

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Koori Grapevine. We hope you enjoy the read.

Contributions are welcome. Email medwards@lakemac.nsw.gov.au.

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

"Our vision is for a world where no one is needlessly blind, and Indigenous Australians enjoy the same health and life expectancy as other Australians." Fred Hollows



**Our Languages
Matter**

2-9 JULY 2017

Apply now for a NAIDOC Week grant

Council is offering local community groups, not-for-profit organisations, agencies and schools up to \$750 or \$2500 to help run projects or events during NAIDOC Week, 2-9 July 2017.

Council is offering \$10,000 worth of grants to help fund NAIDOC Week activities or events across Lake Macquarie.

There are two categories of funding available to the community, a local event or project focused on community participation can receive up to \$750, while a district event that attracts a substantial number of people from across Lake Macquarie and neighbouring cities may be eligible for up to \$2500.

Last year, we assisted 23 individual NAIDOC Week events and programs within Lake Macquarie, totalling more than \$11,000. These events enabled thousands of residents, visitors, school students and communities to celebrate and participate in specialised and dedicated NAIDOC Week activities and events.

Don't miss the opportunity to apply for funding to host your own NAIDOC Week celebration, which can be held after the official week of celebrations.

To apply, download the application form and guidelines from lakemac.com.au and submit the completed form to Council by Friday 17 March 2017.

More information on NAIDOC Week, including the history of NAIDOC is available at naidoc.org.au.

2017 National NAIDOC Week 2-9 July 2017

The importance, resilience and richness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages will be the focus of national celebrations marking NAIDOC Week 2017.

The 2017 theme, Our Languages Matter, aims to emphasise and celebrate the unique and essential role that Indigenous languages play in cultural identity, linking people to their land and water and in the transmission of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, spirituality and rites, through story and song.

Some 250 distinct Indigenous language groups covered the continent at first (significant) European contact in the late eighteenth century. Most of these languages would have had several dialects, so that the total number of named varieties would have run to many hundreds.

Today only around 120 of those languages are still spoken and many are at risk of being lost as Elders pass on.

Lake Macquarie City Council will once again host the annual flag raising and morning tea for all to attend on Tuesday 4 July, from 9am.



Councils 2016 NAIDOC Event

2017 Lake Mac Festival of Surfing

Redhead Beach in Lake Macquarie saw some of the best short board, longboard and stand-up paddleboard surfers compete for the title of Lake Mac Festival of Surfing champion over the weekend. Surfers from across the Hunter Region and Queensland, as well as a surfer from Peru demonstrated excellent surfing abilities in deteriorating surf over two days on Redhead beach.

The standout surfer over both days of competition in two different disciplines was Harry Maskell (Wamberal, NSW). Maskell is a previous Lake Mac Festival of Surfing SUP champion but this year he dominated both the SUP and Open Men's short board division. Surfing through two rounds and a final in each division was a tremendous effort by this extremely talented young man.

Maskell said the surf was challenging at times but Redhead is such a good break.

"There were plenty of opportunities for good points. I'm over the moon and want to thank Lake Macquarie City Council and Surfest. It is a really fun event."

Surfest Organiser Warren Smith, said the Lake Mac Festival of Surfing gets bigger each year as news of the event grows.

"We are very proud and happy to be able to bring Surfest to a wider audience. I'm very grateful to Lake Macquarie City Council for their passion for sport and their community," Warren said.

Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Cr Kay Fraser, said the Lake Mac Festival of Surfing has been a wonderful showcase for the city's beaches and coastal lifestyle.

"I congratulate all the winners and look forward to an even bigger

event in 2018," Cr Fraser said.

