

# Koori Grapevine

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Koori Grapevine, edition #30. We hope you enjoy the read. Contributions are welcome via email to [medwards@lakemac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:medwards@lakemac.nsw.gov.au)

March-June 2019

Please be advised images and/or names of people passed over may appear in this publication



Kerriann Dunn 2019 Lake Macquarie Citizen of the Year

## 2019 Lake Macquarie Awards

*The Lake Macquarie Awards were held in February at Caves Beach and celebrated the City's elite sportspeople, imaginative innovators and generous volunteers.*

The 2019 Citizen of the Year, Kerriann Dunn, was selected for her work with the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG), a non-profit Aboriginal organisation that provides advice on education and training matters. She is currently vice-president of the Morisset and Southlakes AECG, Itji Marru.

Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Councillor Kay Fraser, said the Citizen of the Year Award also recognised Ms Dunn's tireless involvement in a wide range of other community initiatives and programs.

"Kerriann is a prime example of our connected, generous and compassionate Lake Macquarie community," Cr Fraser said.

As well as raising four young people and working full-time at Morisset High School, Ms Dunn is involved with the Bonnells Bay and Eraring primary schools and Morisset High School Parents and Carers' group.

She also volunteers on the Southlake Community Drug Action Team, is a senior team leader at Lake Munmorah Foodbank, and with the Community Hair Project and aims to see the service grow.

Ms Dunn said she was humbled to be among the nominees for the award.

"I was very surprised to win going up against all of those amazing nominees," she said.

Ms Dunn said the message was, 'it did not take a major sacrifice from those with the means to make a big difference to the lives of those who were doing it tough'.

Congratulations to Kerriann and the other category winners listed below:

- Junior Sportsperson of the Year – Ky Willott (Hockey) and Jessica Pickering (Trampolining, diving)
- Young Citizen of the Year – Ky Willott
- Volunteer of the Year – Patricia Buttsworth
- Norm Johnston Memorial Administrator/Volunteer of the Year – Brett Austine (Trampolining)
- Community Group of the Year – Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie
- Sports Scholarship Award for Athlete with a Disability – Erin Cleaver (Athletics)
- Masters Sportsperson of the Year – Jenny Enderby (Orienteering)
- International Children's Games Fair Play Award – Bryce Webber (Athletics)
- Sportsperson of the Year – Ty Swadling (Trampolining)

# Gallery to close temporarily for expansion

Experience Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery's latest exhibition, First Class 18, a series of brave works conveying the talent and wisdom of young people in our region.

Gallery Director, Debbie Abraham, said guest curators, Helen Willis and Courtney Novak, selected 41 works from more than 128 high school nominations from top performing 2018 HSC Visual Arts students from the Hunter and Central Coast.

"Works in this year's exhibition were curated around the common theme, 'what makes us who we are?'" Ms Abraham said.

"Through this driving concept, young artists reveal personal observations about mental health, pollution and the influences of science. Some explore intimate memories, others family relationships or cultural

connections. As a whole, the works demonstrate how our environment, our culture and our emotions are continually shaping us."

The exhibition includes vast diversity of media including drawing, painting, sculpture, photo media, fibre, video and installation.

This is the community's last chance to visit the Gallery before it undergoes an extensive \$2.3 million transformation. The Gallery will temporarily close its doors from Sunday 31 March until September to allow for the expansion of the vibrant and popular cultural facility.

Awaba House Restaurant and Cafe will remain open throughout construction.

For further information about the exhibition, go to [artgallery.lakemac.com.au](http://artgallery.lakemac.com.au).



## \$50k public art project reflects Windale's diversity

### Aboriginal Public Art - Mural, Windale

The new \$50,000 Windale public art project was unveiled on Thursday 14 February 2019. The 10-metre long multi-media work, adorning the side of planter boxes in Windale's main retail precinct, was inspired by workshops with the Windale community and revolves around three key themes: people, nature and sport. Local artists, John Cliff, Saretta Fielding, Joanna O'Toole and Warwick O'Toole, created the mural, which features Aboriginal motifs and a curved design representing nearby Scrubby Creek. New plantings surrounding the sculpture include bush tucker species for the Windale community to care for and use freely. Local schools including St Pius, Windale Public and Hunter Sports High students created the sculptures featured on the planter boxes and were on hand to celebrate the launch of Windale CREATE.

