

Koori Grapevine

Welcome to the Autumn edition No. 26 of the Koori Grapevine. Please be advised images and/or names of people passed over could appear in this publication.

March-June 2018

Earth artists in residence camp



Artists in residence weekend at Glenrock

Hosted by Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery and the Aboriginal Reference Group, the Earth Aboriginal artists camp was held at Glenrock State Conservation Area in early January. Internationally acclaimed Aboriginal artists, including Megan Cope and Eric Avery, were here to visit Awabakal Country, listen to stories and form collaboratively inspired works with our local artists Doug Archibald, Nicole Chaffey and Saretta Fielding. The camp was specifically

held to generate artistic partnerships for an exhibition, curated by Donna Biles-Fernando, to be opened on Sunday 27 May, the beginning of Reconciliation Week and as a part of the Hunter Cultural Collective's project, Hunter Red.

Aunty Sandra Griffin welcomed the artists to Country, and spoke to the group with local Elders including, Aunty Zelma Moran and Uncle Ron Gordon. During this time, the group visited important sites to

hear, listen and read the Country, visiting Redhead Beach (*Birabahn*) and Newcastle (*Whistling Cliffs, Whibayganba, Yohaaba*). This was the first time Ms Cope and Mr Avery had visited the region. Everyone involved was very inspired.

It was an immersive and intense weekend, and we hope all of our community come and be a part of the opening, at the Earth exhibition.

Lake Mac Landcare

For more than 10 years, Lake Macquarie City Council has collaborated with local Landcare groups to manage hundreds of environmentally sensitive sites across the City.

Landcare volunteers, together, dedicated about 19,000 hours in 2017, to care for our environment by weeding roughly 15 hectares of land across the City and establishing

nearly 12,000 new native plants.

More than 200 Landcare groups in Lake Macquarie preserve and regenerate the natural environment through planting, weeding, rubbish clearing and many other activities.

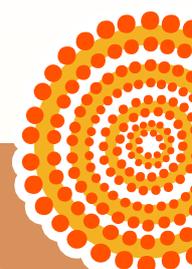
Landcare groups are supported by the Lake Macquarie Landcare Resource Centre at Teralba, which provides mulch and tools, but is also a training facility with access to information and other valuable services such as assistance with grant applications.

Council has undertaken an upgrade

of the Landcare Resource Centre and Stage One of the new and improved nursery was opened by Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Councillor Kay Fraser, in February.

Plant sales to the public are on Tuesday's from 8am-1pm and available for everyone to purchase, not just Lake Macquarie residents.

If you want to get involved with Landcare or find out more about Lake Macquarie groups and projects, visit lakemacquarielandcare.org or call 4921 0392.





Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Councillor Kay Fraser, Surfers Warren Smith and the winners of Lake Macquarie Festival of Surfing

2018 Lake Macquarie Festival of Surfing

Held at Redhead Beach over a January weekend, the Lake Macquarie Festival of Surfing once again proved popular, with contestants from around the nation and international surfers competing for a variety of prizes in the richest SUP in Australasia. The prize pool totalled \$25,000 from partnerships between Lake Macquarie City Council, ECS Australia (Eastcoast Surfboards), Jewells Tavern and Learn to Surf Newcastle.

Huge crowds flocked to Redhead Beach for the two-day event and they were rewarded with beautiful weather while the surfers were treated to solid one-two metre northeast swells.

