

Welcome to the 20th copy and spring edition of the Koori Grapevine. I hope you enjoy the read. Contributions are welcome by email to medwards@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

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

"I believe every woman on this planet is my Sister. I believe every man on this planet is my Brother. Like all Kooris, I know the Earth is my Mother. We must learn to share with those three. If the rest of the world could adopt that philosophy of caring and sharing, there would be no wars. But most importantly, there would be no starving children." Chicka Dixon – 1928-2010

Lake Mac Council and employees win awards at the 2016 LGANC

The Local Government Aboriginal Network Conference (LGANC) is held annually at a different locality across NSW. This year's conference was hosted by Tweed Shire Council on beautiful Bundjalung Country, with more than 100 delegates representing their Council and Community.

The weather on day one was not in our favour for the cultural tour. This did not dampen our spirits, as we visited the Tweed Regional Museum, which presented a haunting display of historical Aboriginal breastplates. We also visited Tweed Regional Art Gallery and Margaret Olley Art Centre. This magnificent centre has spectacular views of Wollumbin (Mount Warning) and had on display an exhibition of Aboriginal and contemporary art as well as a replica of Margaret Olley's entire home and contents.

Before the afternoon visit to Minjungbal Aboriginal Museum and Cultural Centre (MAMCC), we were treated to a scrumptious lunch catered by Chef Mark Olive of The Black Olive fame. On arrival at MAMCC, we enjoyed a feast of contemporary cuisine and various bush tucker food created by the Elders, staff and community. Of course, the next two days was glorious sunshine, as we were indoors, but the array of presenters and guests speakers made up for this by engaging us with their many interesting and relevant topics.

The annual conference dinner and awards ceremony is always a great way to relax and unwind after a couple of intense days absorbing a wealth of cultural and council information.

Out of the four nominations I submitted, Lake Macquarie City Council took out three, including Council of the Year. Outdoor Worker of the Year was awarded to CiviLake's Doug Archibald and Youth Achiever of the Year went to Lake Macquarie Landcare's Adam Lee. Each winner received a handcrafted ceramic bowl, painted by local Tweed Aboriginal artist, Penny Evans.

The partnership between Lake Mac Council and Lake Macquarie's Local Area Command was also recognised on the night, with an honorary certificate awarded for the Tunbilliko (meaning 'exchange'), program. Congratulations to all for your commitment and well-deserved awards.

Thanks to Tweed Shire Council and Robert Appo for hosting the conference in a beautiful location and venue. We are all looking forward to attending next year's LGANC, to be hosted by Albury City Council on Wiradjuri Country.



The handcrafted gifts and certificates from 2016 LGANC

Lake Macquarie NAIDOC Week Funding Program

Local, state and national events and celebrations for National Aboriginals and Islanders Day of Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week promote reconciliation and play a primary role in educating the wider community about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander achievements, culture, heritage and history. NAIDOC Week occurs annually in the first full week in July.

Now in its fifth year, Lake Macquarie City Council's NAIDOC Week Funding Program provides financial assistance to raise community awareness of NAIDOC Week throughout the Lake Macquarie local government area and highlight the achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in the region.

The \$10,000 fund enables not-for-profit organisations, schools and auspicing bodies to apply for up to \$2500 for a large cultural event that attracts regional and state-wide audiences, or up to \$750 to implement a local cultural activity or project, to celebrate NAIDOC Week 2016 in Lake Macquarie.

Under the program, financial assistance is provided for culturally appropriate projects, activities and events in Lake Macquarie that aim but are not limited to:

- promoting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural awareness for all community and cultures;
- celebrating individual and group achievements within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community;
- recognising practical perceptions of cultural practices carried out in the past;
- further enhancing partnerships between Council, community and various organisations.



A colourful rainbow serpent mosaic on which each student from Edgeworth Public School placed at least one tile.

A record number of applications were received by Council for NAIDOC Week 2016, which was held from 3 to 10 July this year. Council received 24 applications requesting total funding of \$19,112.