Longboard: 1st Matt Rawson (Redhead); 2nd Aaron Howe (Newcastle); 3rd Glenn Turner (Merewether); 4th Sam Conrick (Redhead)

Over 30 Shortboard: 1st Justin Lee (Redhead); 2nd Paul Snow (Bar Beach); 3rd Kane O'Neill (Redhead); 4th Simon Hasson (Redhead)

Shortboard: 1st Harry Maskell (Wamberal); 2nd Kaine Watts (Redhead); 3rd Rohan Watts (Redhead); 4th Kane O'Neill (Redhead)

Open SUP: 1st Harry Maskell (Wamberal); 2nd Glenn Turner (Merewether); 3rd Josh Stretton (Anna Bay); 4th Steve Rainford (Helensburgh)

Women Sup: 1st Brissa Malaga (Peru); 2nd Roxanne Masters (Newcastle)

Board Riders Challenge: 1st Redhead Boardriders which earned the team a wildcard into the 2017 Orica Team Challenge 4-5 February, 2017 at Stockton Beach.

Lake Macquarie City Council, Jewells Tavern and the Redhead Surf Club support the Lake Mac Festival of Surfing.



Lake Mac Festival of Surfing winners: with Mayor of Lake Macquarie Cr Kay Fraser



Harry Maskell - Lake Mac Festival of Surfing

Wandiyali ATSI Indigenous Classic

The Wandiyali ATSI Indigenous Classic took place at Merewether Beach on 16 and 17 February 2017.

This historic event is an important part of Surfest and offers Australia's biggest purse for an Indigenous surfing competition. The event offers a total prize money pool of \$20,000 for male and female Indigenous surfers.

This year for the 11th time, Central Coast surfer Russell Molony has pocketed \$6000 after winning Australia's richest surfing contest for Indigenous surfers and in doing so, he became the first surfer to win the Russell Molony perpetual trophy. Wandiyali CEO Steve Kilroy sought to honour Molony's record run at the Indigenous event by naming the Open division trophy in his honour. Steve said the opportunity to sponsor Australia's richest Indigenous surfing competition was one he was proud of.

"Wandiyali runs a whole range of social projects. Out of home care is our largest projects along with foster children and homeless, pre-schools and housing – it's a big range of programs," Mr Kilroy said,

"Wandiyali employs about 60 people to look after hundreds of people. We have 112 foster kids in our care throughout the lower Hunter," he said.

But the surfers come from around the nation to compete.

"We had a young bloke from Cape York this year. He's travelled 13 thousand kilometres or whatever to surf here," Mr Kilroy said,

"We'll be back next year and are hoping to take the event to a Saturday, Sunday format and that will allow even more surfers to get involved."

In the women's event, 15-year-old Port Kembla's Summer Simon lifted the trophy aloft on the podium but was surprised to receive the win. The prize money of \$1500 is going straight into her bank account where she is saving for a car that will allow her to surf far and wide.

Former pro surfer Robbie Page took out the longboard division,

which put him into the history books. The 50-year-old from Verges Creek near Kempsey, has two NSW state longboard titles and said it felt terrific to get the win.

In the junior division, Avoca's Finn Hill took out the \$1000 prize money.

The 14-year-old, who progressed through two heats in last weekend's Maitland and Port Stephens Pro Junior, turned the table on last year's second placing at this event to Noah Munro from Noraville.



Russ Molony 11 times champion



Finn Hill, organiser Stan Moylan, Russell Molony, Wandiyali CEO Steve Kilroy and Summer Simon

Results Wandiyali ATSI Indigenous Classic

Open

1. Russell Molony (North Shelly, NSW) \$6000
2. Joe Haddon (Forster, NSW) \$4000
3. Noah Munro (Noraville, NSW) \$1500
4. Billy Bain (Avalon, NSW) \$1000

Women's

1. Summer Simon (Port Kembla, NSW) \$1500
2. Lily Smith (Kincumber, NSW) \$750
3. Jasmine McCorquodale (Bateau Bay, NSW) \$500
4. Phoebe King (Mudjimba, Qld) \$250

Junior's

1. Finn Hill (Avoca Beach, NSW) \$1000
2. Noah Munro (Noraville, NSW) \$500
3. Rohnin Henry-Micale (Bellambi, NSW) \$300
4. Taj Simon (Port Kembla, NSW) \$200