Lake Macquarie Festival of Surfing 2018 results

Over 30s Shortboard

1. Mick Body; 2. Paul Snow;
3. Simon Hassan; 4. Justin Lee

Over 40s Shortboard

1. Paul Snow; 2. Andy Brinkworth;
3. Justin Lee; 4. Sean Lancaster

Open Shortboard

1. Connor Lee; 2. Jon Haydon;
3. Mick Body; 4. Noah Litchfield

Longboard

1. Harry Maskell; 2. Matt Rawson;
3. Shane Ross; 4. Shane Baker

Teams

1. Redhead B; 2. Redhead A

Mixed SUP

1. Marty Cole; 2. Glen Turner;
3. Matt Rawson; 4. Mitch Skilton

ECS BOP Men's Open

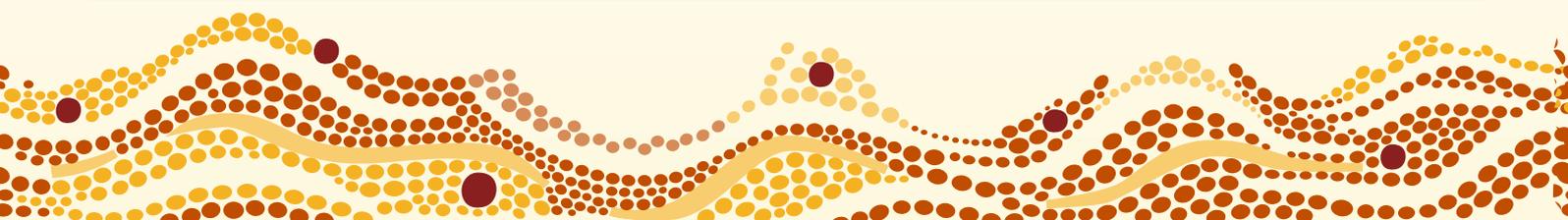
1. James Casey; 2. Harry Maskell;
3. Wesley Fry

ECS BOP Women's Open

1. Terrene Black; 2. Shakira
Westdorp; 3. Karla Gilbert

ECS BOP Amateur

1. Savannah Fitzsimmons;
2. Skylar Raynar



2018 Wandiyali ATSI Indigenous Classic



Alex Nean designed and created the spectacular trophies for the 2018 Wandiyali ATSI Indigenous Classic

Indigenous surfers from around the nation contested championships across four divisions in the classic event over two days in February as part of 2018 Surfest. The competition offered a total prize pool of \$22,000 for male, female and junior Indigenous surfers, making this the richest Indigenous surfing contest in the world and is an important part of Surfest.

The weekend event began with a Welcoming Ceremony, a traditional Aboriginal Smoking Ceremony and a variety of cultural entertainment before the surfers hit the huge swell at Merewether Beach.

Last year's runner-up, Joe Haddon, went on to secure the 2018 win and was crowned champion in the Open Men's division, earning himself \$6000 and a wildcard entry into the Burton Automotive Pro event, which started the following day.

Mr Haddon said the event was, "the best Indigenous surfing event in the nation".

"Wandiyali put everything into this event, they make it such an unreal event for all of us – it's got to be the best Indigenous comp we have," the 32-year-old carpenter and father of two from Forster said.

At the same time as the Wandiyali Classic final, 11-time champion, Russ Molony, was competing in the Nudie Australian Boardriders Battle at Newcastle Beach for his club North Shelly Boardriders. He arrived running down Merewether Beach with about 16 minutes left to paddle out in the massive swell, but was unable to secure a wave. He was one of many to have a board broken by the crunching waves. By putting his team first, Mr Molony selflessly surrendered the prospect of winning his twelfth Wandiyali ATSI Indigenous Classic.

Wandiyali ATSI Indigenous Classic

2018 results

Open

1. Joe Haddon (Forster) (17.4) \$6000
2. Noah Munro (Noraville) (12.7) \$4000
3. Zac Condon (Lennox Head) (9.8) \$2000
4. Russell Molony (North Shelly) (0) \$1500

Women

1. Jasmine McCorquodale (Bateau Bay) \$1500
2. Charlie Law (One Mile) \$750
3. Jalaan Slab (Fingal Head) \$500
4. Kyra Simon (Forster) \$250

Junior

1. Finn Hill (Avoca Beach) (11.6) \$1000
2. Rohnin Henry-Micale (Bellambi) (8.2) \$500
3. Taj Simon (Port Kembla) (7.8) \$300
4. Jed McDonagh (Forster) (5.1) \$200

Longboard

1. Tom Avery (Kingscliff) (13.8) \$1000
2. Jamie Archibald (Port Macquarie) (7.9) \$500
3. Bijang Slabb (Fingal Head) (3.8) \$300
4. Robert Page (Kempsey) (3.6) \$200



Indigenous footballers travel to New Zealand for a Clash of Cultures

National Indigenous Football team boarding for New Zealand

For the first time, Australian Indigenous teams were selected to play football against an international opposition in New Zealand.

Seven individuals from the Hunter were involved in a trans-Tasman tournament, featuring a 'Clash of Cultures' with New Zealand Maori sides in Auckland.

Australian First Nations Men's coach, Michael Hugo of Lakelands, said it was a significant moment for Indigenous sport in the country and more specifically for the region with six players from the area taking part.

Mr Hugo mentored Jarrod Purcell from Blackalls Park, Glendale's Anton Fenech and Broadmeadow brothers Taj and Kye Abrahams.

