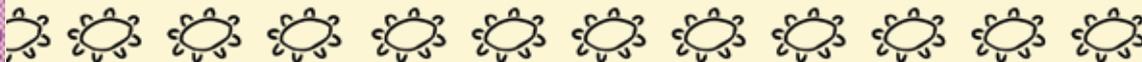


Koori Grapevine

March – June 2013 | Edition #6

Welcome to autumn and the sixth edition of the Lake Macquarie Koori Grapevine newsletter. We welcome your contributions on stories to include in the quarterly Koori Grapevine. Contact Maree Edwards on 4921 0441 or email medwards@lakemac.nsw.gov.au.



Citizen of the Year:

Melinda Brown

Melinda Brown believes that literacy and numeracy skills are the key to success for Aboriginal students, and has demonstrated a long-term commitment to the welfare of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children in Lake Macquarie. Melinda is Vice President of the Muloobinbah Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, which advocates cultural affirmation, integrity and the pursuit of equality to ensure the unique and diverse identity of Aboriginal people and students is recognised and valued. For 15 years she has supported children in more than 40 schools as a member of Muloobinbah, and for more than 10 years she has dedicated her time to children's reading programs, Aboriginal dancing and local school NAIDOC week events through West Wallsend Homework Centre. An outstanding leader,

Melinda has been highly successful in gaining support of local people, and she has worked with many agencies to gain support and bring people together, including West Wallsend High School's 'Meet the Mob' Day.



She is also active with The Loft youth arts space, and Sugarloaf and District Action Group, which has been working to improve amenities in West Wallsend and surrounding suburbs. On top of these commitments, Melinda supports many local families, helping with transport to appointments and family health checks, assisting in times of bereavement and opening her home to people in crisis.

Community Event of the Year:

Westlake NAIDOC Week Celebrations



Westlake NAIDOC Week provides an opportunity for the local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community to engage in Aboriginal culture,

history and traditions. In previous years, the former Aboriginal Land Council organised local NAIDOC Week events. After the organisation was dissolved, the community pulled together and continued to plan for the 2012 event despite the lack of a dedicated organising body and resources.

Westlake NAIDOC Week 2012 attracted 500 people and was held on Toronto Foreshore, recognising the importance of the Lake in sustaining Aboriginal people in the area throughout history.

BUNGAREE: THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN

This touring exhibition offers a contemporary perspective on the impact of early colonial society through the personality and history of Bungaree. Also showing: *Water stories and Project: Birabahn (and Threlkeld)*, both selected by the Aboriginal Reference Group. **8 FEBRUARY – 24 MARCH 2013**

Image left: from Bungaree: The First Australian, Warwick Keen, The many faces of Bungaree (detail) 2012 digital print on metallic paper, 188 x 100cm, courtesy the artist © the artist



Australia Day Awards recognise Lake Macquarie Aboriginal community

Outstanding leadership skills and a 15-year commitment to improving literacy, numeracy and cultural awareness among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students has earned Melinda Brown the title of Lake Macquarie Citizen of the Year 2012.

The inspiring work of the local Aboriginal community was further recognised with celebrations for Westlake NAIDOC Week 2012 taking out the award for Community Event of the Year.

Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Councillor Jodie Harrison, announced the 2012 Australia Day Awards at a civic ceremony in Council Chambers.

"I am delighted that we have been able to formally recognise the outstanding work of our Aboriginal community among those recognised in this year's awards," Cr Harrison said.

- Citizen of the Year – Melinda Brown
- Young Citizen of the Year – Andreena Kardamis
- Volunteer of the Year – Denise Heath
- Community Group of the Year – Awarded to both EastLake Macquarie Historical Society and Morisset and Toronto Meals on Wheels
- Community Event of the Year – Westlake NAIDOC Week Celebrations

Mercy Community Transport



The Community Transport Service aims to help clients get out and about. Transport is provided by bus or by car, depending on the type of transport required, with some buses being wheelchair accessible. Destinations include:

- Doctors & Specialist Appointments
- Group shopping
- Group social outings
- Hospital visits
- Medical treatments
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry

Eligibility and cost - The frail-aged and persons with a disability and their carers who live in the Lake Macquarie LGA. Fees are assessed according to distance travelled and type of transport. Arrangements can be made if there is a difficulty with the fee.

The Community Care Access Point Aboriginal Liaison person is Dorothy Shipley (pictured above), who is available to speak to the Aboriginal Community who wish to register. Contact **1300 731 556** to register your interest.



NAIDOC Week - Sunday 7 - Sunday 14 July 2013

We value the vision: Yirrkala Bark Petitions 1963

Celebrations are held nationally from the first Sunday in July each year to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the country. As well as promoting reconciliation, local and national activities play an important role in educating the wider community about the history and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander way of life. NAIDOC Week has been officially running since 1957. Planning for 2013 NAIDOC Week activities in Lake Macquarie have started throughout local schools, community groups and various organisations. You are encouraged to hold your own activity, join in an organised event, or both.