In Category 1 (a local event, activity or project), 21 applications were submitted, requesting \$14,112 in total. Three applications were received for Category 2, (large events attracting community members from the region or State-wide), requesting \$6500 in total. One application submitted in Category 2 for \$1500 was deemed more suitable for Category 1, due to the anticipated expected numbers participating at the event, and because it was being held for the first time.

All applications were deemed worthy of funding and were each allocated partial funding to assist with the proposed events.

The photos below tell a good story about the kinds of projects that Council funded this year.



Children from Warners Bay Early Learning and Care Centre paint their totem poles.



KU Windale preschool also painted up totem poles for NAIDOC Week.

Lake Mac Council celebrates NAIDOC

More than 150 community members, Councillors and staff turned out to celebrate NAIDOC Week at Council's special flag-raising and traditional Smoking Ceremony held on Tuesday 5 July.

Aboriginal Community Development Officer, Maree Edwards, organised Council's celebrations and said the event was a testament to the spirit of NAIDOC Week, with many people coming together to celebrate Indigenous Australians and culture and heritage.

"The Smoking Ceremony and symbolic flag-raising was a spiritual and moving experience for everyone who gathered at the event. It was wonderful to have Uncle Bill Smith and his family perform traditional dances and tell stories with local community members and our employees," Maree said.

"I would like to thank (the then) Madam Mayor, Uncle Bill Smith and his son Edward, grandsons from the Mimaga Wajarr dance group, honoured guests, flag raisers, community and staff who attended the celebration, as well as keynote speaker, Cherie Johnson from Speaking in Colour."



NAIDOC Celebrations at Lake Macquarie City Council Administrative Centre

Catering included fresh fruit, a superb two-tiered cake, hand-decorated in this year's NAIDOC winning poster theme by a local young Mum, as well as delicious homemade bush tucker by Steph and her team at Buudja Murrang.

Westlakes NAIDOC Family Fun Day

Straight after Council's NAIDOC event, a community march took place in The Boulevard Toronto. This was followed by official proceedings for the Westlakes NAIDOC Family Fun Day with Uncle Gerry Edwards performing the Acknowledgement to Country and Traditional Custodians, and Aunty Donna Meehan blessing the Aboriginal flag before it was raised by Aunty Zelma Moran. An opening address by Mr Greg Piper MP, State Member for Lake Macquarie, and Councillor Jodie Harrison, the then Mayor of Lake Macquarie, was also a part of the official opening ceremony. It was estimated approximately 2000 people attended the family fun day.



Westlakes NAIDOC community awards winners

Westlakes NAIDOC Community Awards were presented to the community members to honour and recognise Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the community who have made a significant contribution to community throughout the past year. The following awards were presented:

- Youth of the Year - Tyrone Rumbel
- Community Member of the Year - Rhonda Finlay
- Community Worker of the Year - Jessica Wegener
- Elder of the Year - Uncle Gerald Edwards
- Elder of the Year - Aunty Brenda Simon
- Acknowledgement Award Meyapeliko - Simply Pharmacy
- Ken McBride Snr Educational Achievement - Biraban Public School
- Jim Ridgeway Biyang Award - Uncle Ceddy McGrady (deceased)

Uncle Bob Sampson Memorial Award - Tracey Walpole (deceased)

Congratulations to all these worthy recipients.

Terrific performances were given by Biraban Public School, young cultural dancer Tyreece, as well as local act Jacob Ridgeway. Torres Strait Islander group Mau Power from Far North Queensland entertained the large crowd, and the day ended with a karaoke session. Planning has already begun for the 2017 event.

The following Friday night, the Westlakes Elders hosted their annual 'Koorioke' night at Club Macquarie in Argenton, with a great community turn out. Muloobinba also held the annual NAIDOC Women's dinner at Merewether Surfhouse on the Friday evening.