Longboard

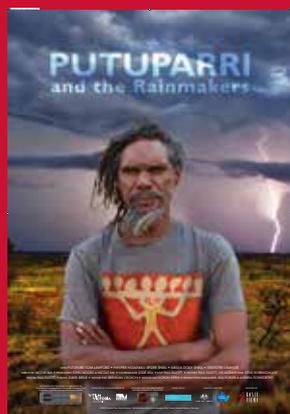
1. Robert Page (Verges Creek, NSW) \$1000
2. Tom Avery (Lismore, NSW) \$500
3. Jamie Archibald (Port Macquarie) \$300
4. Matt Molony (Killarney Vale, NSW) \$200

Close the Gap free film night

16 March 2017 6.30pm

Lake Macquarie Performing Art Centre, John St, Warners Bay

Free screening of *Putuparri and the Rainmakers*



"A stunning story of Aboriginal culture, life and law. ... The complexities of Putuparri's life ... are honestly and poignantly portrayed."
- Sandy Toussaint, The Conversation

Putuparri and the Rainmakers is an astonishing ten-year labour of love by filmmaker Nicole Ma, documenting the fragile line by which endangered Indigenous cultures are passed from one

generation to the next. The fragility of this slender thread has been observed in other films, but rarely with such compassion, honesty and richness of detail. The poignancy of the film is profound as we gradually come to understand the personal burden of responsibility which drives Spider and Dolly, and transforms the lives of the next generation." - Andrew Pike

Putuparri and the Rainmakers is a universal story about the sacred relationship between people and place. It takes audiences on a rare and emotional journey to meet the traditional rainmakers of Australia's Great Sandy Desert who have fought a twenty-year battle to win back their traditional homeland.

The film spans ten transformative years in the life of Tom 'Putuparri' Lawford as he navigates the deep chasm between his Western upbringing and his growing determination to fight for his family's homeland. A trip back to his grandparents' country in the desert begins the process of cultural awakening. Putuparri is shocked to learn that the dreamtime myths are not just stories, that there is a country called Kurtal and a snake spirit that is the subject of an elaborate rainmaking ritual.

Putuparri is a man caught between two worlds: the deeply spiritual universe of his people's traditional culture and his life in modern society where he struggles with alcoholism and domestic violence. As he reconnects with his ancestral lands and learns about his traditional culture he begins to accept his future as a leader of his people and shoulders his responsibility to pass this knowledge on to the next generation.

Set against the backdrop of their long fight to reclaim their traditional lands, *Putuparri and the Rainmakers* is an emotional, visually breathtaking story of love, hope and the survival of Aboriginal law and culture against all odds.

A must see film for all Australians.

5 minutes with the mob



Name and nickname: Emma beckett nickname EB

Where are you from: Mum's family are Walkers from Queensland

Your role and organisation: Manager of Nikinpa Aboriginal Child & Family Centre. Have been fortunate enough to be here from when Nikinpa was just an idea. We opened for children in April 2014.

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

Nikinpa provides childcare and preschool. Our fabulous partners working from Nikinpa provide counselling, psychology services, a GP, Domestic Violence support and referral, child and maternal health, speech therapy and a homework club. The Westlakes Elders Inc. hold their monthly meetings at Nikinpa too. Shortly we will have some concrete information about what training course we are offering next. I suspect it might be a Cert III in Business. We always welcome input from the community about what else they would like to see

happening at Nikinpa. Our community breakfasts are a great way to come and get involved. Nikinpa will only be valuable to the community if the community drives what is happening here. We would love to see you at our next breakfast on Thursday 16 March (National Close the Gap day) from 8.30am-10am. All are welcome.

Who is in your family? Myself and my two sons, Ngurru (9) and Djabarda (7).

Who is your hero? Without a doubt my mother, she is solid. She has a chronic genetic health condition which is slowly killing her but she keeps getting back up and soldiering on. I've never heard her complain and even with what she has to deal with she still looks at what she can do for others. A truly amazing human being.

