



# Aboriginal Way

Issue 50, Oct. 2012

A publication of South Australian Native Title Services

## Fixing Our Country



**Aboriginal Groups across SA get involved to fix our country.**

Our very first Fixing Our Country participants from Sugar Shack.

## Aboriginal Heritage Act set for reform

**After significant delays in the review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act, the State Government recently announced new legislation is being drafted for release toward the end of the year.**

Earlier this month, Mineral Resources Minister Tom Koutsantonis said the Aboriginal Heritage Act needed to be “freshened up” because red tape and legal challenges by Aboriginal groups were delaying mining projects.

Mr Koutsantonis said the existing Heritage Act is out-dated and that it is time to catch up.

“Indigenous groups and mining companies need to move into the 21st century,

“I want to have legislation drafted by Christmas so both groups are happy – everyone wants certainty,” he said.

The Minister announced that the proposed changes will ensure mining companies speedy Aboriginal heritage approvals on new projects.

South Australian Native Title Services Ltd (SANTS) is extremely concerned by the Minister’s comments and the government’s proposal.

“This Government has clearly demonstrated its attitude to Aboriginal people with recent moves to remove native title rights in relation to petroleum exploration and production in the Cooper Basin and traditional fishing rights on the Yorke Peninsula. Now they want to remove Aboriginal people’s rights in relation to Heritage and Mining,” said SANTS CEO, Keith Thomas.

“This government and the mining industry need to think about complying with their statutory obligations to negotiate with Aboriginal people rather than diverting the focus from them and

attempting, yet again, to blame Aboriginal people for a hold up in mining activities,” said Mr Thomas.

Chair of the Yankunytjatjara Native Title Aboriginal Corporation, Tjaruwa (Mary) Anderson said the Heritage Act is important for the protection of Aboriginal sacred sites.

“The mining companies are unaware of sacred Aboriginal sites and they might not know about men’s sites or women’s sites or water points that need protecting.

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# South Australian Native Title Services appoints new CEO

The Board of South Australian Native Title Services has appointed Keith Thomas (pictured) as the new Chief Executive Officer.

SANTS Chairperson, Mrs Lucy Evans, said that the Board is fortunate to have secured the expertise of Mr Thomas for the position.

"I am pleased to announce the appointment of Keith Thomas as the new CEO. Mr Thomas's strong leadership skills and commitment to native title makes him a great appointment for this crucial role and we look forward to working with him to deliver positive results for the Aboriginal Community," she said.

*"I think native title has progressed within South Australia and I am fairly confident that the remaining native title claim groups will move through to get a native title outcome..."*

Mr Thomas said he is pleased and honoured to be appointed as the Chief Executive Officer and feels confident about the future of the organisation and the good work ahead.

"I think native title has progressed within South Australia and I am fairly confident that the remaining native title claim groups will move through to get a native title outcome. We are in a fortunate situation where we have a fair proportion of the native title claims already through the system. However, this does present its own challenges for us in terms of providing further assistance to native title groups."

SANTS continues to have its statutory responsibilities in terms of assisting claimant groups to achieve native title, but we are now also looking at how best we can assist native title groups to manage



their native title rights and interests, to develop economic opportunities and their governance and management skills to secure their native title into the future."

SANTS will be looking at aspirations that the Aboriginal groups in South Australia have and if we can assist in some way for those groups to obtain those aspirations then this will be a valuable step for SANTS as a the native title service provider for South Australia," he said.

## New Bill seeks to remove native title rights

**A Bill that seeks to retrospectively remove native title rights from traditional owners in South Australia was passed in Parliament last month.**

The Petroleum and Geothermal Energy (Transitional Licences) Amendment Bill 2012 was urgently introduced to Parliament in early September without any notice to or consultation with Aboriginal people.

The South Australian Commissioner of Aboriginal Engagement, Khatija Thomas, is dismayed at the passing of the Bill.

She stated that the Bill flies in the face of Government Rhetoric supporting the engagement of all South Australians including Traditional Owners and demonstrates the government's willingness to side with Big Business no matter what the cost.

"First, the process adopted by the Government to introduce the Bill without notice to Aboriginal people is contrary to international law requiring that only free, prior and informed consent be given by Aboriginal people for decisions such as the one to remove a native title right. Second, the Bill undermines our democratic processes," she said.

The Bill seeks to block the 'Right to Negotiate' procedure from Aboriginal people in relation to certain petroleum production licences granted to petroleum producers in the Cooper Basin, including Santos Limited.

This affects a number of native title groups across South Australia, particularly those with interests in the far north east and the Cooper Basin including the Yandruwandha Yawarrarrka and Dieri native title groups. The Bill also impacts on current Federal Court proceedings between Yandruwandha Yawarrarrka native title claimants and the State Government.

The Right to Negotiate procedure is an important right afforded to native title groups through the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth). It provides for agreements to be negotiated between native title groups and other land users on important issues, including land access, protecting cultural heritage, compensation and providing consent for activities that affect native title.

The Bill is intended to retrospectively cover the grant of consolidated licences so that there is no obligation on the Petroleum Company or the state of South Australia to follow the Right to Negotiate procedure.

Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Tom Koutsantonis introduced the Bill and stated that the application of native title procedural rights with respect to these particular licences was an 'unintended consequence' and that there is a 'need to provide certainty to petroleum producers in the Cooper Basin'.

"All parties had assumed for the past 10 years since the Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act was enacted that licences created under early legislation could be renewed without the right to negotiate applying. It was thought that the specific part of the Native Title Act that allows for such renewals applied. The government has now put before parliament a bill that seeks to clarify that it did not intend the grant, renewal or consolidation of those licences created under earlier legislation or agreements to be subject to the right to negotiate," said Minister Koutsantonis.

"The Government has carefully weighed up the need to provide certainty to petroleum producers in the Cooper Basin who have continued to produce petroleum on renewed tenements in the belief that they had been properly issued, against the understandable desire of native title parties to participate in the economic benefits of petroleum production."

"The Bill is not seeking to avoid the operation of the Native Title Act. It is simply seeking to clarify which part of the Native Title Act will apply to the licences in question," he said.

Traditional Owner, and Arabana native title chairperson Aaron Stuart criticised the way the Bill was introduced to parliament and stated that it is the government that is uncertain, not the economic situation.

"The main argument is uncertainty for economic growth but the main concern is for Aboriginal people, their heritage and land, and that is being ignored. Aboriginal people have to face the uncertainty of this government every day," said Mr Stuart.

"I call this blue ribbon administrative racism done within the walls of our parliament – by doing this the first people, like always, become the oppressed – taking away their rights again by another cowboy individual that calls himself a Minister," he said.

SA Native Title Services CEO Keith Thomas said the South Australian Government's actions put an unwanted strain on its relationship with Traditional Owners.

"The proposed Bill affects Traditional Owners in a couple of different ways. Firstly, it removes their right to negotiate in relation to petroleum production on their country and secondly it hinders the relationship between native title groups and the government," said Mr Thomas.

"It is not that we oppose mineral or petroleum exploration and production on a wholesale basis. Quite the contrary – we support all parties complying with legislative obligations to promote agreement making in the native title system to ensure a sustainable energy industry in South Australia. I think the real concern here

is the process – the State Government has not consulted properly with Aboriginal people. We first found out about it an hour before it was to be tabled in parliament, that is not the way we've been doing business and it's not the way we should be doing business into the future.

"Furthermore, Minister Koutsantonis has framed the Proposed Bill as an attempt to correct a 'mis-step' and we consider that this is misleading. The Proposed Bill is not seeking to simply address an administrative mis-step, but is an attempt to rectify, retrospectively, serious failures to comply with the Native Title Act", he said.

Greens leader and Parliamentary Member, Mark Parnell said in passing the Bill without consulting Aboriginal South Australians, the Government is setting a low standard that mocks the historical Mabo decision.

"The Government has shown contempt for all South Australians, but especially for Aboriginal South Australians, by refusing to consult the affected groups, in clear breach of its commitment to 'consult and decide'. When pushed to justify the obscene haste in passing this racially discriminatory Bill, the Government could not produce a single shred of evidence of harm or disadvantage to the big mining companies. They trashed Aboriginal rights because they had the numbers to do so," said Mr Parnell.

"Rather than looking for every opportunity to engage Aboriginal South Australians in important development decisions that affect their lives, the Government has chosen to perpetuate the discrimination and ignorance of the past. If this is the new standard of Aboriginal engagement, then the Mabo decision was a cruel illusion and reconciliation in this state is dead," he said.

# Time for Respect, Time for Recognition

**The South Australian Government has made a commitment to give formal recognition of Aboriginal Peoples as the First People of this state by asking the Parliament to amend the state's Constitution.**

Premier Jay Weatherill stated that formal recognition of Aboriginal people at the first people is a vital move towards reconciliation.

