statement from the Heart was displayed prominently and attracted many guests, information was disseminated via cards and flyers; buttons were sold and worn proudly; the children made a good effort and it was delightful they displayed

their work with smiles, and were surprised to receive their awards, they will remember this important day.

On such a cold day, the food was welcome and appreciated, fresh, tasty and delicious - especially the kangaroo meatballs, damper and Illawarra plum jam/chutney - and guests registered as asked.

The young man, the Speaker - delivered an eloquent poem of his own creation, speaking very confidently into the microphone and received warm acclaim from the attentive audience. delivering the books were displayed well and several sales were made, including to Counsellor

Candice Bingham, representing Northern Beaches Council, and finally the young woman with the 'golden tonsils' sang and played exquisitely, bringing significant, vocal pieces to life.

Thank you for bringing Sorry Day - this momentous event to the Northern Beaches.



A portrait of Alice Skye, a young woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue off-the-shoulder top and large blue tassel earrings. She is standing outdoors in a natural setting with trees and a blue sky in the background.

ALICE SKYE

WERGAIA/WEMBA WOMAN AND MUSICIAN

ASGMWP.net/media/books/Music-Culture.pdf

Alice Skye is a Wergaia/Wemba Wemba woman and musician.

Alice grew up in Horsham, Victoria near the Grampians National Park, often visiting the mountains which influenced her childhood and music.

Alice's story of music started with her older sister taking piano lessons.

Alice was at the age when she wanted to do everything her older sisters did, including learning to

play the piano.

Missy Higgins and Regina Spektor became sources of inspiration when developing her piano skills and style.

Alice began writing songs as a way of storytelling and expressing passion for her culture and connection to Country.

Alice has a love for songwriting, with the lyrics often reflecting her environment including representations of the serenity of the mountains from her childhood.

Alice's released her first album Friends with Feelings in 2018 and her second album I Feel Better But I Don't Feel Good in 2021 with the final song on the album, Wurrega Djulin incorporating the language of the Wergaia people. In

an interview with NME she provides a loose translation for the lyric in Wurrega Djulin 'Yergan gumbar yerginjan, Wurega Djalín' to 'I am searching, I am listening, I will search, to speak my tongue.'

Alice has been awarded the Emerging Art-

ist Award at Australian Women in Music Awards in 2019 and First Peoples Emerging Artist Award in 2019.

*My name is **Zoe Christiansson**, and I am a Year 11 student at NBSC Mackellar Girls Campus.*

I am currently completing my HSC Accelerated Aboriginal Studies major project on the topic of contemporary Aboriginal artists in the music industry and how their music connects to culture.

LOUISE TAYLOR SET TO BECOME AUSTRALIA'S FIRST FEMALE INDIGENOUS SUPREME COURT JUDGE



Justice Taylor joins the Supreme Court as a long-time Canberran, becoming the first Aboriginal resident judge in ACT jurisdiction. (Image: Albert McKnight)

Proud Kamilaroi woman Louise Taylor is set to become Australia's first female Indigenous Supreme Court judge.

It comes as the long-time Canberra resident and current Australian Capital Territory Magistrate was appointed as the Territory's sixth Supreme Court judge on Wednesday.

Making history for the second time after being appointed as the ACT's first Indigenous magistrate in 2018, Justice Taylor said she was "very honoured to have the privilege to serve the community" as a Supreme Court judge.

"This is, of course, a very proud day for my family and I, and I hope a very proud day for First Nations people, in particular First Nations women," she said, via ABC.

"At my appointment, I'm conscious of the significance of it and I'm very proud to

accept this appointment."

ACT Attorney-General Shane Rattenbury said Justice Taylor has displayed excellency in her five years serving the ACT Magistrates Court,

"Magistrate Taylor brings to the Supreme Court a wealth of knowledge and expertise, having represented the most vulnerable members of our community in complex matters," Attorney-General Rattenbury said.

"Having served on the ACT Magistrates Court since 2018, Magistrate Taylor has spent the past five years exhibiting her proficiency in both civil and criminal law matters, displaying a commitment to fairness, impartiality, and open-mindedness.

"Her background as Deputy Chief Executive Officer of ACT Legal Aid, together with her roles with the ACT and Commonwealth Director of

Public Prosecutions, further accentuate her exceptional expertise and knowledge of the legal system."

Mr Rattenbury also commended Justice Taylor as a positive role model for Indigenous people.

"We're very delighted that, as a Kamilaroi woman, she has not only had an outstanding legal career but she will also represent Aboriginal people and be a role model for young lawyers coming through to understand how far they can progress with their careers, and hopefully that provides a source of inspiration."

Justice Taylor has previously held roles including deputy CEO of ACT Legal and Aid and positions within the ACT and Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions.

ACT Chief Justice Lucy McCallum said she is looking forward to welcoming Magistrate Tay-

lor to the Supreme Court.

"I have no doubt that Louise's dedication to upholding the rule of law, combined with her invaluable experience, will contribute to the continued delivery of justice in our community," Chief Justice McCallum said.

"It is pleasing to welcome her to the Supreme Court as a long-time Canberran and as the first Aboriginal Resident Judge in this jurisdiction."

"The ACT Supreme Court is committed to fostering an inclusive and representative judiciary that reflects the diversity of the community it serves, so we look forward very much to serving alongside Magistrate Taylor."

Justice Taylor is expected to be sworn in next month.



WHAT'S ON



28 August A DISCUSSION ON THE VOICE REFERENDU

Speaker: Julian Leaser MP, Tim Rowse, Dr Jeff McMullen AM

Mona Vale Community Hall, 1 Park St Mona Vale

Start 7:30pm. All welcome

28 August A HISTORY RELATED TO FRIENDS OF NARRABEEN LAGOON CATCHMENT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Via Zoom)

Speaker: Judith Bennett

Please register to attend by emailing: email@narrabeenlagoon.org.au

13th November COMMUNITY MEETING

KINCHELA ABORIGINAL BOYS TRAINING HOME (KBH)

The bus is coming, KBH survivors will be speaking

Mona Vale Community Hall, 1 Park St Mona Vale

Start 7:30pm. All welcome



VALE Carol Richie

Supporter of the Aboriginal Support Group for many years.

A well-respected lady. She loved to help the Biala Girls

Saddly missed by all.



ASGMWP THANKS DEE WHY RSL AND NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT

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WHY
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Founded 1979

0419 219 770

ASGMWP.net

[Facebook.com/ASGMWP](https://facebook.com/ASGMWP)

P.O. Box 1235 NEWPORT NSW 2106

Koorimail.com

[Facebook.com/Koorimail](https://facebook.com/Koorimail)

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Editor: Neil Evers
Graphic Design: Nathan John