There is a lot of planning and preparation in months leading up to NAIDOC Week, as well as on the day of the event. If you would like to be a part of a planning committee or can offer any assistance, please contact Maree Edwards on 4921 0441 or email medwards@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

Lake Macquarie City Council will once again be hosting their flag raising ceremony on **Tuesday 9 July** at the Council Administration Building.

The Westlakes community will hold their flag raising ceremony and annual march along The Boulevard to Toronto foreshore on **Tuesday 9 July**.

Eastlakes NAIDOC's Family Fun Day is happening on **Friday 12 July** at Pelican Foreshore Reserve.

Nominations for local community awards will be opening soon.

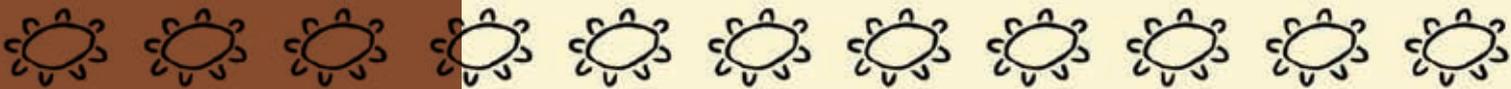
The 2013 National NAIDOC poster competition and nominations for the NAIDOC Awards are now open!

The theme for 2013 NAIDOC Week is 'We value the vision: Yirrkala Bark Petitions 1963'. For a full description of this theme, please visit the NAIDOC website.

Indigenous artists are invited to submit an artwork to the 2013 National NAIDOC Poster Competition based on this year's theme. Entries close **Friday 29 March**.

If you know an Indigenous person who deserves recognition for their achievements then nominate them for a 2013 National NAIDOC Award. Nominations close **Friday 26 April**.

Forms are available online at www.naidoc.org.au or from your nearest Indigenous Coordination Centre.



Transport for NSW

Aboriginal Funeral Transport (AFT)

A Statewide Initiative for Aboriginal Communities and Groups

Transport for NSW through the Community Transport Agreements Branch is trialling the funding of group transport that will enable Aboriginal people in New South Wales to attend funerals.

The funding available through this program is non-recurrent and is limited in its scope so that it may assist as many communities as possible. This funding is not intended to duplicate or further subsidise existing services. Transport can be provided in two ways;

1. Through the use of buses, (defined as vehicles with a capacity of 8 or more passengers), chartered, hired or borrowed, predominantly for 8 or more people. In this case, unless there is hardship, AFT will support 50% of the cost of the transport for 8 or more people.
2. For groups or individuals that have access to, and are prepared to travel by, existing public transport. In this case, AFT will support 100% of the cost of the tickets.

Applications are to be made to your local Regional Transport Coordinator on **4962 6424** or email steve.warham@transport.nsw.gov.au

The application will be then assessed by Transport for NSW for eligibility.

Please note: The Aboriginal Funeral Transport initiative is a trial and as such, is a time for learning what works and what doesn't. It will be monitored and assessed throughout the trial period. Transport for NSW reserves the right to amend the Terms and Conditions and/or Eligibility for the assistance at any time and without notice.



What is dementia?

Dementia is a word for a medical condition, which affects the brain, and changes how we remember things, think and behave. Dementia is not a normal part of ageing although older people are more likely to get dementia than younger people. You need to know what the signs of dementia are so that you can get help if you are worried about your memory. It can be hard to know what the signs are, but if someone has dementia, they will get worse over months or years.

What are the early signs of dementia?

Some early changes you may notice that happen more than once and gradually get worse and you don't understand why are:

People:

- Having increased difficulty remembering people's names, when you don't normally forget them.
- Problems knowing who people are when you see them regularly.
- Place (and time).
- Getting lost in a place you know well.
- Difficulty knowing how to get somewhere when you normally always know the way.

Past:

- Having trouble remembering recent things, like what you ate for breakfast.
- Forgetting recent conversations.

Processes:

- Problems with remembering how to do things, like play sport or your hobbies.
- Having difficulty doing everyday tasks, like the washing or shopping.
- Forgetting how to turn something on or off, like the iron or kettle.

Personality:

- Not being as involved in your community or family and friends and keeping to yourself more.

Alzheimer's Australia NSW offers support and education services throughout the Newcastle/Lake Macquarie areas from the Hunter Dementia & Memory Resource Centre in Hamilton. If you would like any more information, please call the Centre Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm on **4962 7000**.

Aboriginal Cultural Identity Fund

Lake Macquarie City Council is inviting not-for profit organisations, schools and community groups to apply for funding to help promote Aboriginal culture to the youth of Lake Macquarie. Council is offering grants of up to \$750 as part of the Aboriginal Cultural Identity Fund to assist in teaching children about Aboriginal communities, history and traditions. To download the guidelines and an application form go to www.lakemac.com.au Applications close on **Friday 22 March 2013**.