"It is important that we recognise our state's history and Aboriginal people as the First People of this state. This is the next step in our journey of reconciliation with Aboriginal South Australians," the Premier said.

As part of the process the government set up an Advisory Panel and asked it to consult with South Australians on the wording and placement of the proposed amendment.

Firstly, the panel released a discussion paper titled 'Time for Respect'. The paper provides relevant background and information about South Australia's proposed change including options for wording and placement, as well as how formal recognition has been achieved in other states.

The Chair of the Advisory Panel, Professor Peter Buckskin said that the proposed amendment shows that the government is confident people are ready to have this conversation.

"This type opportunity, to reflect on a historical document, is an opportunity for nationhood building, and to write the misinformation of the past. It is about respect... it's about saying 'yes' Aboriginal Australians were here before white settlement. It also shows how Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal South Australians are ready to have a mature conversation and build the state as a better place to live, and for people to have a better appreciation of Aboriginal culture... and to understand and appreciate that we, as Aboriginal people continue to have traditional connection to country," he said.

The Panel has received written submissions by individuals, groups and organisations, and it has spent the last month visiting metropolitan and regional centres holding consultation meetings.

The consultation meetings were designed to gather the views of South Australians on the constitutional amendment to present to the government for consideration.

Panel member and South Australian Commissioner of Aboriginal Engagement, Khatija Thomas said the consultation process is an important step forward for state and national reforms.

"It's been a long time coming. This state's been settled for around 175 years so to rectify those factual and historical exclusions in our constitution needs to be done sooner rather than later. I think that the community's growing awareness

around the proposed reforms to our federal constitution is a good start as to why we should put things in action for South Australia. It also shows that if we can do this at a state level, then we should be supporting it at a national level as well," Commissioner Thomas said.

"We've had a decent turn out at most of our consultation meetings... we've had a mix of Aboriginal and non-aboriginal people come along to share their views, so it's been great to get that level of participation."

Panel Member, the Honourable Robyn Layton said that the consultation meetings have been an effective way for communities to discuss how they feel about the constitutional amendment.

"I've been really impressed with the quality of consultation process that we've been undergoing. The level of discussion and contribution has been excellent. Views about whether it's a good thing or not a good thing have come up. Overwhelmingly we're getting that is a good thing and people are asking why it has taken so long. Some people have suggested some stronger wording; some people have also said it is very hard to find words to properly encapsulate how important land is to Aboriginal people" the Honourable Robyn Layton said.

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Kathryn Bentley of Murray Bridge attended a consultation meeting at Murray Bridge, said that she hopes the formal recognition will inspire change.

"The important thing is if recognition for Aboriginal People goes into our constitution today, it is a stepping stone to what comes later. People need something that they can point to that perhaps gives them a sense of self; that they exist, that they're acknowledged and not ignored. As a child migrant my situation was ignored and people just weren't aware of the way I was brought out here and the hard time I had as a child. Well Aboriginal peoples may feel like they are the 'disappeared people', that they're not recognised but sidelined. And so recognition in the constitution is a step towards saying 'yeah we are here' 'this is who we are' and 'we are entitled to hold our heads up and speak up for ourselves' and that is what I hope this encourages," said Ms Bentley.

The Advisory Panel have until the 30<sup>th</sup> of October to present the views of the South Australian community to the government for consideration.

**For further information see [www.timeforrespect.org.au](http://www.timeforrespect.org.au)**



Above: Participants and Advisory Panel Members at the Murray Bridge consultation meeting.



Above: Muriel Van Der Byd, The Hon. John von Doussa and Shirely Peisley AM.



Above: Kathy Carter, Bruce Carter and Shirley Peisley AM.

## Tax reforms for Native Title Holders

**After almost twenty years of native title proceedings, the Australian Government are set to introduce tax reforms for native title holders.**

Under the new laws, native title benefits will be considered as non-assessable income and therefore not subject to income tax. Currently, the income tax treatment of native title benefits is unclear.

The new measure is in response to stakeholder feedback received during the 2010 consultation on the 'Native Title, Indigenous Economic Development and Tax' paper, and was announced by Attorney-General Nicola Roxon at the National Native Title Conference in Townsville in June 2012.

Ms Roxon said that the reforms will clarify the tax process for native title holders and improve outcomes for Traditional Owners entering into formal agreements with other parties.

"Importantly, we will clarify that income tax and capital gains tax will not apply to payments from a native title agreement," Ms Roxon said.

South Australian Native Title Services Chief Executive Officer, Mr Keith Thomas said that the current legislation is unclear for native title holders.

"At the moment, the current legislation is quite unclear as to what the tax onus is for native title holders so the reforms make it very clear that payments received through the native title process are not taxable," said Mr Thomas.

"What it clarifies, for example, is if a native title holder organisation receives payments from a mining company, it will receive those funds tax free. payments made to individuals as beneficiaries of those funds, will be tax free. However, if the organisation was to invest that money and were to receive interest then tax will still be payable on the interest received."

"The Government will improve the flexibility and scope of Indigenous Land Use Agreements, create clear requirements for good faith in negotiations and allow parties to form agreements about historical extinguishment of native title in parks and reserves," he said.

# Fixing Our Country

**'Fixing Our Country' was launched about a year ago to assist Indigenous landholders to participate in the Australian Government's Carbon Farming Initiative.**

The Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency provided funding to Greening Australia SA, in partnership with Canopy and the Aboriginal Foundation of South Australia, to facilitate the program.

Aboriginal communities across South Australia have participated in the three day training course with sessions being held at Raukkan, Murray Bridge, Point Pearce, Port Germein, Ceduna, Whyalla, and Umuwa.

Director of Canopy, Mr Leonard Cohen is pleased with the program.

"It's been a slow process because we have had to make sure we follow all the protocols that go with contacting Aboriginal communities. We began talking to Aboriginal leaders some time ago and we identified communities that wanted us to come and provide our training sessions," Mr Cohen said.

"Judging by the responses of the trainees and on our Facebook page, the program has been very successful.

"A highlight of the training has been the visible commitment shown by participants and those moments where people start to understand the carbon farming methods and the reasons behind climate change action."

## What type of projects can get funding from the Biodiversity Fund?

The Biodiversity Fund will support projects that, for example:

- establish new biodiverse plantings of mixed species that establish and re-connect well-functioning native ecosystems
- revegetate the landscape to improve connections between remnant native vegetation across public and private lands, particularly in the fragmented rural, coast and peri-urban landscapes of south eastern and south western Australia and Tasmania
- restore native habitats in largely intact landscapes in northern Australia and/or on the rangelands, as well as those in peri-urban and coastal catchments in any part of Australia
- enhance the condition of native vegetation adjacent to existing key assets such as World Heritage Areas, Ramsar sites or protected areas in the National Reserve System
- establish and restore native wetland and waterway habitats, particularly on already cleared lands or lands predominately occupied by non-native vegetation
- reduce the impacts of invasive species across connected landscapes.



Above: Whyalla Aboriginal Carbon Farming workshop.



Above: Ian and Eddie from Point Pearce.

"The Carbon Farming Initiative is raising awareness of Aboriginal Australia's role in land management and we are essentially running a pilot program to assist this process and if this works in South Australia, we'd like to see it expanded across the whole country," he said.

The training sessions are tailored to help communities understand the new carbon market and how their communities can get involved. Workshops are undertaken on country to support the community in vegetation association and soil type identification, seed collection and planting for a viable biodiverse carbon sink.

Greening Australia SA's Chief Executive Officer, Mark Anderson said the program is helping Indigenous communities to become involved in the carbon market.

"Aboriginal Carbon Farming – Fixing Our Country offers a great opportunity to Indigenous communities to get in on the ground floor of the new carbon economy," he said.

"Participants could be doing anything from learning about creating carbon credits to using the Department of Climate Change's Reforestation Management Modelling tool on their own carbon planting or assessing a property for its viability as a carbon sink," he said.

Greening Australia has had some great feedback from the participants. Some of the participants who attended the first workshop at Sugar Shack made the following comments on the Greening Australian website:

### Ivy

*"Doing this project really encouraged us in many ways. In the near future we can teach others to join in with what we have learnt."*

### Samuel

*"Thanks for sharing the information on carbon trading. I learnt a lot and after*

*the 3 days it makes me feel that we can do it ourselves."*

### Dion

*"I just want to plant more trees for our kids' future."*

### Isobelle

*"An excellent opportunity for our Aboriginal Community... We may be a small community but we are full steam ahead to make carbon trading work on our land."*

The program provides economic initiatives for participants. Everyone who partakes in the course is paid for their time. Some of the communities involved have also applied through Canopy for extra government funding to assist landowners in creating carbon sinks on their land.

