

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

Contributions are welcome via [medwards@lakemac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:medwards@lakemac.nsw.gov.au)

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land where we work and reside and pay respect to Elders past, present and future cultural knowledge holders

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

*"We want black and white people walking together. We need you young people to step up. We're getting old now, rickety in the knees."* ~ Aboriginal Elder Aunty Ali Golding

## And the IMAGinE award for Engagement Program goes to... LMCAG!

Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery and Aboriginal Reference Group has won a prestigious Museums & Galleries of NSW award – the 2016 IMAGinE award Engagement Programs Category for *Lore & Order*.

### ABOUT THE IMAGinE AWARDS

"Established in 2008, the IMAGinE awards celebrate and recognise the projects and programs created and presented by NSW museums and galleries and the people that make it happen and bring it all to life. Across all categories we are on the lookout for leadership, innovation, diversity and creativity." *M&G NSW website*

### ABOUT THE ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM CATEGORY

"The Engagement Programs award is assessed across the museum and gallery sector. It celebrates best practice in ongoing programs such as public programs, education resources, websites and social media, community engagement and participation." *M&G NSW website*

### WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT LORE & ORDER

"In consultation with the Aboriginal Reference Group, this exhibition explored the complex history shared by Aboriginal people, Christian missionaries and colonial lawmakers. Focusing on one of the first missions in the area, the exhibition narrative extended to mission life and included archival materials, contemporary art and local stories from Aboriginal Elders forced to live under the Aborigines Protection Act and Board in NSW.

The project included a large-scale community-made artwork, engaging both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students with more than 200 people participating. This overwhelming response indicated great community support and allowed participants the opportunity to learn about mission life.

The exhibition was accompanied by a number of public programs including guided tours, an exhibition catalogue, practical art workshops for children, teachers' professional development day and an opening forum/barbecue. A Family Exhibition Activity Sheet was also developed to encourage parents/carers to explore the exhibition with their children,

discussing artworks and answering questions." *M&G NSW website*

The gallery is pleased to be recognised and would like to acknowledge those involved in the project. Curator Donna Biles Fernando, the Aboriginal Reference Group, Aboriginal Elders from the Hunter region, artist John Cliff, LMCAG Education and Public Programs Officer Joanna Davies, educator Carol Carter, school students and community members involved in the making of 240 ceramic ration bags, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal educators and members of the AECG, Daryn McKenny, artists Nicole Chaffey and Tara Standing, Professor John Maynard, Lake Macquarie City Council, the State Government's Aboriginal Regional Arts Fund, as well as those who consulted on the project including Newcastle Museum and Local Aboriginal Land Councils.

Projects of this scale, quality and sensitivity are only possible through the generous efforts of many people and groups.

If you would like further information or wish to speak to Gallery Director Debbie Abraham who accepted the award on behalf of the gallery, contact Laura on 02 4921 0382 or via email [lwilson@lakemac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lwilson@lakemac.nsw.gov.au)

*Article Laura Wilson – Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery*



LMCAG Director Debbie Abraham,  
ARG member Selina Archibald



Ration bags

# A cultural first at the Living Smart Festival

It was a beautiful sunny Saturday at Speers Point Park for the Living Smart Festival in September, with more than 20,000 people visiting the event to learn more about sustainable living.

The event kicked off at 8am with a couple of firsts for the Living Smart Festival. About 200 people participated in the festival's first outdoor yoga session by the lake, hosted by Whole Living.

In one of her first official engagements as Mayor, newly elected Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Councillor Kay Fraser, officially opened the festival at 11am, following a Welcome to Country by local Aboriginal Elder, Aunty Daniella Chedzey.

Another first for the Living Smart Festival was the production of a traditional Kupmurri, a customary Aboriginal earth oven, created by Daniella and some of her family members. The night before the event, Daniella and family were up late peeling and cutting up a range of vegetables including pumpkin, yams and broccoli, which she spiced up with some delicious natural bush tucker flavours to cook on the coals.

Council provided a large pile of sand and Daniella began the day at dawn, creating a well in the sand pile and burning logs until they became hot coals before placing the trays of veges in and covering with Melaleuca paperbark that had been wet down from the lake. Many visitors were interested in the oldest living culture and stopped by the exhibition, which also had the Naruta-Ka-Wa (Great Sky Lizard of Pulbah Island) story quilt on display.

