

# Koori Grapevine

***"We know we cannot live in the past but the past lives in us." CHARLES PERKINS***

Please be advised this publication may contain names and images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are now departed. Lake Macquarie City Council acknowledges the original caretakers and traditional custodians of this land, the Awabakal people and individual clans of the city. Respect is extended to all Elders past and present, and all cultural knowledge holders of the region.

Contributions for the seasonal and quarterly edition can be emailed to Maree Edwards at [medwards@lakemac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:medwards@lakemac.nsw.gov.au)

Deadline 2 weeks before season end.

## Lake Mac's Festival of Surfing - A first for Surfest

Thousands hit the sand at Redhead Beach this weekend to welcome Surfest to Lake Macquarie for the first time.

Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Cr Jodie Harrison, said she is very pleased that Council was able to provide an opportunity for Lake Macquarie to be a part of an event as iconic as Surfest.

"The festival enhanced the reputation of Redhead Beach as a vibrant and consistent surfing location, while adding significant economic returns for the local economy. Council is looking forward to bringing Surfest back to Lake Macquarie in 2016," Cr Harrison said.

The weekend's events included all facets of traditional longboard, shortboard and SUP surfing across all age divisions.

In addition to the action on the water, Event Officers, Rebecca Prince and Kate Dunn, and Promotions Coordinator, Jasmyne McCabe, hosted the Community Trail. The trail involved the community visiting local community groups and locations, including the Redhead Men's Shed, Redhead Community Library and Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood Group set up in Webb Park, to learn more about what they do and collect stamps to win a prize.

The highlight of the Community Trail was 'Shark in a Bus', a high-class private travelling marine museum from Western Australia, which displays the huge 5m-long great white shark 'Frankie'. More than 800 people visited the bus in the four hours it was open.

The Naruta-Ka-Wa (Great Sky Lizard of Pulbah Island) Story Quilt was on display together with photos of the Na Ya Boo Larng (Women Coming Together) sewing group during the formation of the 10-month creation. The community were enthralled with the spectacular piece of art, as well as the story behind the design of the quilt. Bahtabah Local Aboriginal Land Council also loaned artefacts and cultural items to display and inform the large crowd what their traditional uses were.



**Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Cr Jodie Harrison, with winners of the Lake Macquarie Festival of Surfing.**



**Shark in a bus travelling marine museum.**

# Surfest 2015 Wandiyali ATSI Inc. Indigenous Surf Classic... and the richest!

The opening day of Surfest 2015 was headed up with the men's open in the Wandiyali ATSI Inc. Indigenous Surf Classic held in mid-February at Merewether Beach and the heats were held with extra precautions due to recent shark sightings and a frenzy of birds feeding on baitfish as day one of the contest began.

This year's Wandiyali ATSI Indigenous Classic was the richest Indigenous surfing contest ever held in Australia with a total prize value of \$20,000.

What started out as a surf contest of "Kooris verses Cops" at Nobbys Beach, the event has grown in prize money, spectators, entrants and the locations competitors come from. This is Wandiyali's 13th year supporting the Indigenous Classic event and Stan Moylan; the Indigenous contest director received many more calls for this year's event with entrants arriving from as far as Western Australia.

A cultural ceremony kicked off the commencement of the contest and featured Stan Moylan performing on didj, as the painted up Aboriginal dancers displayed their talented moves to the crowd. After a moving Welcome to Country by Uncle Kevin McKinney, Windale Public School students, Candace and Jeraki sang the national anthem in Awabakal with their singing coach Jacqui Allen from Miromaa Aboriginal Language and Technology Centre.

Beau Wills from Avoca prevented nine times winner, Russell Molony from taking out his tenth consecutive crown at the Wandiyali ATSI Indigenous Classic open men's event at the 30th anniversary of Surfest 2015. 21-year-old Wills scored 45.10 ahead of Kirra's Simon Knox (40.60), Coffs Harbour's Otis Carey (40.20) and Central Coast's Russell Molony (38.30) from Bateau Bay, in the four-man final.

In the women's event, Wollongong's Summer Simon came first ahead of Stella Crick of Coledale, NSW, Amber Mercer from the NSW North Coast and Jarrah Clark from NSW.

Joe Wallace, of Cronulla, took out the junior boy's event followed by Noah Munro, of Norah Head, local Merewether surfer Jackson McGuire and Taj Simon from Wollongong.

Wandiyali presented the winner of each category with a hand-painted surfboard created by the late artist and 2004 Australian Artist of the Year, Col Wightman. Some say these prizes were priceless and would be more treasured out of cultural respect to the artist than the prize money on offer. Steve Kilroy, CEO of Wandiyali ATSI Inc. contacted the talented freehand artist and asked him to paint four surfboards, one each for the division winners and an additional one for a raffle, which was drawn at the finals.

