

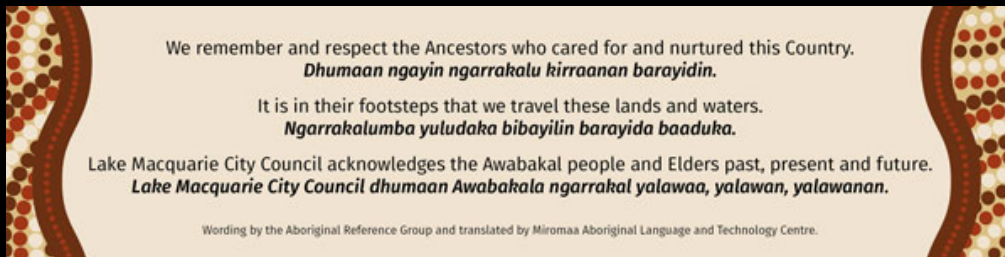
# Koori Grapevine

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

June - August 2021

**Wandakalua - Welcome** to the winter edition of the Koori Grapevine, edition #37. Here's hoping you enjoy the read. Contributions are welcome via email to [medwards@lakemac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:medwards@lakemac.nsw.gov.au).

**The land is my mother. Like a human mother, the land gives us protection, enjoyment and provides our needs – economic, social and religious. We have a human relationship with the land: Mother, daughter, son. When the land is taken from us or destroyed, we feel hurt because we belong to the land and we are part of it. - Djinyini Gondarra.**



## COUNCIL REOPENS THE REFURBISHED ADMINISTRATION BUILDING WITH A TRADITIONAL SMOKING CEREMONY

After 18 months of Council staff working from home or in other Council facilities, the newly refurbished internal area of the Administration Building was open to staff in early May. Initially the construction was to happen over a three-year period, however due to COVID-19 and most staff working from home, the project was completed in 18 months.

On Friday 2 June, during Reconciliation Week, Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council's Culture and Heritage Officer, Pete Townsend carried out a Traditional Smoking Ceremony at all the entry/exit doors to clear negativity and commence working back at the office with new beginnings in 2021.



Traditional smoking ceremony

## NATIONAL SORRY DAY 26 MAY 2021

Council's Aboriginal Staff Network met up at Museum of Art & Culture - MAC yampang on National Sorry Day to meet one another and reflect on what this day means. An initiative of Council's CEO, Morven Cameron, who attended along with the Mayor, Cr Kay Fraser, John Ferguson, Director Service Delivery and Andrew Bryant, Manager Community Partnerships and approximately 20 staff who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people. After a delicious breakfast in the Sculpture Café, staff meandered through the gallery to view the exhibitions.

**The Sculpture Cafe is open Tuesday-Sunday, 10am-2:30pm** offering coffee, lunch and cakes.

For fee enquiries and bookings please contact **0422 652 414** or email [enquires@sculpturecafe.com.au](mailto:enquires@sculpturecafe.com.au)

MAC also has a range of unique gifts and all the Aboriginal merchandise and products are authentic from local and national artists.



# INAUGURAL RAISING OF THE ABORIGINAL FLAG AT LAKE MACQUARIE POLICE DISTRICT



Belmont Police Station became the first station within the Lake Macquarie Police District to raise the Aboriginal Flag on site, mid Reconciliation Week, on Monday 31 May 2021.

The ceremony commemorated the inaugural raising of the Aboriginal Flag and highlight the NSWPF ongoing commitment to foster positive relationships between police and the Aboriginal community.

Worimi man, Luke Russell conducted a 'Saltwater Blessing' and the Aboriginal flag was raised by Westlakes Elder, Uncle Joe Hampton and Senior Constable Michael Ridgeway.

Superintendent Daniel Sullivan APM, Lake Macquarie Police District Commander and Deputy Commissioner of Police, Gary Worboys APM addressed the crowd and

## Inaugural Aboriginal flag raising at Belmont Police

the event was attended by local police, Mayor Kay Fraser, Jodie Harrison MP, Yasmin Cately MP, Greg Piper MP and many community members. The occasion was carried out with a recital in Awabakal language by Caves Beach Public School and performances from local school dance and didj groups from Belmont High School in the forecourt of Belmont Police Station.

