

Welcome to the winter edition of the Koori Grapevine and hope you enjoy the read.

Contributions are welcome via [medwards@lakemac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:medwards@lakemac.nsw.gov.au).

*"So, I take this word 'reconciliation' and I use it to reconcile people back to Mother Earth, so they can walk this land together and heal one another because she's the one that gives birth to everything we see around us, everything we need to survive." - Max Dulumunmun Harrison*

*Please be advised images and/or names of those deceased may appear in this publication.*

## GOLD - Lake Macquarie Elders win the 2016 Elders Olympics

For the past three years, Lake Macquarie's Biraban and Bahtabah Local Aboriginal Land Council's (LALC) have joined forces to fund the Lake Macquarie Elders to support them in attending and participating in the annual NSW Elders Olympics.

This year the very proud Lake Macquarie Elders team won Gold. Michael Green, CEO of Bahtabah LALC and one of the participants in the games said, "this means everything to the community and shows what us Elders can do."

The Lake Macquarie Elders took part across a number of events, including beanbag throwing, quoits, egg and spoon races, netball and relay racing. The Lake

Macquarie Team had a secret weapon with Aunty Brenda Simon, the sharpshooter who was on fire in the netball event, nailing hat trick after hat trick, with a favorite for the team supports on the day being the egg and spoon race.

Over 500 people made up 25 teams of Aboriginal Elders who travelled from all around NSW to compete in the one-day Elders Olympic Games in stunning Worimi country Port Stephens.

The one-day event is a way for Elders to meet up and reconnect, while being recognised and appreciated as they represent their communities in a format of a modern day corroboree.

As 2016 winners, this qualifies the 2017 Elders Olympics to be held in the Lake Macquarie region, which will see a potential influx of over 500 Elders, families and supporters to the area.

We will keep you updated for more details leading up to next year's event. Congratulations to all involved.



Lake Mac Elders achieve gold



Proud Elders competing in the 2016 Elders Olympics

# Close the Gap day

Thursday 17 March 2016, marked the 10th anniversary of National Close the Gap day which gives people the opportunity to show their support in closing the 10-17 year life expectancy gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians. Council put on a community morning tea, with healthy fruit options and a delicious Close the Gap mud cake, before hosting the monthly Aboriginal Employment Interagency.

As well as some of Council staff attending, Cr Wendy Harrison and Cr Barney Langford came along, and so did the lovely Carly and Tresne from MKR fame. We raised a small amount of funds to donate to OXFAM. Thank you all for your support.



*Carly and Tresne came to support Close the Gap day.*



*Cr Wendy Harrison cuts the Close the Gap day cake.*

## Council supports NAIDOC events

This year council received a record 24 applications from schools and not for profit organisations to put on a project or event to celebrate NAIDOC week in Lake Macquarie. \$11805 was allocated to fund these programs and the two major events, Westlakes family fun day (Tuesday 5 July at Toronto foreshore) and Eastlakes family fun day (Friday the 15 July at Pelican foreshore) were recipients of \$2000 each towards these fabulous community days. All welcome to attend. More details in Events section.

## 15 years working with community in our gallery by the lake

On 12 May 2001, we were gathered at the exciting grand opening of the new art gallery building by Sir William Dean, then Governor General of Australia. Designed by Colin Still, of Cox Richardson, the building project brought to the City a state-of-the-art exhibition facility able to display work from nationally significant artists and collections alongside those with a Hunter connection.

The Gallery has been servicing the community for over 36 years and the people of the region have always been our focus – from its humble beginnings as a small and mostly volunteer-run facility in Speers Point, to its current position as a nationally recognised gallery by the lake in Booragul.

Since opening in the new building, 482,890 people have visited the gallery, we have presented 215 exhibitions and projects, 60 per cent of which had Aboriginal content, 68 per cent were in-house curated and the remainder touring from institutions such as Art Gallery of NSW, National Gallery of Australia and MCA. We have staged over 4,500 events and art classes and increased the collection by 189 artworks, including nine outdoor sculptures, several in the newly established sub-collection of works on paper by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.

Our visitation has more than doubled, as have staffing levels. We have attracted over 30 state and national awards for our publications and programs, particularly for our exemplary Aboriginal programming in partnership with the Aboriginal Reference Group (ARG).

We have undertaken 25 Aboriginal-specific projects representing over \$500,000 of grants and Council funds. It is a privilege to work with the community through the ARG to develop such significant projects as yapang marruma: making our way (stories of the Stolen) (2009), A Possum Skin Cloak by the Lake (2011) A Tribute to Uncle Jim Ridgeway (2014), (in)Visible: the First Peoples and War (2015) and most recently, Lore & Order (2015).

We look forward to many more years of presenting quality programming and activities with, and for, our visitors – both local and tourist.

As part of our birthday celebration, we will be posting memories, images, and anecdotes on our Facebook page. Please contribute by adding your own experiences.

Article by Deb Abraham Gallery Director.