Surfest chief Warren Smith said the Wandiyali ATSI Inc. Indigenous Classic has become a key part of Surfest and the doubling of prize money will further enhance the nation's premier Indigenous Surf Classic.

"Wandiyali ATSI has been a long term supporter of indigenous surfing and Surfest. It is such a great event. It's much more than a surfing competition – it's about making new friends and catching up with old ones too," Warren said.



Wandiyali CEO Steve Kilroy and Sharon Pratten-Eggins (L) and Tracy Rodgers (R) display the late Col Wightman's fabulous pieces of art

## Wandiyali ATSI Inc. Going Home Staying Home

Wandiyali is a community organisation assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Lake Macquarie, Newcastle, Port Stephens and the Hunter and they are dedicated to providing the best possible outcomes for the people who access the service.

The Going Home Staying Home program is aimed at helping young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth aged between 16 and 24 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The program provides client centred, culturally appropriate homelessness support, including prevention and early intervention, rapid rehousing, crisis and transitional accommodation and intensive responses for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with complex needs. Another advantage of the program is access to the Youth Private Rental Subsidy. For more information and to speak with a caseworker call 02 4957 5900.

## At Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery 27 March – 17 May (in)visible: The First Peoples and War

War is a complex, difficult and emotional subject. This exhibition project considers war from the perspective of Aboriginal men and women: from the frontier violence that informs ongoing conflict and contemporary culture, to the ramifications of more recent world wars. It will reflect on military service, the Anzac story and the post-war experience. Aboriginal soldiers endured a great deal of inequality, particularly when rewards were being distributed to returned servicemen in recognition for fighting for their country. Through the work of contemporary emerging, mid-career and established Aboriginal artists, such as Tony Albert, Julie Gough, Amala Groom, Anna Liebrecht, Archie Moore, Judy Watson and Jason Wing, and including a local community project, this exhibition will recognise and respond to some confronting truths. A gallery project curated by Yhonnie Scarce and Meryl Ryan in consultation with the Aboriginal Reference Group.



## We all Stand on Sacred Ground:

Learn, Respect & Celebrate

5 – 12 JULY 2015

Between March and July, there are many significant dates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These are noted on the back page. NAIDOC Week is fast approaching and any schools or not for profit organisation wishing to apply for funding for an event to be held in the Lake Macquarie area, applications and guidelines are available at [www.lakemac.com.au](http://www.lakemac.com.au)

**Closing date is Friday 13 March 2015.**

# Council supports Cultural Programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

In 2014, Lake Macquarie City Council supported a diverse range of not-for-profit organisations and schools to develop and implement activities and events with the aim to enhance the cultural identity of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through an assortment of Aboriginal cultural programs and events. The funds were made available by the Aboriginal Cultural Identity grants (two rounds) and 2014 NAIDOC Week grants with the total amount of \$16,000 being distributed amongst twenty-two recipients. Some of these unique initiatives comprised of:

Westlakes Elders Koorioke night; Community Family Fun Days; Aboriginal high school students bringing along a non-Aboriginal student to paint a mural; formal school assemblies with Aboriginal guest speakers, traditional performers, barbeque and bush tucker tastings; cultural teachings of arts and craft by respected cultural Elders and knowledge holders; community morning/afternoon teas with flag raising and Aboriginal guest speaker; cultural movie nights; bush tucker gardens and cultural education programs; Aboriginal cultural exchange programs, under 18's cultural disco and Sista Speak.



**Centre For Hope (CFH)** is a local, independent, non-denominational, not-for-profit organisation which works with young people to help them become the best that they can be and tap in to their true potential. CFH works with Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people and their families, and links them through group sessions and a one-on-one basis to professional coaches and community mentors.

This enables young people who feel disadvantaged to be supported and listened to and this begins to change their perception of life's hardships. CFH more recently has begun to work cross generationally and this is bringing support to parents and long-term carers who may have been isolated due to their commitment to their families. In similar ways, the adults are being supported to believe in their own potential and to connect with each other in a supported and non-judgemental community environment. The Centre has a great team of

volunteers who support people to see themselves in a different light.

Even though CFH began locally it is spreading its wings into the Sydney region and also into north western NSW. The power of change occurs when likeminded people refuse to accept that there is no other way. For more information on Centre For Hope programs and workshops email [info@centreforhope.com](mailto:info@centreforhope.com), visit the website [www.centreforhope.com](http://www.centreforhope.com) or search for them on Facebook.

**Wheels For Hope (WFH)** is a bike shed project set up in Lake Macquarie Fair, Mount Hutton and is supported by Charter Hall, who manage the shopping centre. Each Wednesday afternoon from 4-6pm, local youth will be supported by CFH to recondition old pushbikes, which will be taken home by the participants after the 8-week project is complete. Upon completion, the participants will receive a bike safety certificate and a helmet. If you would like to volunteer, have an old bike laying around to donate or know a young person who may be interested in participating, contact Geraldine at CFH on 0438 466 029 or email [centreforhope@gmail.com](mailto:centreforhope@gmail.com). The project will be official launched by Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Cr Jodie Harrison on Wednesday 18 March 2015 at 1pm. All are invited to attend.