Aunty Zelma raises Aboriginal flag

Eastlakes NAIDOC Family Fun Day

This year, the Eastlakes NAIDOC planning committee decided to hold their annual event on Friday in the second week of the school holidays, and what a pearler of a day it was! With attendance up again on last year's event, the estimated crowd was in the thousands. The event began with Uncle Mick Green welcoming the community and Acknowledging Country and the Traditional Custodians, and inviting the Lake Macquarie Elders on stage to proudly show off the gold medals they won earlier in the year at the Elders Olympics. Students from Galgabba Primary School followed him singing the National Anthem in Awabakal language and Aunty Pat Slee spoke about the meaning of this year's NAIDOC theme, Songlines: the living narrative of our Nation. The Minimbah Dancers performed cultural dances and school student Sophie sang 'We are Australian', accompanied by Jack on guitar.

We heard a short speech from the then Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Councillor Jodie Harrison, and State Member for Swansea, Yasmin Cately, before Jill Hall, former Federal Member for Shortland and Inspector Bruce McGregor, Lake Macquarie Local Area Command, were presented with a plaque for their long-standing service and commitment to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Plenty signed up for the Eastlake's Got Talent quest and winners were: 18 and over, Sharnae; High School, The Edwardsons; and Primary School, by last year's winner, Jeraki, with his angelic voice.

Throughout the day, Odd One Out, Change Duo and Elisa Kate entertained the audience with their talent and performances. Croc

Stars Reptile Show provided close encounters with lizards and snakes, and Pennies Ponies and Newcastle Party Pets were a big hit with the young ones, as were the jumping castles hired from Novacastles. Coles Mount Hutton once again provided sausages and catered the barbeque.

Thank you to all the sponsors, stallholders, suppliers and to the community for attending, participating and supporting such a fabulous community event, and thank you weather Gods for a magical day.



Jill Hall and Inspector Bruce McGregor with their Eastlakes NAIDOC community awards

Centre for Hope NAIDOC celebrations

On Saturday 9 July, Windale based not-for-profit organisation, Centre for Hope, held their inaugural NAIDOC event in Windale and Mount Hutton. The morning began with a free community barbecue in Baloo Reserve, followed by a peaceful march to Lake Macquarie Fair.

The shopping centre management, Charter Hall, allowed Centre for Hope to set up children's activities in the middle of the mall. The large crowd of people from many cultures was treated to cultural dancing performances by Minimbah dance troupe, a moving story and performance on the yidaki (didgeridoo) by Ray Kelly Junior, a talk on the NAIDOC theme by Uncle Ray Kelly Senior and a visit from Awabakal Ltd's Lil Mike.



Centre of Hope NAIDOC celebrations drew a large crowd



A peaceful march from Windale to Mt Hutton

PCYC Nations of Origin kicked off at Speers Point

Nations of Origin is a multifaceted sport, cultural, education and leadership program that culminates annually during NAIDOC Week. Held over the past three years, Nations of Origin has quickly become the largest Aboriginal youth sporting event in NSW with more than 3500 participants since the inception of the program.

The program has four main components: reconciliation, education, cultural identity and sport and is aimed at increasing school retention rates with all participants required to have an 80 per cent school attendance to be eligible to participate. All participating sporting teams must also consist of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal young people at a ratio of seven to three.

Cultural identity is a focal point of the project, with all teams representing their community under the traditional local Aboriginal nation name from their area, and uniforms decked out with totems of their Aboriginal nation. This provides an opportunity for non-Aboriginal young men and women to learn about their local Aboriginal culture and foster relationships and understanding between local cultures.

In 2016, the tournament offered three sports in which young people could participate. Football fives were held at Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility in Speers Point, while the rugby league sevens and netball were both held in Raymond Terrace. All competitions were conducted with involvement from the peak sporting bodies to ensure participants can access development pathways in their chosen sport. Eleven Nations were represented in football and netball, and 29 in rugby league.

The event at Speers Point began with Aboriginal Elder Uncle Bill Smith and his family performing a cultural ceremony.

Ultimately, the event is not so much about winning, however, the 2016 winners and gridders were

Football 5's BOYS Premier Final – Awabakal 1; Cup Final – Biripi; Medal Final – Wiradjuri Platypus

Football 5's GIRLS Premier Final – Awabakal 1; Cup Final – Worimi; Medal Final – Wonnarua.