The Indigenous Sport and Active Recreation Program 2013-14 Annual Funding Round

The ISARP supports community participation in sport and active recreation activities that help to improve the health and physical wellbeing of Indigenous Australians and those that contribute to broader social benefits for participants and their communities.

The Arts and Sport grant **closes Saturday 16 March 2013**. For more information visit www.regional.gov.au/sport/programs/indigenous.aspx or email indigenoussport@pmc.gov.au or phone **02 6210 2999**.



Who are we? Our real name is a mouthful - the Lake Macquarie Youth Advisory Council. So for short we call ourselves the Lake Mac YAC (catchy, right?). We are a committee of Lake Macquarie City Council. We have approximately 18 members and we are all aged between 12 and 25.

What do we do? We do lot's of things! We have monthly meetings, where we discuss anything related to young people and/or Lake Macquarie. We also organise events and projects. But the most important thing we do is try to make Lake Macquarie a better place for young people. We do this through being a voice for people our age and advising Lake Macquarie City Council on youth related issues.

How can you be part of the Lake Mac Yac? If you would like more information or an application form visit www.lakemacyac.org.au or call **4921 0333**.



Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Thursday 21 March 12noon-7pm	Harmony Day – Free community event The rich cultural diversity of Lake Macquarie will be showcased through performances by local schools and performance groups. Cultural arts and crafts, activities, games and food sampling will be offered on the day.	Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre Cnr Lake and John St Warners Bay	Lake Macquarie City Council Tony Ellitt 4921 0182
Tuesday 19 March	Seniors Week events Concert - Theatre Royal Morning Melodies - Refreshments 9.30am - Show 10am-12noon	Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre Cnr Lake and John St Warners Bay	Limited seating Bookings essential for all events 4921 0333
Wednesday 20 March	Movie Session – Series of short films 10.30am-11.30am		
Friday 22 March	Concert – U3A and Sing Australia - Refreshments 9.30am - Show 10am-12noon		
Friday 5 April to Sunday 14 April	Youth Week 2013 - Be Active, Be Happy, Be You Youth Week celebrates young people and their contribution to their local communities. It is now the largest annual youth participation event in Australia.	Various activities and events to be held around Lake Macquarie	Lake Macquarie City Council Ray Austin 4921 0342
Times and dates made on booking	Book-A-Librarian - Free technology training Personal one on one sessions tailored to the individuals needs and not just limited to computer literacy. Basic mobile phone techniques lessons are also offered to the community.	Toronto Library Corner Brighton Avenue and Pemell Street Toronto	Bookings essential Vince Dale 4959 2077
8 February – 24 March 2013 10am-4pm (Tues-Sun)	Bungaree: The First Australian This touring exhibition offers a contemporary perspective on the impact of early colonial society through the personality and history of Bungaree. Also showing: Water stories and Project: Birabahn (andThrelkeld), both selected by the Aboriginal Reference Group.	Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery 1a First Street, Booragul	Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery 4965 8260
Wednesday 10 April	Presentation of the Naruta-Ka-Wa Story Quilt To be presented to the Mayor of Lake Macquarie City by Na Yar Boo Larng at 10am followed by Storytime and morning tea. The quilt will travel to each Lake Macquarie library for children's activities.	Toronto Library 7 Pemell Street, Toronto	Toronto Library 4921 0463 RSVP: 8 April

Significant Dates

Thursday 21 March 2013
Sunday 26 May 2013
27 May – 3 June 2013

National Close the Gap Day
National Sorry Day
National Reconciliation Week

Monday 3 June 2013
7 July – 14 July 2013

MABO Day
National NAIDOC Week

15 Minutes of Fame - Uncle Gerald Edwards



NAME: Uncle Gerald Edwards – known as Uncle Gerry

WHERE ARE YOU

FROM: Born in Bundjalung country. I have lived in the Hunter for 40 years, 38 of those years in Lake Macquarie

ORGANISATIONS YOU WORK FOR/ROLE:

The Westlakes Elders Incorporated voted me in as Secretary and I have been in this role for about 4 years.

WHO'S IN YOUR FAMILY: I have 5 children, 16 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren. All who have been brought up in Lake Macquarie and gone to primary and high school in Toronto.

FAVOURITE BUSH TUCKER: Porcupine, in the meat department. It tastes a bit like pork. It's delicious when roasted in hot coals.

FAVOURITE SPORT: I like to play indoor bowls and darts and watch rugby league.

AMBITIONS IN LIFE: I am passionate about seeing Aboriginal people receiving a good education in life. I feel that I have achieved a lot in my life, especially in my senior years more so than in my youth.

WHAT SERVICES CAN YOUR ORGANISATION PROVIDE TO ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN

LAKE MACQUARIE: Westlakes Elders are the backbone and to help guide the younger generation with cultural knowledge.

We perform Welcome/Acknowledgement to Country, visit schools, tell Dreamtime stories, etc.

I have received an Unsung Hero award and other awards. It was possible that I was the first Aboriginal member of the RSL. I have done a lot for the Aboriginal people and the community but I love doing this and working with the community. If you see me down the street, say g'day.