*Aerial shot of Lake Mac Art Gallery*

## 'Tunbilliko' returns to Lake Mac

The Tunbilliko Exchange Program is an initiative of Lake Macquarie Local Area Commander, Superintendent Brett Greentree, with the aim of the program to enhance and strengthen relationships between the Aboriginal Community and the NSW Police Force, and provide young Aboriginal males from an inland region to experience a coastal lifestyle.

The program involved bringing five Aboriginal boys from the Darling River LAC to Lake Macquarie to meet and engage in activities with five Lake Macquarie Aboriginal boys, all aged between 14 and 17 years.

On their first night, they were treated to some cultural dancing by members of the Wakagetti troupe on the banks of Glenrock Lagoon followed by a barbeque provided by the Belmont Rotary club, who also supplied lunch for 3 days.

During the five night and four day stay, at Glenrock Scout Camp, the boys experienced a range of activities including sailing, kayaking, fishing, painting, touch footy, swimming, a men only bush tucker walk

through Glenrock State Conservation Area and a live NRL match with a player meet and greet after the game.

As well as the sporting fun, the group were given tours of the Wollotuka Institute at The University of Newcastle, Belmont Police Station, Newcastle Harbour with the Water Police, and Hunter TAFE, which included meeting students from the IPROWD program.

The boys were also treated to an adventurous evening looking around Charlestown Square before attending an action packed movie in the Titan XC movie theatre.

On their final day of the program, the boys worked together at Windale PCYC to create a special art canvas, which they presented to Superintendent Greentree and NSW Police

as a display of their gratitude of having taken part in such a unique adventure.

Police from both Lake Macquarie and Darling River's LAC participated in the program with enthusiasm and were exemplary role models to this group of young influential Aboriginal males. As a result, new friendships were formed and the relationship between the Aboriginal Community and the NSW Police were strengthened. The Lake Macquarie lads will travel to the Darling River area in August 2016.

The program was made successful due to funding received from the Aboriginal Strategic Direction Crime Prevention Grants and Lake Macquarie City Council with Belmont Rotary supplying lunch for three days.



*Welcome to Awabakal land*



## 15 Minutes of fame

**Name and nickname:**

**Glen Boyd- Boydie/King**

**Where are you from:**

Born in Wellington from the Wiradjuri Nation

**Your role and organisation:**

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Liaison Officer,  
Partners in Recovery-Hunter Primary Care

**What services can your organisation provide to Aboriginal people in Lake Macquarie?**

My role at Hunter Primary Care-Partners in Recovery involves helping identify Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people who suffer from a severe, persistent long standing mental illness.

Once they have been deemed eligible they are referred to a NGO that provide services to help with their recovery. In Lake Macquarie, Neami International is the provider helping the consumers with their recovery.

I assist the NGO's and other key stakeholders in ensuring that the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders are receiving services in a culturally appropriate way and to build the NGO's capacity when dealing with the Aboriginal community.

**Who is in your family?**

I have 3 children, 2 boys and a daughter, Damien, Ella & James,  
I also have siblings who live all over the State including Dubbo, Wello, Sydney and Newcastle.

**Who is your hero?**

My children

**Favourite bush food:**

Porcupine

**Favourite sport:**

Rugby League is my favourite but I enjoy all sports.

**Ambitions in life:**

Live a healthy life, support my children and to help people who are less fortunate.

**Anything else you would like to add?**

As Aboriginal people we need to have an increasing awareness when it comes to all Health matters as we are so overly represented in all Health statistics. We need to start encouraging individuals and organisations to increase awareness from an early age.

# Events

Additional events including Lake Mac Libraries and Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery programs are available at [www.lakemac.com.au](http://www.lakemac.com.au)