## Aboriginal design greeting cards

Local Aboriginal woman, Karen Sutton, has been creating hand crafted, one off designs in Indigenous Australian colours of black, red and yellow. Each card is \$5 and one has even gone as far as France. If you are interested in purchasing cards, contact Karen at [kas3@hotmail.com.au](mailto:kas3@hotmail.com.au) or on 0417 969 229. The Aboriginal greeting cards will also be located Awabakal Land Council Office, 127 Maitland Rd, Islington.



# Surfest Wandiyali Indigenous Surf Classic 2019



Cultural performers entertaining the crowd.



Wandiyali Indigenous Classic 2019 trophies

*The Surfest Wandiyali Indigenous Surf Classic 2019 took place on 2-3 March at Merewether. It began with a traditional Aboriginal smoking ceremony and performances by teachers and students from Callaghan College. Part of the weekend festivities featured a cultural gathering promoting Aboriginal culture and workshops from local artists, weavers, performers and a bush tucker talk.*

Russell Molony from Bateau Bay won the nation's richest surfing contest for Indigenous surfers for the twelfth time. His win was only secured in the final seconds of competition, enabling him to pocket \$6000 and the aptly named Russell Molony perpetual trophy.

Year 10 student, Jasmine McCorquodale, also from Bateau Bay, claimed her second successive crown in the Wandiyali Women's Classic.

In the other two events that were contested at the Classic, Taj Simon from Coomba Bay won the juniors and Victorian Rhys Collins won the longboard competition, with Lake Macquarie City Council's Don James coming in fourth place.

Wandiyali was established in 1997 to work with Koori youth and in 2000 the Hunter Koori Youth Service began operations to work with 14 to 25 year olds that were homeless or at risk of homelessness. Since then the range of programs on offer has grown to include Brighter Futures, Out of Home Care (OOHC) children's services, OOHC mentoring services, various support services, housing and a child care centre. The organisation has recently relocated to Lake Macquarie behind the Bunnings store in Argenton.

Wandiyali has sponsored the Indigenous Classic for almost 20 years and the historic event is an important part of Surfest, offering the highest prize money in the nation for Indigenous surfing. Competitors travel from around the nation to compete.

## Full results:

### Wandiyali Classic Mens

1. Russell Molony (Bateau Bay, NSW) \$6000
2. Byron Simon (Coomba Bay, NSW) \$4000
3. Rohnin Henry Micale (Corrimal, NSW) \$2000
4. John Craig (Newcastle, NSW) \$1500

### Wandiyali Classic Womens

1. Jasmine McCorquodale (Bateau Bay, NSW) \$1500
2. Summer Simon (Coomba Bay), NSW \$750
3. Jalaan Slabb (Casuarina, NSW) \$500
4. Charli Law (One Mile, NSW) \$250

### Wandiyali Classic Junior

1. Taj Simon (Coomba Bay, NSW) \$1000
2. Jed McDonagh (Coomba Bay, NSW) \$500
3. Rohnin Henry Micale (Corrimal, NSW) \$300
4. Julung Slabb (Casuarina, NSW) \$200

### Wandiyali Classic Longboard

1. Rhys Collins (Redhill, VIC) \$1000
2. Tom Avery (Coolangatta, QLD) \$500
3. Robbie Page (Bellbrook, NSW) \$300
4. Donny James (Merewether, NSW) \$200

# Speaking in Colour opens at Stockland Glendale



Cherie Johnson has worked tirelessly over the years to bring cultural understanding and traditional practices into the lives of many people and organisations across this region and beyond. In the growth of her business, Speaking in Colour, Cherie engages local Aboriginal people to pass on the cultural practice of weaving and much more.