The annual sustainability festival had more than 120 market stalls for visitors to explore, eco styling workshops to take part in, a Salvo's fashion parade, mouth-watering cooking

demonstrations in the Living Smart kitchen, an electric vehicle display featuring an old-school DeLorean, appearances from some dancing Storm Troopers, drumming workshops with Benjie from Earthen Rhythms and so much more.

Congratulations to Council's project and events team, and the staff who volunteered on the day and worked so hard to make



*Joey at the Living Smart Festival*



*Daniella checking the Kupmurri*

## Welcome Dr Anne Pattel-Gray as CEO for Biraban Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC)



*Dr Anne Pattel-Gray*

Dr Anne Pattel-Gray is a recognised leader, activist, author, academic, scholar, entrepreneur and theologian both nationally and internationally. She has held senior executive positions in the not-for-profit sector and Aboriginal community controlled organisations for more than thirty years where she made significant contributions to institutional and government policy and legislative changes relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

She is a descendant of the Bidjara/Kari Kari people of Queensland and a renowned expert in the field of building organisational capacity and economic sustainability; advancing Indigenous agendas and reforms across key areas of Land Rights, child protection, disabilities, domestic and family violence, education

and training, vocational education and training, juvenile justice and health.

Dr Pattel-Gray is recognised as an Aboriginal trailblazer because she has achieved so many firsts as an Aboriginal person in this country and established various Indigenous international and national organisations, departments, units and programmes. Dr Pattel-Gray is committed to building a sound economic future for Biraban Local Aboriginal Land Council and prosperity for Aboriginal people. She brings with her a vision and insight into nurturing healing and unity within community that develops and brings a stronger sense of belonging and deeper partnerships within the broader community.

*Media release Biraban LALC 14.11.2016 and reproduced with permission*

# Council's Aboriginal Community Plan and Statement of Commitment revision

Lake Macquarie City Council is currently reviewing and updating the Aboriginal Community Plan and the Statement of Commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. These two significant strategic documents will support Council, where possible, to facilitate the needs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the Local Government Area. The Lake Macquarie Aboriginal Community Plan 2012-2015 highlights the needs of Aboriginal residents in the City of Lake Macquarie. The plan aims to identify key areas of need, prioritising and identifying possible strategies and suggesting ways in which identified needs can be met. The plan also aims to highlight current strategies that are working or have worked well in the past and identify ways to build upon those strategies from a strength-based framework.

Some of the key actions of the Aboriginal Community Plan 2012-2015 include:

- deliver Aboriginal culture awareness sessions, free to Council staff and external organisations, in particular those working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People;
- promote local community transport and various health services and events;
- regularly update the community with current and relevant information via email, phone and in person;

- compile, produce and distribute four Koori Grapevine newsletters a year;
- support Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery's Aboriginal Reference Group;
- establish an internal Aboriginal Support Network for staff and keep them updated with current and relevant information;
- attend and contribute to community meetings and gatherings, in particular the Eastlakes and Westlakes NAIDOC committees;
- organise and fund Council's annual NAIDOC flag raising and morning tea, and other significant days;
- offer an allocation of funding for NAIDOC Week events and cultural identity programs;
- support and partner with internal and external departments to offer community programs;
- provide resources, advice, information and support to Council staff and management as well as external enquiries;
- revised with consultation, the Statement of Commitment Policy in 2013 following a newly elected Council; and
- develop a webpage on Council's website for the community to access specific cultural information.

Part of community engagement process will be formal and informal conversations, discussions with service providers, consultation forum/s, social media, online survey and drop-in sessions before and during the draft exhibition stage. Stay tuned for more details, and please feel free to pass this information to anyone you feel would be interested in participating in the consultation process.

## 5 Minutes with the mob

**Name and nickname:**

**Maree Simon** Nickname: Jane

**Where are you from:**

Taree/ Gulargambone

**Your role and organisation:**

Lake Macquarie Library. My role there is Administration Assistant and have been there for 8 months.

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

Working in the Library I am able to provide reading books, internet access and a quiet space.

**Who is in your family?**

Myself 4 children and 7 grandchild.

**Who is your hero?**

My father, mother and my 4 children and 7 grandchildren

**Favourite bush food:**

None - I love seafood

**Favourite sport:**

Basketball and soccer

**Favourite movie:**

Romance

**Ambitions in life:**

To overcome all the negativities that I face in everyday life.