Mr Cohen said it is important for people to have the economic support to take on their own administrative and management roles to be actively involved in the CFI.

"The funding may assist people to meet their objectives; such as for biodiversity, ecotourism or to fix up and revegetate their land, and not just because they want to get into the carbon market but because there are cultural, historical, social and economic reasons to do so," said Mr Cohen.

Canopy and the Fixing Our Country program is now offering grant writing assistance to groups wanting to apply for biodiversity funding to help them get their carbon sinks and land management plans up and running.

Round one of the biodiversity funding was completed in May this year. Round Two of the Biodiversity Fund is currently being considered. Updates will be posted on the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities website: [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au)

**To find out more about the Fixing Our Country Program and to get involved, and to ask for assistance writing your funding application please contact Leonard Cohen at Canopy. Call 08 8374 2369 or email [leonardcohen@canopy.org.au](mailto:leonardcohen@canopy.org.au)**



Above: Measuring an ancient gum to calculate carbon sequestration.

### What is the Biodiversity Fund?

The Biodiversity Fund will invest around \$946m over the next six years to help land managers store carbon, enhance biodiversity and build greater environmental resilience across the Australian landscape.

To do this, it will fund eligible land managers for activities which restore, manage and better protect biodiversity on public and private land. It will also provide support to land managers who wish to take advantage of emerging opportunities in the new carbon market. The Biodiversity Fund will provide support to establishing new carbon stores or better managing carbon stores of existing native habitat.

The Biodiversity Fund will invest in three main areas:

- **Biodiverse plantings**  
Funding will help land managers expand native habitat on their property through planting mixed vegetation species appropriate to the region. This will help build landscape resilience and connectivity.
- **Protecting and enhancing existing native vegetation**  
Funding will support land managers to protect, manage and enhance existing native vegetation in high conservation areas on their land for its carbon storage and biodiversity benefits.
- **Managing threats to biodiversity**  
Funding will control the threat of invasive pests and weeds in a connected landscape.

**This information is from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities website at [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au)**

### What is the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI)?

Legislation for a Carbon Farming Initiative scheme was passed by Parliament on August 23, 2011, and has been operational since December 2011.

The Carbon Farming Initiative allows farmers and land managers, including native title holders and claimants to earn carbon credits by storing carbon or reducing greenhouse gas emissions on the land. This can be done through approved methods such as planting trees, feral animal control, reducing gas emissions from livestock, and savanna fires. The credits can then be sold to people and businesses wishing to offset their emissions.

**For more information contact the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency email: [cfi@climatechange.gov.au](mailto:cfi@climatechange.gov.au) or phone: 1800 057 590.**

### Potential sites for reforestation projects under the CFI

The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities has released findings of four feasibility case studies for establishing carbon plantings (reforestation) on Indigenous held lands.

The feasibility case studies were conducted under the Carbon Farming Initiative to provide useful information to Indigenous communities considering carbon sink establishment as a possible land use option.

The studies also help the Australian Government to understand what is required for additional support before Indigenous carbon projects play a significant role.

The potential projects were selected to cover a wide range of geographic locations and scales in Australia. Including:

- Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation whose land comprises 3,200 hectares (ha) of stony woodlands and wetlands located on nine properties along the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape in southwest Victoria (GHD 2012a).
- South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) who wanted to investigate options for a 837ha Indigenous Land Corporation property at Beverley in Western Australia (GHD 2012b).
- Jabalbina Yamani Aboriginal Corporation who have recently been handed back 15,000ha of freehold land for economic and residential development on behalf of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji Traditional Owners. The land is in the Wet Tropics of Far North Queensland (GHD 2012c).
- Umpila Land Trust and Cape York Institute (CYI). The Umpila lands cover 32,719ha on the eastern side of Cape York Peninsula between Coen and Lockhart River (GHD 2012d).

Discussions were held with each organisation to discover their social, environmental, and economic objectives for their land. Site visits were made to all except the Umpila country.

Umpila country is now covered in Melaleuca regrowth and no areas were identified for a reforestation project. Detailed planting plans were prepared for the remaining three organisations.

The report concludes that Indigenous carbon sink enhancement projects such as reforestation projects have the potential to play an important role in the carbon market. However, the study also found that the reforestation projects would not necessarily provide a significant financial return.

**To read the full report and to find out more about how your community can get involved please visit [www.environment.gov.au/cleanenergyfuture/icff/case-studies.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/cleanenergyfuture/icff/case-studies.html)**

# Aboriginal Heritage Act set for reform

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Most of the Australian landscape is made up of dreamtime stories that are passed on generation to generation and so it is not right for the Heritage Act to be changed without proper consultation."

"We should be moving away from those days when Aboriginal people are left out of the conversation and we should be moving forward. Native title does not give us our land back, but heritage is ours and they can't take that away," said Ms Anderson.

Chair of the State Aboriginal Heritage Committee, Sydney Sparrow said there needs to be good negotiation between all parties involved.

"The existing Act is quite old and doesn't suit the needs of Aboriginal people today; indeed the community have been saying for two years that there needs to be change.

"As for negotiations between Aboriginal parties and mining companies there have been good and not so good negotiations that have taken place. These kind of relationships require constant attention to see that all parties needs are being met. In doing so there needs to be some kind of equality in these negotiations," said Mr Sparrow.

Premier Jay Weatherill first announced a review of the Act in December 2008 in his former role as Aboriginal Affairs Minister.

Following on, community consultations were held by the government which concluded in 2010.

There have been no further developments in the last two years.

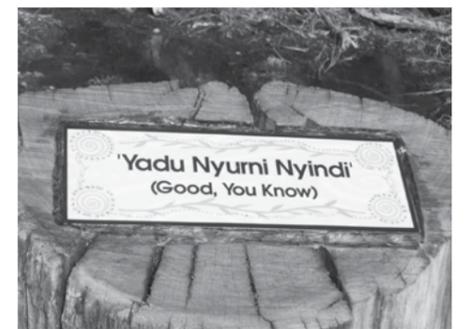
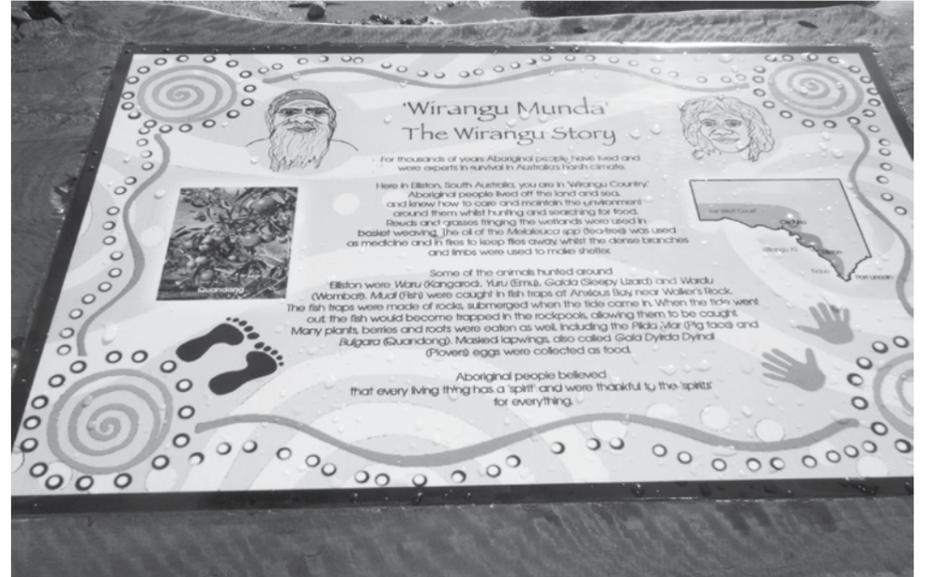
Given the delays in the review process, Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement, Khatija Thomas, stated the need to re-engage with the Aboriginal community on any future changes.

"Because of the length of time that has gone by since the last consultations, there needs to be a clear process and the time taken to properly consult with the Aboriginal community."

"As Commissioner, I look forward to continuing to work with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the Aboriginal community so the review process continues in a positive way and that the core objectives of the Aboriginal Heritage Act continue to be about the benefits and interests of Aboriginal people, lands and heritage," she said.