NSW Police has set a target to fly the Aboriginal flag in all regional NSW Police Districts. There are currently 18 police stations across NSW that permanently fly the Aboriginal flag including Armidale, Albury, Batemans Bay, Broken Hill, Condobolin, Deniliquin, Dubbo, Gosford, Griffith, Gunnedah, Moree, Nowra, Oak Flats, Tweed Heads, Wilcannia, Raymond Terrace, Maitland and Nelson Bay.

# NATIONAL NAIDOC POSTER WINNER ANNOUNCED

Maggie-Jean Douglas - a 21-year-old Gubbi Gubbi artist from South East Queensland is the winner of the prestigious National NAIDOC poster competition for 2021. Her entry, Care For Country, was chosen from 260 entries in the national competition.

The artist said her first thoughts on hearing the 2021 NAIDOC theme 'Heal Country' was about how country has cared for and healed First Nations people in all senses of the meaning for so long.

Ms Douglas' has also been commissioned for artworks for the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Office of the Pacific. In 2020, she won the Ruby Olive Jewellery Women for Women lanyard design competition.

Each year, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists aged 13 years or older are invited to submit an entry to the National NAIDOC 2021 Poster Competition, with the winning entry awarded a \$10,000 cash prize and the artwork recognised across the country on the 2021 National NAIDOC poster.

The iconic NAIDOC poster has been celebrating and promoting NAIDOC Week since the late 1960s and rose to national prominence in the 1970s with the establishment of the Indigenous rights movement.



## 2021 NAIDOC poster winner Maggie-Jean Douglas

Free printed copies of the 2021 National NAIDOC Poster will be available through the National Indigenous Australians Agency's regional network.

Find out more about this year's artwork and winning artist Maggie-Jean Douglas. Download your copy of the 2021 National NAIDOC Week poster today. For more information go to [naidoc.org.au](http://naidoc.org.au).

5  
minutes with the  
mob

## Annissa Harwood



### Name and nickname:

Annissa Harwood Nicknames Niss, Aunty Niss, Nissy

### Where's your mob from?

I am an Eastern Arrernte woman from NT, 3rd Generation Stolen. Grew up here in Newcastle.

### Your organisation and role?

Aboriginal Education Officer Fennell Bay Public School. I have been in this role for 6 years, after previously working at Glendale High School in the same role.

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

Weekday: Job I support Aboriginal Students and families at this school and many local schools, with guidance, wellbeing and education. Weekend: Job passion weaving turtles for Speaking in Colour.

### Who is in your family?

I am married with husband Mark, and 2 young adult children, Anakyn and Liana.

### Who is your hero?

My mother Faye, and all my fellow Tiddas.

**Favourite bush tucker:** Crocodile and Lemon Myrtle

**Favourite sport:** Rugby League to follow (Knights), I do prefer to play Lawn Bowls as a recreational activity.

**Favourite movie:** *Grease*

### Ambitions in life:

To be happy, healthy and to help our youth in being proud of their heritage.

### Anything else you would like to add?

I am President of Mankiliikan Aboriginal Consultative Group which supports families, schools in educating our children of the future.

## Community Connections

**Name and nickname:** Bradley Dunn

### Where are you from?

Born and raised in Newcastle... left for a few years but made my way back home.

### Your organisation and role?

Department of Education, I'm in a new role, Youth Engagement Officer as part of the Youth Engagement Strategy – Lake Macquarie Networks, supporting students at risk of disengaging from education by linking appropriate support services to both Primary and Secondary schools

**How long have you been there?** I started the role this year.

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

The Youth Engagement Strategy – Lake Macquarie Networks, can support Aboriginal students who are having difficulty with schooling, may not be attending on a regular basis, or are experiencing challenges that may be preventing them from gaining a full education. We do this by identifying the specific need of each individual student and linking them with appropriate services, supports and alternate activities that are based on the needs and desires of the student, in partnership with the school. This can include activities both in and out of school.



### Who is in your family?

Family is everything to me. My wife and I have two gorgeous girls, aged 9 and 11. We also have two cats.

### Who is your hero?

I don't have a hero as such, but I do have a lot of people who's attributes I look up to and strive to add to my own. They mostly include local community members who have pushed themselves to achieve something

that benefits others.