# Events

More events happening including Library and Art Gallery events are available at [lakemac.com.au](http://lakemac.com.au).  
To register or enquire further contact 4921 0333 or visit [lakemac.com.au](http://lakemac.com.au)

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
<b>December</b>		
<b>Sunday 11 Noon-9pm</b>	<b>Lake Mac Carols by Candlelight</b> Lake Macquarie City Council is proud to present a spectacular evening of fireworks, entertainment and special guests. Movie on big screen at noon – Arthur Christmas, free kids activities noon – 4pm – face painting, craft, giveaways, mobile video games van, photobooth, Carols from 6.30pm and fireworks finale at 9pm.	<b>Speers Point Park</b>
<b>Tuesday 13 4-8pm</b>	<b>Lake Mac Christmas Night Markets</b> There will be market stalls, entertainment by local artists, kids' activities and a special visit from Santa.	<b>Speers Point Park</b>
<b>Nominations close Friday 16</b>	<b>2017 Youth Week Grants Program currently open</b>	<a href="https://www.lakemac.com.au/young-people/national-youth-week">https://www.lakemac.com.au/young-people/national-youth-week</a>
<b>January</b>		
<b>Nominations close Friday 6</b>	<b>The Lake Macquarie Sports Awards</b> acknowledges the outstanding performance of sporting men, women, girls and boys and administrators. The Awards are open to individuals based in Lake Macquarie City.	Winners announced at a special sports dinner held <b>February 18 at the Belmont 16 Footer Sailing Club</b>
<b>January 17</b>	<b>Connect to Country</b> A day of cultural connections and free activities including dancing, art, weaving and canoe making by the community.	<b>Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery</b> <a href="http://artgallery.lakemac.com.au">artgallery.lakemac.com.au</a>
<b>Thursday 26 Noon-9pm</b>	<b>Lake Macquarie Festival</b> Movie on the big screen at noon – Oddball, free kids activities noon – 4pm – facepainting, craft, mobile video games van, entertainment on stage throughout the afternoon, Annual Scouts Canoe Race at 4pm Evening concert from 5.30pm Fireworks finale at 9pm	<b>Speers Point Park</b>
<b>Thursday 26 Noon-4pm</b>	<b>Endless Summer Event for young people</b> (free entry to first twenty young people)	<b>Speers Point Swim Centre</b>
<b>Friday 27</b>	<b>Swim with the Stars</b> The one-day workshop provides young swimmers with the opportunity to receive expert advice from some of Australia's leading swimmers, coaches, physios and dieticians, and of course meet their Australian swimming idols!	<b>Charlestown Swim Centre</b> Cost is \$120 per person and is open to swimmers aged 9 to 15 years who are members of a Swimming Club.
<b>Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 from 8am</b>	<b>Festival of Surfing/Surfest</b> Includes – Stand Up Paddleboard, Teams Shortboard, Longboard Open and Shortboard Masters competitions <b>Competition from 8am each day</b>	<b>Redhead Beach</b>
<b>February</b>		
<b>Wednesday 8 9.30-1.30pm</b>	<b>Free LGBTI Inclusion Workshop</b> Would you like to increase your capacity to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people and be more inclusive in your practice? We're offering a half day LGBTI inclusion workshop in Lake Macquarie for local service providers.	<b>Council Depot Main Training Room Creek Reserve Road.</b> <b>Bookings essential</b>
<b>Saturday 18 Noon-4pm</b>	<b>Endless Summer Event for young people</b> (free entry to first twenty young people)	<b>Charlestown Swim Centre</b>
<b>State Surf Lifesaving Titles</b>		
<b>25-26 February</b>	<b>Lifesaving Championships</b>	<b>Blacksmiths Beach</b>
<b>March</b>		
<b>State Surf Lifesaving Titles</b>		
<b>3-5 March</b>	<b>Age Championships</b>	<b>Blacksmiths Beach</b>
<b>8-9 March</b>	<b>Masters Championships</b>	<b>Blacksmiths Beach</b>
<b>10-12 March</b>	<b>Open Championships</b>	<b>Blacksmiths Beach</b>

## Significant Dates

DATE	EVENT
<b>13 February</b>	<b>National Apology</b> - This date is the anniversary of the formal apology in 2008 by the Australian Parliament to Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, specifically the Stolen Generation.