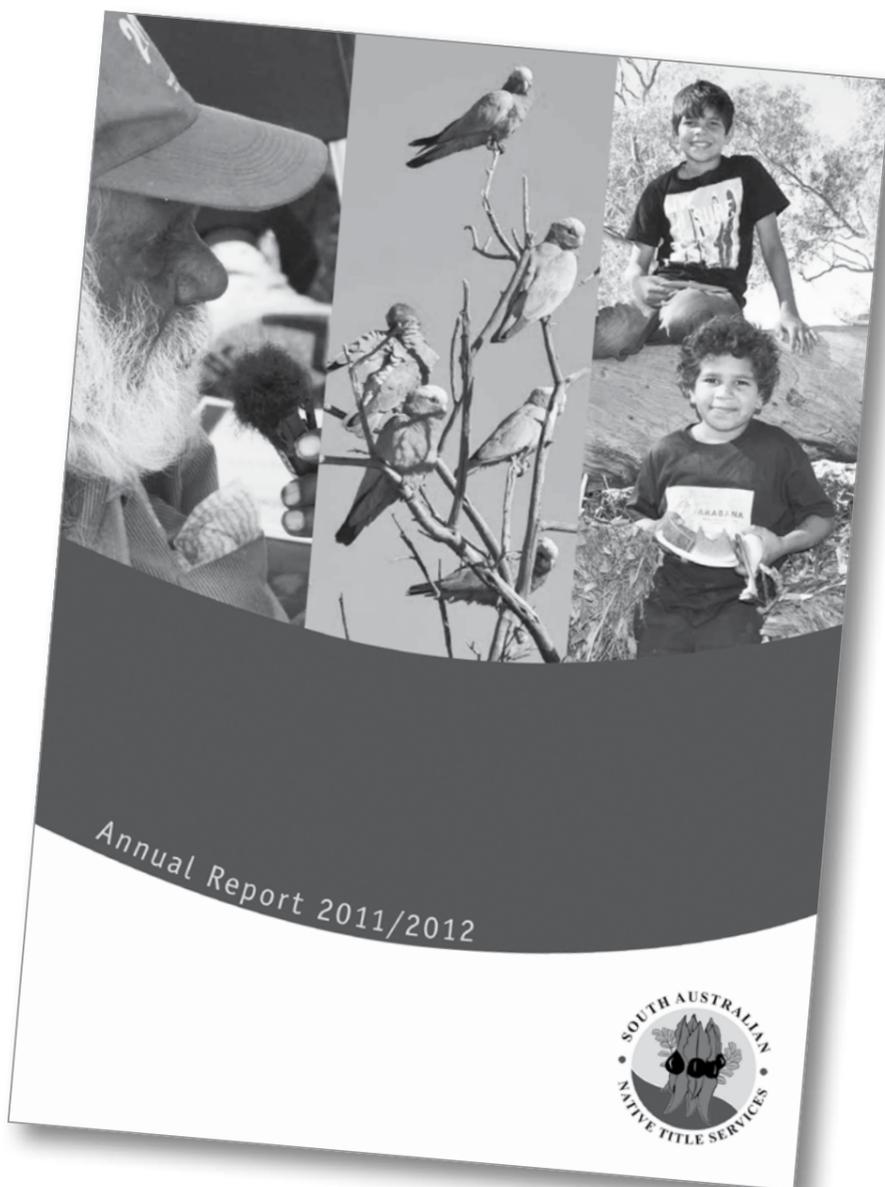
The current Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Paula Caica, has indicated that a draft bill for "wider consultation" would be available by year's end.

# Elliston interpretative signs keep Aboriginal history alive



# Annual Report out now

The SANTS Annual Report will be released on 5 November. If you would like a copy please contact SANTS directly on (08) 8110 2800 or visit the SANTS website.



**The Elliston Playground Committee, with support from their council and community initiated an Aboriginal interpretative sign walk as part of a redevelopment of the town's playground.**

The Interpretive sign walk is at the back of the skate park overlooking wetlands.

Four signs (pictured above) give information about the wetlands; the flora, fauna and the history of the Wirangu People of Eyre Peninsula. The signs explain how Aboriginal people survived in the harsh outback environment and the bush tucker they used, and also provide information about the animals and plants in the area.

Committee member, Julie Allchurch, who was heavily involved in the project, said it is important to keep local Aboriginal history alive.

"The signs are important because they connect people to the Aboriginal group which inhabited the area. Our town is a

very small and isolated and we don't have any of the Wirangu people living in this area anymore, so it is vital to keep their history alive so that the locals can have a good sense of these aboriginal people and their connection to the land", Ms Allchurch said.

Chair of Wirangu, Allan Wilson said the signs are an important part of local reconciliation.

"I think it's a great thing that people are interested in Wirangu culture. The signs are an important part of the healing process. The place is beautiful but it has terrible history, so it's going to be a benefit to the area and it will help get rid of the stigma", Mr Wilson said.

"More signs are planned for the Elliston Township and the surrounding areas, and the more people getting involved the better. What we have now around the playground is wonderful and I really support it," he said.

# Unconventional gas projects in SA

**A report on proposed unconventional gas projects in South Australia is due to be released in November 2012.**

The report outlines the opportunities as well as the risks associated with the development of unconventional gas projects in South Australia due to the decline in the use of conventional gas.

It outlines a 'Roadmap' designed to promote the development and exploration of unconventional gas as a domestic and regulated energy source in various locations throughout SA.

South Australian Native Title Services Principal Legal Officer, Mr Andrew Beckworth said that although the report identifies some environmental risks, more information is needed to secure the

rights and interests of native title holders.

"Although the Roadmap outlines positive information for companies pursuing unconventional gas projects; the rights and interests of Traditional Owners also need to be covered. In this case, engagement with Traditional Owners on native title and cultural heritage issues is pertinent prior to project approvals," he said.

Executive director of Energy Resources, Barry Goldstein said that all unconventional gas operations in South Australia will be required to negotiate with all people and enterprises potentially affected by operations.

"All unconventional gas operations are required to give notice of entry to all people and enterprises that may

potentially be directly affected by the proposed operations, and all people and enterprises have the right to dispute entry onto land, and the opportunity to challenge land access in court proceedings," said Mr Goldstein.

"Indeed, South Australia's development of unconventional gas projects will need to meet community expectations," he said.

So far, unconventional gas projects are planned for Cooper Basin, 800 km north-northeast of Adelaide, which is currently being pursued by several mining companies; Arckaringa Basin, 750km north-west of Adelaide, Otway Basin (Gambier Basin) located 300km south-east of Adelaide. As well as Pedirka Basin, Simpson Basin, Warburton Basin, and the Officer Basin which extends from South Australia to Western Australia.

## What is unconventional gas?

Unconventional gas refers to the gas resources which are found in underground formations such as coals, shales and tight sands. These resources differ markedly from conventional gas reservoirs, in that they are diffuse, continuous accumulations of natural gas, covering very large geographical areas.

Mr Goldstein stated that the sort of unconventional gas projects that are likely to be progressed within the next decade in South Australia will be developed in ways that are very similar to conventional gas projects in the Cooper Basin.

# Reconciliation Committee celebrates 10th Anniversary

**The Adelaide City Council's Reconciliation Committee celebrated its 10th anniversary in August as it continues the path to reconciliation.**

Since its initial meeting in 2002, the Committee, in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, has helped to raise public awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language and culture.

During the Committee's first year, Council endorsed the permanent flying of the Aboriginal flag in Victoria Square/ Tarndanyangga and the city's Park Lands were given Kurna names to sit alongside their European ones. Since then, the city's squares, footbridges and the River Torrens have all been given Kurna names.

Dual chair of the Reconciliation Committee, Yvonne Agius, said, "By establishing this Committee, Council demonstrated its leadership

and commitment to advancing reconciliation and seeking Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in Council activities and events."

Committee member, Ribnga Green said the Council is proving to be committed to the reconciliation process

"Adelaide City Council has shown over a number of years now that it is prepared to commit to action as well as talk about issues that concern Aboriginal people. Recognising Aboriginal protocols can only be a positive thing and Council has shown itself to be a leader in this regard," said Ms Green.

The Council's Reconciliation Action Plan was the first to be completed in South Australia and registered by Reconciliation Australia.

An Aboriginal Employment Policy has also been implemented at the City Council.



Above: 10th anniversary celebrations – cutting the cake.



Above: The Adelaide City Council's Reconciliation Committee.

# Available for public review

**The State Government recently released draft management plans for South Australia's 19 marine parks for public review.**

A statement of the expected environmental, economic and social impacts of each draft management plan has also been prepared, as required in the *Marine Parks Act 2007*.

The draft management plans, individual park assessments and a range of supporting material are available on the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources website at: [www.marineparks.sa.gov.au](http://www.marineparks.sa.gov.au)

# Delay on Indigenous Recognition Referendum

**The Federal Government has delayed a move toward a referendum to give formal recognition of Indigenous Australians in the Constitution.**

A preliminary report prepared for the Government by Reconciliation Australia has found that only 39 per cent of the non-Indigenous community has heard about a proposed referendum.

The report stated that it is important that a referendum is held at a time when it has the most the most chance of success.