Favourite bush food: Finger lime

Favourite sport: Footy because of the boys, but truth be known I love nothing better than going for a ride on the horse, (when he behaves himself)

Favourite movie: I don't know, I rarely watch TV, and when I do its either something the boys have put on or its late at night just before I go to bed and I turn it on. Could be anything lol, I just sort of stare at it for half hour or so before I drag myself to bed.

Ambitions in life: Personally, to be a better human. To teach my sons to be strong and proud of their culture, to be aware of social justice issues, and to stand up for what is right.

Professionally, I would like to think that I can help improve the outcomes for children and families in our community. I think that the Aboriginal community of West Lake Macquarie hasn't received its fair share of the pie in the past. The community deserves more, the kids and families deserve more. I'd like to help make that happen through Nikinpa.



Tunbilliko is on again

For the third year running, the Tunbilliko (exchange) program is on again and this is the inaugural year for the girls to participate after the success of the Aboriginal boys program

over the previous two years. Five 15 year old boys are selected from various Lake Macquarie High Schools by the Aboriginal Education Officers from the schools and the same happens in the High Schools at Brewarrina and Bourke. The selection criteria is made up of great school attendance, respect for teachers and other students, knowledge and respect for their Aboriginal culture and more.

When they arrive from the long journey by car, they are welcomed to Awabakal Country with cultural performances at Glenrock Scout camp.

Activities include visiting the Wollotuka Institute at The University of Newcastle, the Aboriginal Learning Circle and IPROWD participants at Hunter TAFE, a tour on Newcastle Harbour with the Water Police and a tour of Belmont Police Station., Sailing, Kayaking, Fishing and a guided cultural tour through Glenrock State Conservation Area ending up on Burwood Beach. Some visitors from the west have never seen the beach or tasted salt water before and are delighted when they do. Other activities include fun things at the Windale PCYC and the week is concluded with a Knights home game and a meet and greet with the players and some of their idols. The Police are with them at all times and take them out to dinner and a function each night such as Springloaded, Charlestown Square (some have never seen such a large shopping centre before), and the movies. The week is full on but the boys and the Police have a ball and strong relationships are formed with all.

The program began from an idea of Superintendent Brett Greentree, who worked for years in Bourke and saw the need for a program such as Tunbilliko. Project partners such as Lake Macquarie City Council, Hunter TAFE, The Wollotuka Institute, PCYC and Rotary who provide and cook lunch daily work together with the Lake Macquarie Local Area Command to ensure the program can run annually. This has proven to work well and has allowed the introduction of the same program for young Aboriginal girls with the name of Wungkun nubalan "Young women learning together" or "Sisters learning together" translated by Miromaa Language and Technology Centre.

The Lake Mac girls will travel to Bre and Bourke in March to meet the girls from the west and the return trip to Lake Mac will be in August. The boys from Bre and Bourke will travel to Lake Mac in April with the return trip happening in September.

Wishing them all a safe journey and a wonderful experience from the activities and bonding with new friends and peers.



A magnificent piece of art painted by the young men and presented to Superintendent Brett Greentree



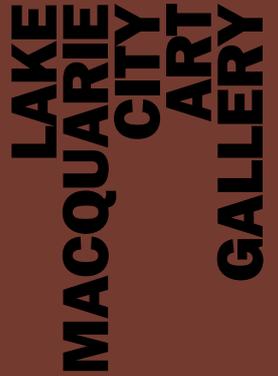
Brett Grogan Lake Macquarie's Local Area Command's Aboriginal Community Liasion Officer with the boys from 2016 Tunbilliko program at Glenrock State Conservation Area



Three of the Wakagetti Dancers, Nathan Brennan, Daniel Jack and Adam Lee welcome the lads to Glenrock State Conservation Area in 2016

Lake Mac Art Gallery's Connect to Country

On Tuesday 17 January, Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery and the Aboriginal Reference Group hosted Connect to Country, a popular and much anticipated Aboriginal cultural day. Despite 40-degree heat, the event was a great success with 450 visitors attending. Activities included weaving, dance and a visit by Ranger Gary from NPWS and the Australian Reptile Park. The highlight of the day was watching members of the Aboriginal community make a traditional canoe. They endured the very hot conditions to create an exquisite canoe, similar to the one on display in the gallery at the time as part of Lake Macquarie: Living Cultures. The day also complemented the acclaimed international touring exhibition Saltwater Country. We look forward to the next Connect to Country, hopefully with a little less heat!