**Name and Nickname:**

Sharni-Rae  
Hazlewood - Rahn

**Where are you from:** Newcastle

**Organisations you work for/role:**

Wandiyali ATSI Inc – Going Home Staying Home Caseworker

**Who's your hero:**

'We are the hero of our own story'

**Favourite Sport:**

Soccer

**Ambitions in life:**

I have many ambitions in life from travelling around Australia to completing a Psychology degree. My short term ambition is to help my clients to achieve their goals whether they are big or small.

**What services can your Organisation provide to Aboriginal people in Lake Macquarie:**

Wandiyali incorporates Housing, Community Links, Out of Home Care, Foster Care, Brighter Futures, Child Care Centre as well as the Going Home Staying Home program. We are dedicated to providing the best possible outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who access our service.



# What's on in Autumn!

What's on in Autumn! – Additional events including Senior's Program, Lake Mac Libraries and Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery programs are available at [www.lakemac.com.au](http://www.lakemac.com.au)

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
<b>March</b>			
<b>Friday 6</b>	<b>International Women's Day FREE film night and supper</b>	Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre, 39 Lake St, Warners Bay	Jessica Salvador 4921 0333 jsalvador@lakemac.nsw.gov.au
<b>Thursday 19</b>	<b>National Close the Gap Day</b>	Various events and venues	<a href="http://www.oxfam.org.au">www.oxfam.org.au</a>
<b>Friday 20</b> morning tea 9.30am 10am-12noon	<b>Senior's Concert</b> - Presented by Sing Australia and Eastlakes U3A	Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre, 39 Lake St, Warners Bay	Leanne Storey 4921 0333
<b>Wednesday 25</b> from 10.30am	<b>Harmony Day</b> - Multicultural food and launch of Migrants Stories Online fun	The Place - Charlestown Community Centre	Emma Hawke 4921 0333 ehawke@lakemac.nsw.gov.au
<b>27 March - 17 May</b>	<b>(in)visible: The First Peoples and War</b>	Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery	4965 8260
<b>April</b>			
<b>Friday 10 - Sunday 19</b>	<b>Youth Week 2015</b>	Various venues	4921 0333
<b>Sunday 19</b> from 10am	<b>Centenary of Anzac</b>	Speers Point Park	4921 0333
<b>May</b>			
<b>Saturday 16</b> <b>From 2pm</b>	<b>The Cavalcade of History and Fashion</b>	Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre, 39 Lake St, Warners Bay	4921 0333 or in person or library.lakemac.com.au
<b>Wednesday 20</b> <b>9am - 12pm</b>	<b>You're Kidding Me Family Expo</b>	Sala's function centre Hillsborough Road, Warners Bay	Jessica Salvador 4921 0333 jsalvador@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

## Significant Dates

DATE	EVENT
<b>19 March</b>	<b>National Close the Gap Day</b> is an annual event held to raise awareness of the Indigenous health crisis. <a href="http://www.oxfam.org.au/act/events/national-close-the-gap-day">www.oxfam.org.au/act/events/national-close-the-gap-day</a>
<b>21 March</b>	<b>Harmony Day</b> celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone <a href="http://www.harmony.gov.au">www.harmony.gov.au</a>
<b>26 March</b>	<b>National Sorry Day</b> 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
<b>27 May - Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum</b>	In 1967, more than 90 percent 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 <a href="http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/fact-sheets/fs150.aspx">www.naa.gov.au/collection/fact-sheets/fs150.aspx</a>
<b>27 May–3 June National Reconciliation Week</b>	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. This week is timed to coincide with two significant dates in Australia's history, which provide strong symbols of our hopes and aims for reconciliation <a href="http://www.reconciliation.org.au/nrw/">www.reconciliation.org.au/nrw/</a>
<b>3 June</b>	Mabo Day marks the anniversary of the High Court of Australia's judgements in 1992 in the Mabo case. Eddie 'Koiki' Mabo's name is synonymous with native title rights and this is a day of particular significance for Torres Strait Islander Australians <a href="http://www.maboday.com.au">www.maboday.com.au</a>

## 'Like' and 'follow' Council online!

In the past six months, Lake Macquarie City Council's Facebook page 'likes' have increased by almost 50 per cent, and the expectation is they will grow to more than 10,000 by June 2015.



<https://www.facebook.com/lakemaccity> | <https://www.facebook.com/whatsonlakemac>



<https://twitter.com/lakemac>



@ourlakemac



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCF3ZmOPSMWBS6APXuYJYrWg>