In the meantime, the Government is proposing to introduce an Act of Recognition into Parliament before the end of the year to reflect recommendations of an expert panel set up to provide advice on the issue.

Dr Calma, co-chair of Reconciliation Australia, said he backs the Federal Government's decision to defer the referendum.

"It firstly has to get bipartisan support and yes, so far we have had an indication that's likely,"

"That's the challenge for all of us, to get both the Government and the Opposition and the minor parties all to be understanding what's required and why they must get on board" he said.

Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin said the delay is disappointing but more time is important to build community awareness of the change. "The Australian Government agrees with the findings of the expert panel that it is important that

a referendum is held at a time when it has the most chance of success".

"I'd like to be part of this change to the Australian Constitution, but I think we also have to acknowledge that there isn't the community awareness for a change to the Constitution".

"I understand that people are disappointed – I'm disappointed myself" said Ms Macklin.

In January, the panel suggested that the Government will need to maintain the momentum for recognition, including public support through the *YouMeUnity* website.

Education about the proposed referendum were also emphasised by the Panel.

# Anangu Cultural Survival Day

**Anangu cultural survival day was held on July 25 as part of the NAIDOC 2012 celebrations.**

The Nguru Wiru Winkiku Cultural Centre at Port Adelaide hosted painting demonstrations by Anangu artists, bush tucker foods and an Inma dance performance.

The day was about celebrating Anangu culture, promoting the artists and sharing knowledge with other people.

The women sang and talked about the importance of keeping tradition alive.

Anangu Elder, Murray George who is from

the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands, danced a dreamtime story of a young man's journey from the border of Western Australia to South Australia.

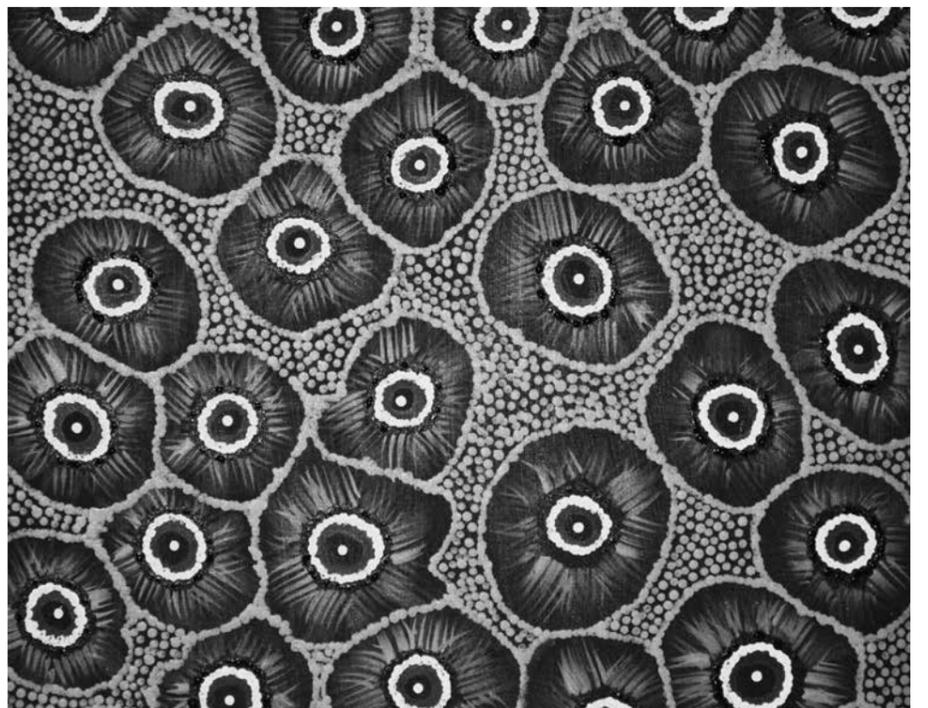
Murray George said it is important for people to come and see what is happening at the cultural centre.

"Today went well, these people come here from their communities and some cannot go back, but they paint every day, it's good for people to come and see," he said.

Unfortunately, since this event the Anangu Cultural/Arts group were forced to leave the premises.



This page: Clockwise from top right: Jarrod Mlnniecon, Rick Taylor, Danny Williams and Phillip Kartinyeri; Jason Moyle, Stephanie Scadden and Joy Walker; Jayde Warren and Shireleen Mclaughin; Murray George and dancers. Les Wanganeen and Jodie Cramer; Karen Kulyuru and Ruth Anangka. Opposite page: Clockwise from top left: Murray George and dancers; Amari Tjalkuri; Anangu art.



# Aboriginal Heritage News

To recognise the importance of Heritage and Native Title being considered together, the Aboriginal Heritage Branch (AHB) of the Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division (AARD) will have a small section in this newspaper to address what we are doing about important issues.

The State Aboriginal Heritage Committee (SAHC) and the AHB are working closely with the Congress Heritage Sub-Committee and the South Australia Native Title Services (SANTS).



Government  
of South Australia

## Morgan Burial Ground – Site Rehabilitation

**Between 23 and 24 July 2012, a team comprised of representatives from the First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal community, Working on Country Rangers from Calperum Station, a student from Flinders University and staff from the Aboriginal Heritage Branch of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division (DPC-AARD) undertook works to rehabilitate a burial site near Morgan, in the Riverland.**

The site had become eroded due to water run-off, which had caused gullies to open up across a large expanse of sandy soil.

The rehabilitation works were conducted after recording and preliminary analysis of the site by archaeologists and a forensic anthropologist.

This recording and analysis was carried out at the request of the First Peoples community, who wanted to take the opportunity to learn something about their ancestors buried at the site.

The rehabilitation works involved backfilling gullies in which burials had become exposed. The walls of the gullies were first shored up with sandbags, to prevent subsidence and to protect the burials from further disturbance, and then filled with branches, sand and mulch, which was supplied by the Mid Murray Council for the purpose.

Local native vegetation produced from cuttings taken at the site and grown at Calperum Station by the Working on

Rangers was then planted on the new ground surfaces, to help hold the soil and prevent further loss.

The Flinders University student, who is studying topics in Indigenous Heritage Management, has volunteered to work with the Aboriginal community to produce a cultural heritage management plan. This document will hopefully provide guidance to all stakeholders on the actions they can take to ensure the conservation of this important site.

## Aboriginal Heritage Site Recording and Conservation Workshop

Yappala Field School  
May 2012

### Workshop Aims

The Heritage Conservation Team from the Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division, Aboriginal Heritage Branch has developed site recording and conservation workshops to provide Aboriginal people with the skills to undertake basic site recording and site conservation projects for themselves.

The skills and understanding gained in these workshops enables the participants to be better informed about the operations of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* and the need for good site recording. Onsite training enables them to record, plan and to conserve sites of significance and to negotiate with greater confidence with other stakeholders. Good site recording to an agreed standard can help preserve knowledge for Aboriginal communities.

### Workshop Format

Participants attend a 3 day workshop where we provide basic site recording equipment including stationery, workbooks, site cards and information sheets. The topics presented include presentations on the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*, stone tool identification, rock art recording and how to find a grid reference, conservation plans and the central archives.

All participants have exposure to outdoor practical sessions where all are encouraged to put to practice the new skills learnt such as, the use of the GPS, to draw site plans (mud maps) and to use this information to fill out site cards.



### Outcomes

Participants learn good practice and essential non-technical skills such as teamwork. We actively encourage the practice of the new skills learnt as it provides an essential focus and appreciation of, and involvement in Aboriginal heritage. Participants also learn how to identify and record a range of different archaeological sites such as scarred trees, knapping sites, burials and rock art. Furthermore, everyone used grid references and learn how to read them on a map and on a GPS.

The learning which provides relevant skills for site recording were put in to practice at the Hawker racecourse and near

Hookina Spring. Participants worked in groups and practiced site recording on the racecourse and of an archaeological site. Individuals had the opportunity to practice using a GPS, a compass and drawing mud maps. All this information is used to fill out an archaeological site card which included the site contents and site condition.

We all then discussed the processes for recording cultural sites and for drafting site conservation management plans which are of importance for the long term management of Aboriginal heritage.

### Certificates

For each person who attended are presented with a certificate as recognition of their participation.



### Staff: Aboriginal Heritage Branch

Heidi Crow – Principal Heritage Officer  
Rita Kucera – Heritage Officer  
Tristan Grainger – Archaeology Student  
Catherine Bland – Archaeology Student  
Robert Williams – Archaeologist  
Daniel Petraccaro – Work experience  
Jeanette Crow – Volunteer

We would like to thank all of the participants for their enthusiasm and hard work. Also, thank you to the Viliwarinha Yura Aboriginal Corporation for supporting the workshop at Yappala.