In the Women's squad, Fletcher's Leticia Quinlan and Jesmond 15-year-old Alyssa Togo also competed.

The players were selected following performances at the second annual National Indigenous Football Championships in Nowra last year.

What started out as the Newcastle All Stars contesting the National Indigenous Football Championships now culminates in a historic tour representing the Australian First Nations.

Indigenous football in Newcastle has taken another step forward.

Newcastle All Stars will be entering three teams into the National Indigenous Football Championship to be held in Queensland on the 8, 9, 10 November 2018. The event will be televised on NITV and be covered by Fox Sports and Mr Hugo is seeking sponsorship to help cover cost of the entry fee into the tournament, travel expenses and the purchase of playing gear. If you sponsor, your business logo would be placed on the apparel that will be worn during and after the competition.

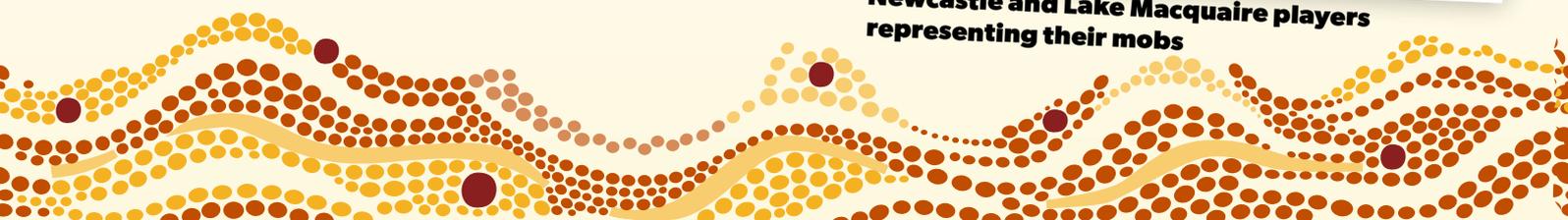
The players will also have the chance to be selected in the Australian Indigenous Football side, and this would be an honourable achievement.

A meeting will be held at Warners at the Bay regarding National Indigenous football championships from 6.30pm on Friday 9 March in the rear function room.

For more information or to offer sponsorship, contact Mr Hugo on 0432 269 456 or at mick.hugo79@gmail.com.



Newcastle and Lake Macquaire players representing their mobs



Worimi LALC Sand Dunes Adventures awarded again for excellence



Worimi LALC CEO, Andrew Smith, some of his team and their trophy

Congratulations go to Worimi LALC CEO, Andrew Smith, and his team, winning gold in the 2017 Qantas Award for Excellence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism announced recently in Perth.

Awards in this category went to:

- Sand Dune Adventure - NSW, gold;
- Kooljaman at Cape Leveque - WA, silver; and
- Nitmiluk Tours - NT, bronze

Additional Sand Dune Adventures award achievements include:

- silver winner in the Australian Tourism Awards- Qantas award for Excellence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism 2016;
- gold winner in the NSW Tourism Awards - Qantas award for Excellence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism 2016;
- silver winner in the NSW Tourism Awards - Qantas award for Excellence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism Award 2015;
- gold winner in the Hunter and Central Coast Tourism Awards - Indigenous Tourism Category 2014;
- award winner in the Port Stephens Annual Business Awards - Best Tourist Attraction Category 2014; and
- finalist in the NSW Tourism Awards - Indigenous Tourism Category 2014 and 2015.

If you would like more information or to book an adventure on Worimi Country, visit sandduneadventures.com.au or call 4033 8808.

5
minutes with the
mob



Name: Cherie Johnson

Family call me Chez or Chaz, while some friends call me Ree.

Where's your mob from:

Wailwen, northern NSW

What's your organisation and role?

I am an Aboriginal education consultant with Speaking in Colour. I started Speaking in Colour a few years ago while I was a high school teacher and my children were young. Since October 2015, I have left teaching to focus on the business and to do some further research.

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

Originally our focus was to help teachers implement Aboriginal perspectives into the classroom and to provide cultural opportunities for our youth. Today we do this and more including:

- training, professional education for educators and cultural education for the wider public;
- cultural experiences like weaving, possum skin cloak, dancing and Aboriginal art appreciation to name a few programs; and
- creating Aboriginal educational resources.

How do we do all this? We work with our local community. To date, we have nine contractors, two employees and are always looking to partner and build capacity within our community. So, if you are a deadly weaver and looking for some work, get in contact.