Save the date to support our Elders at the Elder Olympics

On Thursday 20 April, our Elders will once again compete in the annual Elders Olympics, this year at Speers Point at the Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility.

In 2016, more than 500 people made up 25 teams of Aboriginal Elders who travelled from all around NSW to compete in the one-day Elders Olympic Games and due to the Lake Macquarie Elders winning gold, the Games are being held on beautiful Awabakal country.

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.

All are invited to come and cheer on our champions.



Winners of the 2016 Elders Olympics were our Lake Mac Elders

Significant dates

DATE	EVENT
16 March	National Close the Gap Day gives people the opportunity to show their support for closing the 17-year life expectancy gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and other Australians. It aims to raise awareness of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health crisis.
26 May	National Sorry Day* is commemorated each year to acknowledge the Stolen Generations. This day gives people the chance to come together and share the steps towards healing for the Stolen Generations, their families and communities. Stolen Generations refer to Indigenous Australians who were forcibly removed from their families and communities.
27 May	1967 Referendum* 2017 is the 50 year anniversary - In 1967, more than 90 per cent of Australians voted in a Referendum to remove clauses from the Australian Constitution that discriminated against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. The Referendum also gave the Commonwealth Government the power to make laws on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
27 May - 3 June	National Reconciliation Week* - Each year National Reconciliation Week celebrates the rich culture and history of the first Australians. It is the ideal time for people to join the reconciliation conversation and to think about how to turn around the disadvantage experienced by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

*Denotes events occur on the same date each year

Events

More events, including Lake Mac Libraries and Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery events are available at lakemac.com.au. To register or enquire further contact 4921 0333 or visit lakemac.com.au.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
March		
February-April	Operation Bounce Back Information bags and goodies give aways	Various Lake Macquarie shopping centres Ph: 4921 0333
State Surf Lifesaving Titles		
3-5 March	Age Championships	Blacksmiths Beach
8-9 March	Masters Championships	Blacksmiths Beach
10-12 March	Open Championships	Blacksmiths Beach
Thursday 16 6.30pm	Close the Gap - Free film night <i>Putuparri and the Rainmakers</i>	Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre, John Street, Warners Bay
Sunday 19 2-5pm	Exhibition Opening <i>First Class 16 and Fiona Hall a Case Study</i>	Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery Ph: 4950 6366
Tuesday 21 10am-1pm	Harmony Day Join us for the Lake Macquarie Harmony Day event where the continuing theme is 'Everyone Belongs'! The event will feature multicultural food, entertainment and speakers, all in celebration of cultural diversity.	The Place, Charlestown Community Centre Corner Frederick and Pearson Streets, Charlestown
31 March-9 April	Youth Week Local events happening throughout Lake Macquarie City	Youthweek.nsw.gov.au
April		
11-20 April	Holiday Art Classes artgallery.lakemac.com.au/learn/art-classes/childrens-holiday	Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery Ph: 4950 6366
20 April	Elder's Olympics	Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility Speers Point
26-30 April	Tantrum Mapping the Lake tantrum.org.au/projects/mappingthelake	Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery Ph: 4950 6366
28 April-25 June	Click: Schools in Focus	Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery Ph: 4950 6366
May		
Sunday 7 2-5pm	Exhibition Opening <i>Scanlines and Water: This precious Liquid</i>	Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery Ph: 4950 6366
Wednesday 17 9.30am-12.30pm	You're Kidding Me Expo Free CPR for babies and young children presentation, giveaways. Connect with services and programs in Lake Macquarie City.	Event Cinemas Glendale