The Aboriginal Heritage Branch also wishes to thank Diedrie McKenzie and Vicki Brown for catering and Marita McKenzie for helping with the organisation of the workshop.

This section sponsored by the State Government of South Australia

## Aboriginal Heritage Branch

If you have a question about heritage or want to be on our mailing list you can contact us via the people listed below.

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### Register Searches

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# Future political leaders

Indigenous students are being encouraged to participate in a Federal Government work experience program *Learn Earn Legend!* aimed at boosting Indigenous employment in politics and the public service.

Minister for Indigenous Employment and Economic Development, Julie Collins said the program is designed for students to be exposed to government work opportunities.

"The week-long program will introduce the students to career opportunities in Australian political life and in the public service," Ms Collins said.

"Students will learn about how government works, get to experience life in a political office and have the opportunity to watch Question Time, before spending a day in public service agencies and departments," she said.

100 Indigenous secondary students participated in the *Learn Earn Legend!* Program in August.

Minister for School Education and Youth, Peter Garrett said the program is important for Indigenous students.

"These students are future leaders in their communities and Australia. This program is about expanding their horizons and making them aware of the possible job opportunities and pathways available," Mr Garrett said.

As at 31 December 2011, there were around 3,700 Indigenous Australians in the public service; which makes up 2.2 per cent of its employees.

The Australian Government wants to increase Indigenous employment in the public service to 2.7 per cent by 2015.



Above: *Learn Earn Legend!* (LEL) Ambassador Scott Prince and Evonne Goolagong Cawley (middle) with LEL Work Exposure in Government students, Budhagi Gibuma and Rachel Jose.



Above: Lloyd Sims, Chambers Preston and William Lauenston.

# Media opportunities for Indigenous Australians

Stars of the blockbuster Australian film *'The Sapphires'* have joined Federal Arts Minister, Simon Crean, and Indigenous Employment and Economic Development Minister, Julie Collins, to launch a new work and training program to create jobs for Indigenous Australians in the media sector.

Ministers Crean and Collins joined stars Jessica Mauboy and Deborah Mailman at the Parliament House theatre in August to announce details of Screen Australia's two-year Indigenous Media Employment Strategy.

The \$1.1 million work and training program will create 40 new jobs for Indigenous Australians in sectors including newspapers, new media, film and television.

"The *Sapphires* was a great example of the incredible Indigenous screen talent in Australia, but more is needed to be done to strengthen Indigenous representation in the media sector," said Minister Crean.

"The new employment program will help train and guide a new generation of Indigenous media professionals, whether they are on screen or in the media.

*"The Sapphires was a great example of the incredible Indigenous screen talent in Australia, but more is needed to be done to strengthen Indigenous representation in the media sector..."*

"Australia is home to the oldest living culture on earth, but it is producing some of the most exciting new art forms on the planet," he said.

An industry body, Media RING is set up to implement the employment strategy encompassing more than 40 broadcasters, government media agencies, Indigenous organisations, trade associations, media buyers and newspaper groups. Current members include the ABC, SBS, FOXTEL and News Limited.

Chair of Media RING Susanne Larson said the strength of the strategy is signified by the diverse opportunities on offer from film and television to newspapers and new media.

"The strategy will include tailored training for each individual, and will look at the long-term growth of the sector, beginning in schools and including workplace culture and mentoring," she said.

# The Medics take out top music prize

**Showcasing the changing face and sound of Indigenous music in Australia, emerging QLD rock four-piece The Medics have taken out top honours at the 2012 National Indigenous Music Awards on Saturday 11 August.**

One of the country's most exciting young bands, The Medics released their debut album *Foundations* to widespread acclaim earlier this year and now wins for Album of the Year, New Talent of the Year and Song of the Year for 'Griffin' sends a clear message that they are an act on the rise.

Newly formed Arnhem Land band East Journey who have been guided by the legendary Mandawuy Yunupingu from Yothu Yindi, took out two highly contested awards. The NT Film Clip of the Year for the super stunning film clip 'Ngarrpiya' which was filmed around their home country in Yirrkala. East Journey also picked up the prestigious G.R. Bururrawanga Memorial Award for outstanding contribution to the NT music industry – which was proudly presented to the band by Mandawuy Yunupingu on the night.

Cementing his position as the country's most well regarded Indigenous musician, Gurrumul Yunupingu was named Artist of the Year for the second year in a row. Gurrumul's collaboration 'Bayini' with Sarah Blasko also claimed Cover Art of the Year, a second NIMA for artist/designer Carlo Santone from Blue King Brown.

The Traditional Music Award was rewarded to two different collaborations for the Song People's Sessions. Warren H Williams and the Warumungu Songmen and Shellie Morris and the Borroloola Songwomen have composed new arrangements with ancient languages

to preserve language and stories to share with future generations.

Recognising a lifetime of achievement in the music industry, the 2012 NIMA Hall of Fame honoured the great Jimmy Little who was posthumously awarded for his pioneering work as an Indigenous and country music star. Legendary Arnhem Land rock stars Sunrize Band and ever popular NT act Lajamanu Teenage Band were also inducted into the NIMA Hall of Fame and celebrated with a return to the stage at the Awards concert on Saturday night.

The anthem of a generation, "Black Boy" by the legendary Coloured Stone was given a contemporary edge when it was performed at the NIMAs in Darwin on Saturday night, 28 years after it was released. Bunna Lawrie founding member of Coloured Stone joined his son Jindhu, drummer and vocalist of The Medics, on stage for one of the night's most stirring moments.

*"With finalists from across the country I can confidently say that NIMA 2012 have arrived on a national scale. The goal of a truly national event celebrating the achievements and talents of Indigenous musicians is being realised."* says Mark Smith, Music NT General Manager.

The night was filled with unique sets including the highly anticipated East Journey who lived up to the hype with frontman Rrawun Maymuru and traditional dancers providing a spectacular show. Other highlights on the night included the premiere of Warren H Williams and the Warumungu Songmen, crowd favourites Lajamanu Teenage Band and a performance by triple j Unearthed winner Thelma Plum, who also jumped in with The Medics and Bunna Lawrie for their 'like a version' of Bob Dylan's *Blowin' in the Wind*.



Above: Bunna Lawrie accepts Album of The Year on behalf of the Medics.



Above: Mandawuy Yunupingu with East Journey.

## **New Talent of the Year**

The Medics [themedics.com.au](http://themedics.com.au)

## **Song of the Year**

'Griffin' [www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1gRMj6ROXQ&feature=plcp](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1gRMj6ROXQ&feature=plcp)

– The Medics [www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1gRMj6ROXQ&feature=plcp](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1gRMj6ROXQ&feature=plcp)

Written by J Lawrie/C Thomas/A Thomson/K Wallace

## **Album of the Year**

*Foundations* – The Medics

Label: Footstomp/Warner

## **Artist of the Year**

Gurrumul Yunupingu [www.gurrumul.com](http://www.gurrumul.com)

## **Hall of Fame**

Dr James Oswald Little, AO aka Jimmy Little [www.jlf.org.au](http://www.jlf.org.au)

Sunrize Band

Lajamanu Teenage Band

## **NT Film Clip of the Year**

'Ngarrpiya' – East Journey [www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hjzldfev1M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hjzldfev1M)

Director/Producer: Naina Sen + Susan Marawili

## **G.R. Bururrawanga Memorial Award**

East Journey [www.eastjourney.com.au](http://www.eastjourney.com.au)

## **NT Cover Art of the Year**

'Bayini' [soundcloud.com/sgcmedia/bayini-gurrumul-feat-sarah](http://soundcloud.com/sgcmedia/bayini-gurrumul-feat-sarah)

– Gurrumul Yunupingu & Sarah Blasko

Label: Skinnyfish Music

Artist/Designer: Carlo Santone

## **Traditional Music Award of the Year**

Song Peoples Sessions [songpeoples.tumblr.com](http://songpeoples.tumblr.com)

Shellie Morris and the Borroloola Songwomen – 'Ngambala Wiji Li-Wunungu'

Warren H Williams and the Warumungu Songmen – 'Winanjara'

## **NT School Band of the Year**

NEAL Boys – Yirrkala CEC

The National Indigenous Music Awards are presented by Music NT

[www.musicnt.com.au](http://www.musicnt.com.au) and the NT Government and are part of

Darwin Festival 2012. [www.darwinfestival.org.au](http://www.darwinfestival.org.au)

This information was provided by the National Indigenous Music Awards



Clockwise from top left: Delson Boyd from Yabu Band; Michael Hohnen with Gurrumul (Artist of the Year) on the phone; Kahl Wallace from The Medics; Crowd at the National Indigenous Music Awards.

# Local Festivities remember Eddie Mabo

After almost two decades of challenging legal doctrine, Eddie Koiki Mabo and a group of Murray Islanders were recognised by The High Court as the traditional owners of their land in the Torres Strait.