The Speaking in Colour gallery and creative space is now officially open with assistance and a partnership with Stockland Glendale and is located near Kmart. The exhibitions will rotate every 6 weeks, displaying the work creative created as part of the Speaking in

Colour programs. The creative space will be used for hosting workshops on a regular basis. The creative kids workshops are held Thursday afternoons 4-5.30pm and the adults sessions are 6-8pm on a Thursday night with the view to expand as requested. Cherie says, "Massive thank you to all of my teams and community support over the past few weeks for making this happen. I'm so excited about this next chapter and how we can make a positive impact in our community and beyond."

If you would like to know more, including workshop information visit [speakingincolour.com.au](http://speakingincolour.com.au) or phone (02) 9157 9180.

## Awabakal launches their Youth Program 'Awabakal Strong'



In January, more than 20 young Indigenous people took surfing lessons, thanks to a new initiative launched by Awabakal Ltd. 'Awabakal Strong' will focus on working with young Indigenous people across the region with various programs on offer and in the planning. The program had an official launch in February with a great turn out of community and students from all over the region to see what a number of education and training service providers could offer them. Funding for this program was received from Department of Social Services. Uncle Bill Smith provided a Welcome to Country and the Wirrigan dancers performed, before comedian Sean Choolburra, Shanelle Dargan, Street Warriors and Last Kinection entertained the crowd.

## Protect yourself against scams and fraud



Scams are becoming increasingly common, with people now being targeted through phone calls, mail, email, online and in person.

Scams can come in all shapes and sizes, with scammers using many different methods to steal your money or your sensitive information including:

- fake tax, government or insurance rebates;
- door-to-door home maintenance offers;

- online dating scams; and
- an unexpected prize win.

Learn more about avoiding scams and fraud at Scam Watch and the Australian Competitions and Consumer Commission and report scams to [scamwatch.gov.au/](http://scamwatch.gov.au/) report-a-scam.

**Lake Macquarie City Council will be providing free fraud and scam safety workshops for over 55s on 22 March and 12 April. Bookings essential at 4921 0333.**

• online shops advertised on social



# Boxing gym opens at Windale PCYC

Back in January, two-time boxing World Champion, Sakio 'The Scorpion' Bika, and Commonwealth Games boxing gold medallist, Anja Stridsman, officially reopened PCYC Lake Macquarie's boxing gym.

The two athletes celebrated this occasion alongside Member for Charlestown, Jodie Harrison, representatives from NSW Police, Lake Macquarie City Council, Bahtabah Local Aboriginal Land Council, Belmont and Charlestown Rotaries, Family and Community Services and local young community members and families. NBN TV News also covered the event.

After months of renovations, the new boxing gym has been transformed from two small rooms to an expanded, all-encompassing and collaborative fitness space with dedicated weights area and boxing ring.

"The renovations will allow us to introduce group fitness classes and increase junior boxing opportunities at PCYC

Lake Macquarie," PCYC Lake Macquarie Club Manager, Martin Eddy, said.

"We are so proud of the result and are excited to share this with the community."

This would not have been made possible without the generosity of NovoFit, who donated 18 pieces of cardio and strength training equipment to the value of approximately \$50,000.

In partnership with Market 2 Market, PCYC Lake Macquarie will be having a community market open day at PCYC Windale on Sunday 17 March. This is a community event and all are invited to come along and share in the fun.

To join the PCYC or find out more information, drop in to Lake Street, Windale, phone 4948 6622 or email lakemacquarie@pcycnsw.org.au

## Local Aboriginal Land Councils in Lake Macquarie City

### Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council

(Northern area of the lake)  
127 Maitland Rd Islington NSW 2296  
PO Box 101 Islington NSW 2296  
awabakallalc.com.au

#### Robert Russell - Chief Executive Officer

0407 951 430 or 02 4965 4532  
ceo@awabakallalc.com.au

#### Shannon Whyte - Business Support Officer

businesssupport@awabakallalc.com.au  
02 4965 4532

#### Pete Townsend - Culture and Heritage Officer

02 4965 4532  
culture@awabakallalc.com.au

### Bahtabah Local Aboriginal Land Council

(East area of the lake including the lake)

#### Carol Proctor - Chief Executive Officer

carolbahtlalc@hotmail.com  
02 4971 4800

#### Kentan Proctor - Conservation and Land Management Supervisor

BahtabahKentan@hotmail.com

### Biraban Local Aboriginal Land Council

(West area of the lake)

#### Ashley Williams - Chief Executive Officer

02 4950 4806  
ceo@birabanlalc.com.au  
PO Box 212, Toronto, NSW 2283

**5**  
minutes with the  
mob



## Tammy Clay

### Where's your mob from?

Nambucca - Gumbaynggir

### Your organisation and role?

I have just recently become the Indigenous Programs Co-ordinator at Novaskill.