Mimaga Wajaar dancers opening the 2016 Nations of Origin

Vale Tracey Walpole - Heart of a Warrior

With her family and friends by her side, an extraordinary young woman and spiritual warrior, Tracey Gai Walpole, left us as the sun set on 26 May 2016, ironically National Sorry Day. Tracey belonged to the Bundjalung Tribe from northern NSW and often talked of her roots in Vanuatu with pride, and the passion for her Aboriginal culture and heritage was extraordinary.

Born in Grafton hospital 30 July 1963, Tracey was the second eldest of five siblings. The family moved to Sydney before moving to Rathmines, Lake Macquarie, in the 1970s. She attended Rathmines Primary and then Toronto High, where she was a good student but preferred socialising a tad more than school work. This preference led her towards her future and the love of her life, Stephen, whom she met at Cardiff Workers Club, where she surprised him by sitting on his lap and giving him a big kiss. From that night on they were inseparable, enjoying wonderful times building their relationship. Two years later, Steve popped the question at Rathmines jetty and, until her passing, they were married and almost inseparable for 32 years.

Tracey and Steve bought their first home in Brighton Avenue in 1985. After doing a Kinesiology course, Tracey ran a massage business from home – a profession through which she could share her love of caring and healing others.

In 1988, Tracey and Steve had their first baby, Jay. Not long after, the young family moved to Brunswick Heads. Tracey loved motherhood, the lifestyle and being close to her family. The three of them ventured south, exploring the coast before settling back in Lake Macquarie in 1992, the same year they became parents to Rhys. Steve and the boys were the loves of her life and she enthusiastically observed the boys grow into the strong and independent men they are today.

Her caring nature and interest in supporting others led her to volunteer at Toronto Primary School. This was where her strengths and revolutionary ways singled her out for her dream job as Aboriginal Educational Officer at Fennell Bay Primary School. She followed those children she taught to Toronto High School and subsequently returned to Fennell Bay Primary School. She embraced the children

and their families and inherited countless aunts, sisters, uncles and brothers, as well as the school family, with which she would always speak her mind.

Her role was not just in school, but flowed endlessly into the entire community. She comforted and supported anyone, regardless of their background. She was there not just for the Aboriginal community, but for anyone who needed her.

Her last few months of life were challenging for her and loved ones, but throughout the tough times she kept others strong, even people in the hospital wards, including keeping the nurses on their toes. Every time you saw her, she would say, "I'm alright, I feel good". She never complained, and it was time for family and friends to stand by her as she had stood by them.

Tracey is looking down on us with that infectious smile and contagious laugh, saying, "You'll never forget me now". Many of us still feel her presence. None so much as her family on the night after her farewell, when her daughter in law's waters broke and Shelley and Jay became parents to a girl, Chanel Tracey, a sister for brother Trey.

The community came together at Toronto Workers Club for a fundraising afternoon in July on what would have been her 53rd birthday. Funds raised went towards the medical expenses the family incurred throughout her illness. Many people, businesses and organisations contributed to the success of the day, and the family are extremely grateful to everyone that gave their time, resources and donations.

'One Love' was her motto in life and will no doubt, continue to be in her afterlife. Many will miss her and we can only hope that she is free from pain and resting in peace with her Mum and others who have passed away. She is truly missed by all.



Simone with banner from Heart of a Warrior fundraiser



A bookmark created to remember Heart of a Warrior, Tracey Walpole

Your Collection:

off the wall celebrating 20 years of Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery Sculpture Park



Artist Jamie North watering his newly installed sculpture, recently shown in the 2016 Sydney Biennale

Succession

Cement, steel, steel slag, coal ash, oyster shell, organic matter

The piece is on loan from the artist and installed in the sculpture park as part of Your Collection: off the wall, a gallery project curated by Rob Cleworth courtesy the artist and Sarah Cottier Gallery, Sydney