On August 10, a local festivity was held in honour of Eddie Koiki Mabo on behalf of the Torres Strait Islander community.

The celebrations took place at the Nexus Multicultural Arts Centre in Adelaide, hosted by Kurruru Youth Performing Arts. The night included music, dance, kai kai (food) & images from the Torres Strait Islands, with performances by Monwell Levi Keriba Sagul Eddie Peters, Jardine Kiwat, Bin nanendi Boys Nancy Bates Allan Sumner.



Clockwise from top left: Song and Dance; Steve Goldsmith and Claire Holmes; Monwell Levi on stage; Eddie Peters and Kurruru team; Sopa family; Eddie Peters and Kurruru team.

## Mining company desecrates sacred sites

**A Northern Territory mining company has been charged with desecrating an Aboriginal sacred site and seven counts of damaging the site.**

It is alleged that in February 2011, OM (Manganese) increased the angle of mining at its Masai pit at a manganese mine in Bootu Creek, 170 kilometres north of Tennant Creek.

According to Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority, the mining company did not consult with their own Aboriginal Liaison Committee or engage consultants to assess possible damage to the site.

Cracks were detected around the sacred site on July 7 last year but despite the damage to the site the miner set off a blast two weeks later, which split the site in half.

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority withdrew three counts of desecrating an Aboriginal site in the Darwin Magistrates Court on September 11 and included the offences in one single charge as well as seven counts of causing damage to a sacred site.

The mining company will face court again in November.

## Indigenous media strengthens identity

**The theme of this year's The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples held on August 9 was Indigenous Media and empowering voices.**

Commissioner, Mick Gooda said Indigenous owned media is important for empowering voices and strengthening Indigenous identities.

"It's often complex for mainstream media to portray Indigenous issues accurately

and realistically, and sometimes, despite good intentions, this portrayal reinforces damaging stereotypes," said Commissioner Gooda.

"Australia's Indigenous media outlets have a vision and breadth which gives Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples the information we need on the things we're interested in, through an Indigenous lens," he said.

The CEO of South Australia's only

Aboriginal owned radio station, Umeewarra Media in Port Augusta, Mr Vince Coulthard said Aboriginal media is important for all Australians.

"Our own media is vital to getting our stories out into the community, to share and preserve culture and language and to highlight the important role our people play in today's society. From our listener's point of view, in a survey by Griffith University, one of them said 'our radio is as important

as our health service because without it we are all disempowered'."

This is an indication of just how important Aboriginal media is not just for our people but for the nation," he said.

Commissioner Gooda said the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples was an opportune time to take stock on where Indigenous peoples are in relation to the key challenges they confront.

# paper tracker

## **The Anangu Lands Paper Tracker is an online project of Uniting Care Wesley, Adelaide.**

The website tracks government commitments to Anangu (Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara people). It publishes accurate, up-to-date information on projects and services that are important to Anangu.

The Paper Tracker aims to make it easier for Anangu to work with governments as equal partners. It helps Anangu make sure governments are following through on commitments.

Aboriginal Way will assist Paper Tracker by highlighting some of the issues it is following.

**If you want more information on any of these items log on to [www.papertracker.com.au](http://www.papertracker.com.au)**

## **APY Lands: English Language learning and Anangu Children**

For most Anangu children on the APY Lands, English is a foreign language acquired at school.

Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara are the first languages of the vast majority of Anangu on the APY Lands. These are the languages Anangu speak at home and toddlers and young children acquire as their principal languages.

In April 2012, Australia's Coordinator-General for Remote Indigenous Communities (Mr Brian Gleeson) highlighted the need for more ESL teachers to be based in remote Indigenous schools as a critical gap in education service provision

In mid-2011, the South Australian Government employed 74.3 full-time equivalent (FTE) teachers across the nine schools operating on the APY Lands.

Seven of these teachers (9.4%) held formal English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) qualifications.

On 11 May 2012, the Paper Tracker asked the Department for Education and Child Development how many teachers employed on the APY Lands had completed a formal English-as-a-Second-Language qualification (as of March 2012).

In a reply dated 4 June 2012, the Department advised:

The percentage of teacher employees with a qualification with an ESL field of study is 6%. Accuracy of this data is dependent on completeness of the qualification record for each employee.

The Paper Tracker will ask the Department for an account of any steps it has taken or is planning to take to:

- assist current teaching staff on the APY Lands to obtain a formal ESL qualification; and
- recruit and retain more ESL-qualified teachers to work in APY communities.

Information provided in response to this request will be available on the Paper Tracker website as soon as it's received.

## **APY lands: three key reports**

Between November 2011 and January 2012, the South Australian Government was scheduled to release three key reports focused on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands. Only one of these reports was released on time.

The first report, documenting the Government's ongoing response to the recommendations of the Mullighan Inquiry into child sexual abuse, was tabled in Parliament on 24 November 2011.

The second report, a comprehensive summary of government activities on the APY Lands, was originally due to be released by the end of November 2011. This did not happen. It was subsequently released on 2 April 2012.

The third report, an evaluation of the impact of an *APY Food Security Strategic Plan*, was originally expected to be completed in January 2012. This timeframe was not met. The report was released on 10 April 2012.

## **Mullighan Inquiry: third annual progress report**

In mid-2007, the Parliament of South Australia established an Inquiry into the incidence of child sexual abuse on the APY Lands.

The final report of the Inquiry was provided to the South Australian Government on 30 April 2008. It contained 46 recommendations.

By law, the Government is required to report annually to State Parliament – for a period of five years – on progress made against the recommendations.

On 2 December 2009, the then South Australian Minister for Families and Communities (Hon Jennifer Rankine) tabled the first annual report in State Parliament. The Minister tabled the second annual report on 24 November 2010.

On 24 November 2011, the third annual report was tabled in Parliament by the Minister for Education and Child Development (Hon Grace Portolesi MP).

## **APY progress report**

On 20 December 2011, the South Australian Government advised the Paper Tracker that it now expected the report to be released "at the end of January [2012]".

On 2 February 2012, the Paper Tracker asked the Government when it expected the report would be released. On 23 February 2012, the Government replied that the report was "in its final stages of completion" and would be released "in coming weeks".

The report, dated "February 2012", was eventually released on 2 April 2012

## **Food strategy report**

On 23 February 2012, the South Australian Government advised the Paper Tracker that the timeframe for completing the report had been extended until 31 March 2012, stating:

The Food Strategy Report has been delayed as community consultations were unable to be held across the APY Lands due to cultural and sorry business taking place at the end of 2011 and into 2012. It is imperative that community people have an opportunity to provide feedback into the Strategy. The report was released in April 2012.

## **SA police: APY and Yalata community Constables**

South Australia Police receives funding to employ 12 Community Constables on the APY Lands and in Yalata.

As of 4 November 2011, nine of these positions were vacant (75%). In one community, the local Community Constable position had been empty for over eight years.

In 2011, SA Police conducted an evaluation of the Community Constable Program. In November 2011, the Commissioner of Police approved the evaluation's recommendations. A strategy to address the recommendations was, reportedly, completed the following month.

On 19 January 2012, the Minister for Police (Hon Jennifer Rankine MP) advised the Paper Tracker that the recommendations focused on "employment conditions, training requirements and providing opportunities for Aboriginal Liaison Officers to qualify for Community Constable positions".

The Minister also advised that "the process of implementation and reassessing strategies" was "ongoing".

On 16 February 2012, the Paper Tracker asked the Minister for a copy of the recommendations and associated implementation strategy. More than five months later, neither of these documents had been provided.

On 19 July 2012, the Paper Tracker obtained a copy of the 2011 evaluation report after SA Police released this document in response to a Freedom of Information request. In an accompanying letter, SA Police contradicted earlier advice, noting that strategies to implement the report's recommendations were "still in the developmental stage" and had not yet been approved for implementation.

As of 20 July 2012, 7 of the ten Community Constable positions on the APY Lands remained unfilled.

## **State Plan: Aboriginal Strategic Plan**

In October 2006, the State Government reported that it was developing an Aboriginal Strategic Plan for South Australia in partnership with the Commonwealth.

By March 2009, a draft Plan had been developed and ratified by the Chief Executives of government agencies. At that stage, however, the draft Plan was "on hold" pending the conclusion of ongoing negotiations with the Commonwealth about a new partnership agreement.

On 19 October 2009, the Paper Tracker asked the Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division for an update on its efforts to finalise and release South Australia's Aboriginal Strategic Plan.

In a reply dated 3 February 2010, the Division advised the Paper Tracker that following the 2 July 2009 meeting of the Council of Australian Governments:

- the draft plan had been re-examined,
- a "new coordinating document" had been "endorsed by the Chief Executives Group on Aboriginal Affairs", and
- This new document was "being used internally to coordinate government Aboriginal affairs activity."