### How long have you been there? 6 years.

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

At Novaskill, we are a GTO (Group Training Organisation – hire apprentices and host them out to employers for their practical work) and an RTO (Registered Training Organisation – Training in many different fields and qualifications). We also have several Indigenous Mentoring programs – to help raise the retention rate of Indigenous employment. We mentor new starters in employment for 12 months and help with things like motivation, goal setting, time management, (especially for those who are working and studying), and help create a strategy to overcome personal issues so you can focus on your employment.

### Who is in your family?

Living at home with me I have my husband, daughter with partner and their 4 yr old son, and my son. My oldest daughter, her partner and 2 little ones live next door. I also have three fur babies and a feathered friend.

### Who is your hero?

That's such a hard one to answer – I have so many people that I look up to, but I guess, if I have to choose one, it would have to be a tie between my mum and my dad. I'm lucky enough to still have them both. They have been married for 52 years, and have been through a lot of ups and downs together. They have raised us three kids to be able to think for ourselves, have strong morals, not to be led but to lead. They have both worked since they were early teens and have finally retired. Their unwavering love and support (even when I didn't really deserve it!), has been my saviour at times.

### Favourite bush tucker?

Not really 'bush tucker', but my pop and dad used to go rock fishing all the time when I was little and there was nothing like a big feed of Taylor (cooked in a million different ways) and a big salad. I also love Lemon Myrtle and Wattle seed shortbread – YUM!

### Favourite sport?

So many!! I would have to say Rugby Union – I have been playing for 19 years now and your team becomes your second family. Others are Rugby league, Grid Iron, softball.

### Favourite movie?

Combining sport and true stories, there are a few – Coach Carter, Remember the Titans, Glory Road, the Rookie.

### Ambitions in life?

Hmmm, this is hard. I guess like most people you just want to be able to look back on your life and feel like you made a difference to at least someone, you are known as a good person and that you will be remembered. To be able to smile everyday, and win a million dollars would be great.

### Anything else you would like to add?

Just an old saying my mum used to tell me "the highest fences you'll have to climb are those created in your own mind". Dream big and chase them hard.

# Community connections

**Name and nickname:**

Lyn Best (Lyn).

**Where are you from:**

Pokolbin NSW.

**Your organisation and role:**

Girrinbai Community Preschool –Director/Teacher.

**How long have you been there?** 26 years.**What services can your organisation provide to Aboriginal people in Lake Macquarie?**

Preschool education for Aboriginal children aged 3-5 years.

Aboriginal cultural programmes at preschool delivered by Aboriginal People.

**Who is in your family?**

My husband, David. I also have a beautiful daughter, son in law and granddaughter.

**Who is your hero?**

My mother and father for their wonderful upbringing to ensure that I grew up respecting our First People right from when I was little.

**Favourite food:**

Love vegetables and fruit....Healthy Choices.

**Favourite sport:** Knights and Cricket.**Favourite movie:** *Pretty Woman, Dirty Dancing, Grease!***Ambitions in life:**

To be the best teacher I can to ensure that all children grow up with an understanding of our real history and develop respectful, trusting relationships to move forward in the future.

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

Girrinbai Community Preschool is located in Jewells in the grounds of Jewells School. Any suburbs welcome to attend. Fees for Aboriginal families are \$10.00 per day. We currently have vacancies and our phone number is 4947 3044.

We welcome your wonai's (Children).

Nhunda Kumba Kumba (Until we meet next time).  
Awabakal

## 2019 Significant dates

\*Denotes events occur on the same date each year

**21 March****National Close the Gap Day**

This day gives people the opportunity to show their support for closing the life expectancy gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians. It is a chance for organisations and communities to hold events and raise awareness of the Indigenous health crisis. For more information, visit the National Close the Gap Day website [antar.org.au](http://antar.org.au).