Who is in your family?

My hubby Chris, children Gabriella and Tobias, mum (Dawn Conlan, nee Townsend), sisters Haylie, Sarah, Brooke and Jemima, brothers Paul and Jonas, niece and nephews: Riley, Bella, Daniel, Kirsty and Jayden.

Who is your hero?

Linda Burney and my mum

Favourite sport: Hiking

Favourite bush food: Lady lime fingers- yummo!

Favourite movie: I am a huge movie buff so have heaps of favourites and I love a good happy cry in a movie, or big belly laugh so *Hidden Figures* is awesome, *Star Wars* series are in the top ten, *Indiana Jones*, *Marvels* etc.

Ambitions in life: To grow old and happy with my man, to raise my little people the best I can. To become the person I am designed to be and not walk in fear or shame.

Anything else you would like to add?:

I acknowledge that all I am and all I do is due to the fact that my generation have the privilege to stand on the shoulders of giants. I only hope that I make them proud and do not rest in complacency.

The Olive Tree Market will launch the first in a series of five free Indigenous cultural workshops, in partnership with Speaking in Colour, at its **3 March market**. For more information, visit theolivetreemarket.com.au.



**15 March 2018
National Close the Gap Day**

National Close the Gap Day is an annual event held to raise awareness of the Indigenous health crisis.

**Saturday 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 1997 HREOC report Bringing Them Home, which recommended that a national day of observance be declared.

**Sunday 27 May*
Anniversary of the 1967
Referendum**

In 1967, more than 90 per cent of Australians voted in a referendum to remove clauses from the Australian Constitution, which 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.

**Sunday 27 May –
Sunday 3 June*
Reconciliation Week**

National Reconciliation Week was initiated in 1996 to provide a special focus for nationwide activities. The week is a time to reflect on achievements so far and the things that must still be done to achieve reconciliation.

National Reconciliation Week

offers people across Australia the opportunity to focus on reconciliation, to hear about the cultures and histories of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and to explore new and better ways of meeting challenges in our communities.

The week is timed to coincide with two significant dates in Australia's history, which provide strong symbols of our hopes and aims for reconciliation.

**Sunday 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 People.

Eddie 'Koiki' Mabo's name is synonymous with native title rights. His story began in May 1982 when he and fellow Murray (Mer) Islanders David Passi, Sam Passi, James Rice and Celuia Salee instituted a claim in the High Court for native title to the Murray (Mer) Islands in the Torres Strait.

**8-15 July NAIDOC Week 2018
'Because of her, we can!'**

NAIDOC Week 2018 will celebrate the invaluable contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have made, and continue to make, to our communities, our families, our rich history and to our nation.

Under the theme, 'Because of her, we can!', NAIDOC Week 2018 will be held nationally from **Sunday 8 July and continue through to Sunday 15 July**. For more information, visit naidoc.org.

Council will host their annual community flag-raising and morning tea on **Wednesday 11 July from 9-11am**. Everyone welcome to attend.



BECAUSE OF HER, WE CAN!
8-15 JULY 2018

Community connections



Name and nickname:

Christina Sullivan

Where are you from: Newcastle

Your organisation and role:

Carer Support Officer at Carers Action Network

How long have you been there?

I was previously in this role for two and a half years. This time for 11 months

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

Information, education and support for Aboriginal People who provide any kind of care for someone who has a disability or mental illness or is frail, aged, experiencing dementia or has chronic illness

Who is in your family?

My husband Peter, daughter Tahnee, grandson Jordan, grand-daughter Zara

Who is your hero?

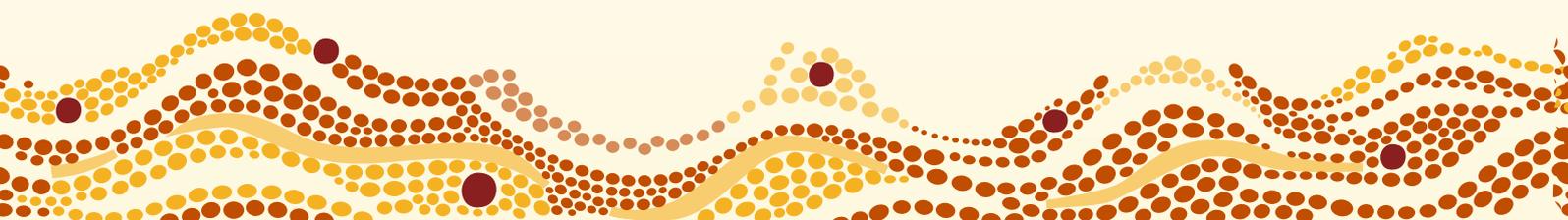
All people who are caring for someone

Favourite food: Mushrooms

Favourite movie: *Japanese Story*

Ambitions in life:

To make a difference for carers





What's on?