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
<b>June</b>			
Tuesday 7 11.30am-12.30pm	Years Ahead Driver Program	Charlestown Library	Bookings at <a href="http://lakemac.com.au/events">lakemac.com.au/events</a> or phone 4921 0430
Thursday 23	Central Coast School Leavers Expo for Students with Disability	Mingara Recreation Club	Kay Dean 0438 218848 <a href="mailto:kay.dean@newcastle.edu.au">kay.dean@newcastle.edu.au</a>
Tuesday 28 Wednesday 29	RYDON Conference	Merewether Surf House	<a href="http://www.rydon.org.au">www.rydon.org.au</a>
Various dates, times and programs	You're Kidding Me program	Held at various Lake Mac Libraries	Bookings essential on 4921 0373 or at <a href="http://library.lakemac.com.au/events">library.lakemac.com.au/events</a>
<b>July Lake Macquarie main NAIDOC events</b>			
Tuesday 5 July 8.:45 for a 9am start N.B. Earlier time	Lake Macquarie City Council flag raising and morning tea	Lake Macquarie City Council Administration building 126-138 Main Rd Speers Point	4921 0333 or <a href="mailto:medwards@lakemac.nsw.gov.au">medwards@lakemac.nsw.gov.au</a>
Tuesday 5 July 10.30am-3pm	Westlakes NAIDOC Family Fun Day All welcome to attend	Meet in Coles car park for community march to Toronto Foreshore	Nicole 0409 902 043 <a href="mailto:naidocwestlakes@bigpond.com">naidocwestlakes@bigpond.com</a>
Friday 8 July 6.30pm	Westlakes Elders 'Koorioke' night	Club Macquarie Argenton	Just turn up. ALL welcome
Friday 15 July 10am-4pm	Eastlakes NAIDOC Family Fun Day All welcome to attend	Pelican Foreshore	Carol 4971 4800 <a href="mailto:carolbahtalc@hotmail.com">carolbahtalc@hotmail.com</a>
Tuesday 19 and 26 11am-noon	Seniors program Ballroom Dancing	Toronto Community Centenary Hub 92-97 The Boulevardde	Bookings on 4921 0430
Friday 22 and 29 11am-noon	Seniors program Ballroom Dancing	Swansea Visitors Centre	Bookings on 4921 0430
Thursday 28 July 9am-1pm	Hunter School Leavers Expo for Students with Disability	Hunter Stadium, Turton Road, Broadmeadow	Kay Dean 0438 218848 <a href="mailto:kay.dean@newcastle.edu.au">kay.dean@newcastle.edu.au</a>
Saturday 30 July	Trivia night supporting the Eastlakes Domestic Violence committee	Central Charlestown Leagues club	Bookings essential via Karen on 0414 498 773 or <a href="mailto:Karen@street.net.au">Karen@street.net.au</a>
Various dates, times and programs	You're kidding Me program	Held at various Lake Mac Libraries	Bookings essential on 4921 0373 or at <a href="http://library.lakemac.com.au/events">library.lakemac.com.au/events</a>
<b>August</b>			
Monday 15 Tuesday 16	Local Government Community Safety & Crime Prevention Network Community Safety Conference	Wollongong	<a href="mailto:lgcscpn@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au">lgcscpn@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au</a>
Tuesday 16 9am-4pm	Historian Tours by Ed Tonks	Eastlake's Tour Lunch at own expense at Swansea Hotel	Bookings on 4921 0430
Tuesday 23 9am-4pm	Historian Tours by Ed Tonks	Westlake's Tour Lunch at own expense at Argenton Hotel	Bookings on 4921 0430
Various dates, times and programs	You're kidding Me program	Held at various Lake Mac Libraries	Bookings essential on 4921 0373 or at <a href="http://library.lakemac.com.au/events">library.lakemac.com.au/events</a>

## Significant Dates

### 1 July - The Coming of the Light Festival

The **Coming of the Light Festival** ([www.tsra.gov.au/the-torres-strait-regional-events-calendar/regular-events](http://www.tsra.gov.au/the-torres-strait-regional-events-calendar/regular-events)) marks the day the London Missionary Society first arrived in Torres Strait. The missionaries landed at Erub Island on 1 July 1871, introducing Christianity to the region. This is a significant day for Torres Strait Islanders, who are predominantly of Christian faith, and religious and cultural ceremonies are held annually across Torres Strait and mainland Australia.

### 3 - 10 July 2016 - NAIDOC Week

**NAIDOC** ([www.naidoc.org.au](http://www.naidoc.org.au)) 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. All Australians are encouraged to participate in NAIDOC Week activities

### 4 August - National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day

**National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day** ([www.aboriginalchildrensday.com.au/](http://www.aboriginalchildrensday.com.au/)) was established by the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care in 1988. Each year, Secretariat National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care has a theme for Children's Day to highlight a significant issue, concern or hope for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. <http://splash.abc.net.au/digibook/-/c/618742/national-sorry-day>

### 9 August - International Day of the World's Indigenous People

**International Day of the World's Indigenous People** ([www.timeanddate.com/holidays/un/international-day-indigenous-people](http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/un/international-day-indigenous-people)) aims to make the voices of Indigenous peoples heard more clearly around the world and to protect the rights of Indigenous peoples and improve their situations with respect to their lands, their languages, their livelihoods, and their cultures. This day is also to strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by Indigenous people in such areas as culture, education, health, human rights, the environment and social and economic development.

**Great mates now at peace with the Ancestors**

**Vale – Mick 'Didge' Davidson 20/3/1950 – 19/3/2016** Uncle Mick was farewelled in his home town of Walcha on Tuesday 29 March and a local memorial service was held on Friday 1 April at The University of Newcastle's Wollotuka Institute. He will be missed by many and for his numerous contributions to Lake Macquarie City Council's events, including Citizenship Ceremonies and NAIDOC Week services. This year's Council flag raising event will be dedicated to this special man. *"A special person, a special face, a special someone we cannot replace."*  
**Bill Callaghan** Passed away Monday 23.5.2016. He was farewelled by family and friends in a moving service at Karuah on Friday 27th May.