**26 May\*****National Sorry Day**

National Sorry Day offers the community the opportunity to acknowledge the impact of the policies spanning more than 150 years of forcible removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families. The first National Sorry Day was held on 26 May 1998 following the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission report, *Bringing Them Home: The 'Stolen Children' report* (1997) which recommended that a national day of observance be declared. For more information, visit [timeanddate.com/holidays/australia/national-sorry-day](http://timeanddate.com/holidays/australia/national-sorry-day).

**27 May to 3 June\*****National Reconciliation Week**

Each year, National Reconciliation Week celebrates the rich culture and history of the first Australians. The week provides an opportunity to reflect on achievements so far and the things that must still be done to achieve reconciliation. For more information, visit [reconciliation.org.au](http://reconciliation.org.au).

**3 June - Mabo Day\***

Mabo Day marks the anniversary of the High Court of Australia's judgement in 1992 in the Mabo case. This is a day of particular significance for Torres Strait Islander Australians. For more information, visit [mabonativetitle.com](http://mabonativetitle.com).



# What's on?

More events can be found at [lakemac.com.au](http://lakemac.com.au) [f lakemaccity](https://www.facebook.com/lakemaccity) or contact [4921 0333](tel:49210333)

## Events

For more information, including Lake Mac Libraries and Art Gallery events and workshops, visit [lakemac.com.au](http://lakemac.com.au) or phone 4921 0333 during business hours.

## March

### Carwoola Aboriginal Elders Community Gathering

Wednesday 20 March

This one-day event aims to bring the community together to have a yarn about current issues facing Aboriginal people in our community. Bookings are essential for catering and seating arrangements and all welcome to attend.

Book at [eventbrite.com.au/e/community-gathering-and-yarn-up-ticket-58351135818](http://eventbrite.com.au/e/community-gathering-and-yarn-up-ticket-58351135818)

Macquarie Life Church Corner Macquarie and Wentworth Roads, Cardiff

Contact to Uncle Pat Lock on 0487 099 148 or [carwoola47@gmail.com](mailto:carwoola47@gmail.com) for more information.

### Over 55s Be fraud and scam safe

Friday 22 March- 11am-noon at Swansea Library

Come along and get some tips on how you can keep yourself and your family safe from fraud and scams.

Bookings are essential at [library.lakemac.com.au/events](http://library.lakemac.com.au/events) or phone 4921 0333.

## April

### Over 55s Bunnings Glendale

Thursday 11 April – 10.30-11.30am

Come along to decorate and plant up a terracotta pot with bulbs and annuals for a colourful spring display.

Presented by Horticulturist Carol Twentyman.

### Over 55s Fraud and scam safe

Friday 12 April - 10.30-11.30am at Cardiff Library

Come along and get some tips on how you can keep yourself and your family safe from fraud and scams.

Bookings at [library.lakemac.com.au/events](http://library.lakemac.com.au/events) or phone 4921 0333.

## Youth Week 10-18 April

Youth Week began as a NSW Government initiative in 1989, and has since grown to be a celebration of young people in every state and territory across the country. Events are organised by young people, for young people, in communities across NSW and Australia.

Lake Macquarie has a plethora of events and activities across the City. For more information visit [lakemac.com.au](http://lakemac.com.au) or call 4921 0333.

## May

### Over 55s Falls injury prevention

Tuesday 14 May 10.30-11.30am at Swansea Library

This workshop offers practical advice on falls prevention and is presented by Health Promotion Service for Older People Bookings at [library.lakemac.com.au/events](http://library.lakemac.com.au/events) or 4921 0780.

### You're Kidding Me Expo

Wednesday 15 May 9.30am-12.30pm

You're Kidding Me Expo at Event Cinemas Glendale. Lots of giveaways, CPR for children, free car seat checks and speech screening sessions and so much more.

### Over 55s Ed Tonks history talk: Money, notes and coins

Friday 31 May - 10.30am-noon at Catalina Conference Centre, Rathmines.

Something we use every day, but do we really understand the history and cultural significance of our notes and coins? Bookings essential on 4921 0430.