Aboriginal Community Development Officer Maree Edwards and furry friend Fifi watching traditional Aboriginal dance by Mimaga Wajaar



Director Debbie Abraham dancing with Uncle Bill Smith of Mimaga Wajaar



The then Mayor Jodie Harrison and Director Debbie Abraham at the opening event



The audience hears opening speeches for *Your Collection: off the wall* and the celebration of 20 years of the sculpture park





Tantrum Ensemble Theatre
Performance piece, *Tadaima*, created by Zana Kobayashi



Artist Ken O'Reagan conducting a children's craft activity during the opening event



Traditional Aboriginal dance group Mimaga Wajaar performed at the opening event



New work in the sculpture park by Richard Tipping dedicated during the opening celebration in memory of 'Mazie Turner and the family years at Wangi'

Morning 2007

Basalt crystal , Edition 1 of 3

Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by the artist in 2011



Artist Fatu Feu'u flew in from New Zealand for the opening. He is here with his work *Tanifa O Tagaloa*, 2003

Australian red gum, steel, Cook Island black pearl shells

The work was purchased by the Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery Society, supported by Arts NSW



5 Minutes with the mob

Name and nickname: **Roselea Newburn** Everyone calls me Rosie
Where are you from: I am a descendant of the Worimi people, near Dungog. Although I was born on Awabakal land.
Your role and organisation: I am Facilitator of the Schools as Community Centre, based at Windale Public School
 I've been in this role for about 8 years and prior to that was the Aboriginal Education Officer at the school.

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

Milabah- SaCC is a mainstream service, but Aboriginal culture and history is embedded in everything we do. I support families engage in education, through playgroups, parenting groups, community capacity building and bringing community into the school as volunteers. We link with a number of Aboriginal services who support the programs running here at Milabah, like Birra-li, Muloobinba, the Read to Me program and many more.

Who is in your family? I am a mum of 4 and Nanny to 7 of the most beautiful grandchildren ever. I also have lots of school and community family and my children's and grandchildren's friends who I am either mum or Nanny Rose to.

Who is your hero? My two daughters are my hero's, because they have both achieved so much while still being amazing mums.

Favourite bush food: Have a bit of a sweet tooth so I can't go past a poppy seed scone with lemon myrtle cream. (Although I really should)

Favourite sport: I love fishing, it's so peaceful. Don't catch much, but enjoy sitting by the water, with a line in.

Favourite movie: Any that I can have a good laugh through.

Ambitions in life: To get up every morning and be the best person I can be and do the best job that I can do.

Anything else you would like to add?

I often think I am the luckiest person in the world. To live in this beautiful place, to have a job that I love, to have my family close and to have beautiful friends that I cherish.

Events

Additional events including Lake Mac Libraries and Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery programs are available at www.lakemac.com.au

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
October			
30 September, 1 and 2 October	2016 NSW Aboriginal Knockout	Leichhardt Oval and four other grounds	www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au
	Your Kidding Me programs	Various Lake Mac Libraries	Bookings essential at www.library.lakemac.com.au/events
6 October 10.30am	Family Relax Yoga	Belmont Library	Bookings essential at www.library.lakemac.com.au/events
12 October 10am	Babies into Books	Toronto Library	Bookings essential at www.library.lakemac.com.au/events
13 October 10am	Babies into Books	Swansea Library	Bookings essential at www.library.lakemac.com.au/events
20 October 10.30am	Preschool Music - Organic School Readiness	Cardiff Library	Bookings essential at www.library.lakemac.com.au/events
31 October 11am	Play for Development and Learning	Charlestown Library	Bookings essential at www.library.lakemac.com.au/events
November			
TBA	2017 Youth Week Grants Open towards the end of November	Information on Council's website closer to the date	www.lakemac.com.au 4921 0333
3 November 5pm	The Nervous Anxious Child	Toronto Library	Bookings essential at www.library.lakemac.com.au/events
December			
Sunday 11 Noon til 9pm	Lake Macquarie Carols by Candlelight	Information on Council's website closer to the date	www.lakemac.com.au 4921 0333