**Favourite food:** Too many to name...

**Favourite sport:** Rugby League...GO THE EELS!!

**Favourite movie:** Good Will Hunting...I love how the main character comes from a challenging background, comes up against a lot of traumatic experiences but is able to use his talents and strengths to rise above it, draw on the support of others to add to his character and achieve his dreams. Anything else you would like to add?

**Ambitions in life:** Utilise my strengths to support my local community so we can build a legacy for those that come after us.

**Anything else you would like to add?:** I was given some advice once that I would like to share. 'Take your opportunities when they come, always be willing to offer the best of yourself to benefit others and if you get knocked down make sure you stand back up twice as tall so that they cannot see past how valuable you are'



# What's on?

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

## Events

For additional information on Council events, including Over 55's programs, Lake Mac Libraries, SEEN@Swansea and the MAC yapang events and workshops, visit [lakemac.com.au](https://lakemac.com.au) or phone 4921 0333 during business hours.

### Monday 5 July NAIDOC Week

Awabakal Ltd is hosting the 2021 celebrations:

**8.30am** meet at Nesca Park, Cooks Hill

**9.00am** Opening ceremony and speeches, march from Nesca Park, along Darby Street - King Street to Civic Park

**10.00am-2.00pm** Civic Park community event including live entertainment, food and rides.

### Wednesday 7 July NAIDOC Week

Council will be hosting their annual flag raising and morning tea at the Administration Building carpark (weather permitting) from 9am.

This year the Eastlakes and Westlakes planning committees have made the decision to not hold a large community event, respectively at Pelican and Toronto Foreshores.

Additional local and National NAIDOC Week events can be found at [naidoc.org.au](https://naidoc.org.au).

### Friday 9 July NAIDOC Women's Dinner

**6:00pm at NEX King Street Newcastle**

\$60 per person or \$600 for a table of 10 includes a three-course dinner, entertainment and a small gift. Celebrate the wonderful women in our community.

Bookings and enquiries call Muloobinba on 4969 5299 or email [admin@muloobinba.org.au](mailto:admin@muloobinba.org.au).

### Gammin: a story of young mob in cyanotype

**Wednesday, 9 June 2021-12:00 noon to Sunday, 18 July 2021 4:00pm**

**MAC Museum of Art & Culture Booragul**

A yapang project led by the newly appointed Aboriginal mentee Wanjun Carpenter with students from Clontarf Academy, Toronto. Coordinated by Joanna Davies Visual Arts and Public Programs Leader.

This collaborative exhibition celebrates the supportive relationships these young men share through a love of sport, playful interaction, and a connection to their culture.

It highlights the importance of mateship, kinship, and belonging, while exploring unique ways of artmaking. Cyanotype is the original sun-printing process, and this exhibition was produced through a series of outdoor workshops, using the natural resources of the sun, the lake, the rain and the natural landscape.

## July

### Thursday 1 July Coming of the Light

A specific day of significance for Torres Strait Islander people, which marks the day the London Missionary Society first arrived in the Torres Strait. The missionaries landed at Erub Island on 1 July 1871. Religious and cultural ceremonies are held by Torres Strait Islander Christians across the Torres Strait and on the mainland to commemorate this day.

### Sunday 4- Sunday 11 July

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia the first full week in July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

NAIDOC originally stood for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee'. This committee was once responsible for organising national activities during NAIDOC Week and its acronym has since become the name of the week itself. Find out more about the origins and history of NAIDOC Week.



## August

### Wednesday 4 August National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day

National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day is celebrated on 4 August and was established by Secretariat for National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care in 1988. Each year SNAICC has a theme for Children's Day to highlight significant issues, concern or hope for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children.

### Monday 9 August International Day of the World's Indigenous People

The United Nations' (UN) International Day of the World's Indigenous People is observed on 9 August each year to promote and protect the rights of the world's Indigenous population. This event also recognises the achievements and contributions that Indigenous peoples make to improve world issues such as environment protection.

## September

### Wednesday 1 September Indigenous Literacy Day

Indigenous Literacy Day is a national celebration of Indigenous culture, stories, language and literacy. Through activities on the day, we focus our attention on the disadvantages experienced in remote communities and encourage the rest of Australia to raise funds and advocate for more equal access to literacy resources for remote communities.