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

Close the Gap

Free film night featuring *Another Country (G)*, as told by David Gulpilil. Free entry with the opportunity to donate funds for Oxfam and light refreshments will be available.

March 15

Doors open from 6pm with film commencing at 6.30pm at Lake Mac Performing Arts Centre, Lake Street, Warners Bay.

Harmony Day

Celebrate Lake Macquarie's cultural diversity with a variety of free cultural food tastings and live entertainment.

March 21

10am-1pm

The Place Community Centre, corner Frederick and Pearson streets, Charlestown.

Resolution: new Indigenous photomedia

This National Gallery of Australia travelling exhibition celebrates some of the most significant work made by Indigenous photographers, video and multimedia artists in the last five years.

Also on display, *Your Collection: Look Out and Artist Focus: Sally Bourke*.

10 February - 25 March 2018
Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery

Surf lifesaving history on display!

Lake Macquarie: Living Cultures (surf lifesaving) is now on display. This exhibition provides a great view of the history of surf lifesaving clubs in Lake Macquarie through photographs and objects sourced from Catherine Hill Bay, Caves Beach, Redhead and Swansea-Belmont Surf Lifesaving Clubs and local historical societies.

Now until 1 April

SEEN@Swansea
First Floor Mezzanine 228
Pacific Highway, Swansea.
Open seven days 10am-3pm.

Youth Week Friday

This year Youth Week activities will be held from Friday 13 April - Sunday 22 April 2018. Information will be available at [lakemac.com.au/community/young-people/national-youth-week](https://www.lakemac.com.au/community/young-people/national-youth-week)

You're Kidding Me Expo

Connecting families with services and programs in Lake Macquarie. If you are interested in having a stall, contact Jess Salvador at jsalvador@lakemac.nsw.gov.au.

May 16

9.30am-12.30pm

Event Cinemas Glendale

Free Assist and Safe Talk suicide prevention workshops

Community Activities Lake Macquarie (CALM) is offering free Assist and Safe Talk suicide prevention workshops to community members.

Contact Dayle for more information at dayle.bm@calm.org.au.

Fern Martins speaking

Originals of her illustrations for *Big Fella Rain* will be on display for everyone to enjoy.

Wednesday 28 March
Swansea Library



What's on?

More events can be found at lakemac.com.au  lakemaccity or contact  4921 0333

Home security program

Lake Macquarie City Council has a home security program that provides access to free property marking kits to prevent burglary for residents in Lake Macquarie. Availability of kits are limited. Contact Scott Sloan for more information at ssloan@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

Exhibition *Ngaa-bun-gaa-nha* Searching

Represents artist Maree Bisby's journey as an independent Aboriginal woman, inspired by her connection to the Lake and the beauty and serenity of local beaches.

Friday 18 May - Saturday 11 August. Toronto Library

Introduction to Aboriginal culture

Limited places and bookings essential to medwards@lakemac.nsw.gov.au.

Two sessions available:

Friday 1 June

9am-noon and 1-4pm

Lake Macquarie Council Administration Building
126-138 Main Road, Speers Point. Additional parking in Lakeview Street.

Launchpad@Lake Mac Libraries

Callout for artists to provide new opportunities for local emerging and community artists, students and groups to show drawings, painting and photographs.

Hunter Red

The Hunter Red suite of exhibitions represents a collaborative vision shared by Hunter-based cultural institutions.

26 May – 15 July 2018

Re(A)d Earth

Re(A)d Earth presents perspectives on contemporary connection to Country for Aboriginal artists and acknowledges the notion of 'reading' the earth as elemental in Aboriginal culture.

26 May – 15 July 2018

Lake Macquarie Youth Advisory Council (LMYAC)

LMYAC meets once a month and is always keen for new members. For more information, including the membership application form, visit lakemac.com.au/community/young-people/youth-advisory-council.



Got any news?

Contributions are welcome

medwards@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

NAIDOC WEEK 8-15 July 2018