The Division's advice concluded: An additional public document that will also capture the State Government's activities and objectives for Aboriginal affairs in South Australia is currently being negotiated with the Commonwealth Government. [This] Overarching Bilateral Indigenous Plan will outline both State and Commonwealth commitments to 'Closing the Gap in Indigenous disadvantage' and is intended for release in 2010.

On 20 December 2010, the Paper Tracker asked the Division for an update on the aforementioned "Overarching Bilateral Indigenous Plan", specifically the date on which it was finalised and released.

On 27 June 2012, the South Australian Government reported that the need to develop a South Australian Aboriginal Strategic Plan had been "... superseded by the *Council of Australian Government's... National Indigenous Reform Agreement...* and the *Overarching Bilateral Indigenous Plan*".

### The Paper Tracker is Changing

For five years now, we have successfully monitored government commitments to South Australia's remote Anangu communities. Last year, we expanded this work to include a weekly radio show that has opened up new ways of getting information to Anangu in their first languages (Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara).

## Largest Indigenous health survey

**The Australian Bureau of Statistics has started the largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health survey to improve knowledge of health issues affecting these groups of Australians.**

The survey expands on the 2004–05 survey by increasing the number of participants by 30%, and collecting new information on exercise, diet (including bush foods) and measures of cholesterol, blood glucose and iron.

For the first time, the ABS will directly measure obesity and blood pressure levels, as well as nutritional status and chronic disease. By combining the self-reported information together with the biomedical samples, a more complete

picture of the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will be available. Importantly this will give some information about the level of undiagnosed conditions, such as diabetes.

Recently we took stock of the direction and impact of our work and, more broadly, how Anangu communities are travelling. Two fundamental issues emerged.

Firstly, despite some welcome exceptions, far too many crucial decisions are still being made without genuine input from Anangu.

Secondly, there is a pressing need for Anangu to lead a serious and sustained conversation about how to secure a positive future for their communities.

The Paper Tracker has decided to keep these issues at the centre of all of our future work.

In future, we will also focus our tracking around five key topics:

- **employment,**
- **food security,**
- **housing,**
- **access to dialysis, and**
- **the recommendations of the Mullighan Inquiry.**

We are confident that our emphasis on some fundamental issues and these five topics will sharpen our work and strengthen its importance for Anangu.

Best wishes  
**Jonathan Nicholls**  
Uniting Communities

**If you'd like to know more you can contact Paper Tracker on (08) 202 5867 or subscribe to their newsletter at [www.papertracker.com.au](http://www.papertracker.com.au)**

The survey will be conducted over 2012–13 across the country in cities and remote communities to create evidence to measure progress in improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

The first survey results will be released in September 2013.

**Further information and detailed questions and answers are available on the ABS website at [www.abs.gov.au/australianhealthsurvey](http://www.abs.gov.au/australianhealthsurvey)**

**Our column in review features reviews and stories on Aboriginal writers, artists and musicians.**

**We welcome your feedback and suggestions. So if you know of a new work about to be published or an artist or musician please contact us on (08) 8110 2800.**

## East Journey, 'Guwak'

**East Journey hail from North East Arnhem Land, NT. Their debut album, 'Guwak', blends contemporary rock and acoustic feels with traditional singing and instrumentation.**

Guided by their elders including the legendary Mandaway Yunupingu (Yothu Yindi), the young musicians offer an exciting new sound from a new generation of talented Aboriginal musicians.

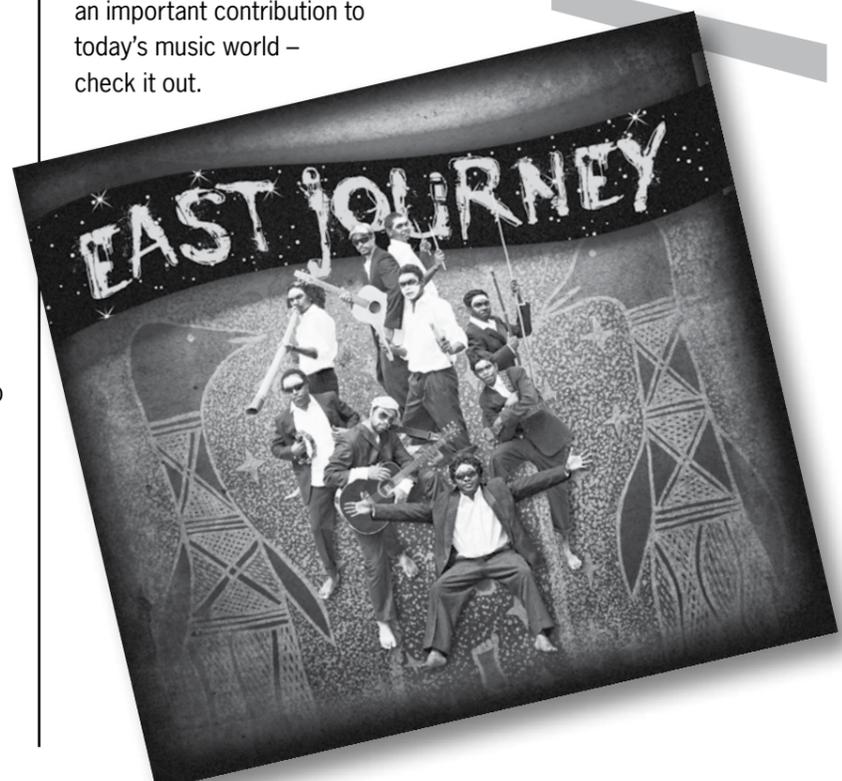
'Guwak' is filled with unpretentious performances that share language, culture and country presented in the form of catchy rock n roll numbers.

The single 'Song of Arnhem land' is cool and effortless; it allows the listener to bop along whilst absorbing the raw and emotive vocals by frontman, Rrwawun Maymuru.

The album is skilfully produced by Matt Cunliffe; recorded at Darwin's subsonic studios and Sydney's Level 7 studios, and mastered in LA.

Even when listening indoors, East Journey has succeeded in creating music that brings their stories of Arnhem Land; the sea, the sky, country and culture to life.

'Guwak' is a pleasurable journey and an important contribution to today's music world – check it out.





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**Circulation**  
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**The Editor has the final decision on all stories and advertising that appear in this publication.**

# We pay our respect to two inspirational women

**SANTS acknowledges the passing of two inspirational women; Eileen Unkari Crombie and Eileen Kampakuta Brown OAM**

Eileen Crombie had great passion to keep Elders on country and pushed for an Aboriginal Aged Care facility in Coober Pedy.

Over the past five years, in her role as Chairperson of Umoona Aboriginal Aged Care, she succeeded in getting the land transferred back to the Elders and new buildings for the centre.

Mrs Crombie was the Senior Cultural Advisor for the Antikirinya Matu-Yankunytjatjara Native Title Claimants. She was on the council of Aboriginal Elders of South Australia, representing the Coober Pedy Region. She worked with Tjamuku Kamiku – The grandparents knowledge program. And she promoted Reconciliation Day, Sorry Day and NAIDOC Week. She won many awards for her work.

Mrs Crombie stood up for her country and protested against the Federal Government's proposal to build a nuclear waste dump, near Coober Pedy and was a valued member of the Kupa Piti Kungka Tjuta – Senior Women's Council of Coober Pedy.

She wrote to Mike Rann in 2003 and told him, "[we] **keep fighting because kids want to grow up and see the country when we leave them... Hope they'll fight like we fellas for the country. We don't want to see the irati-poison come back this way. We're not going to give up**".



They didn't give up; they won that fight, and stopped the government.

Eileen Brown was also involved in the protests against the government's plan to build a nuclear waste dump here in South Australia.

Mrs Brown was an active member of the Kupa Piti Kungka Tjuta – Senior Women's Council of Coober Pedy.

She and others travelled the country, telling their story and spreading their strong message 'Iratu Wanti – the poison, leave it'. The women wrote letters and spoke out. Over the many years fighting and campaigning people started to listen and take notice.

They worked with Aboriginal and Environmental groups, church groups and unions and the South Australian government. They never backed down and campaigned for six years.

**"...kids were growing up and we were still fighting that radioactive waste, that poison."** Mrs Brown said at the time.

On January 26, Australia Day, 2003, Mrs Brown was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia. She was awarded for her service to the community "through the preservation, revival and teaching of traditional Anangu Culture and as an advocate for Indigenous communities of Central Australia."

In April 2003, the same year she was awarded the Order of Australia, Mrs Brown was awarded the prestigious American based Goldman Environmental Prize, the environmental equivalent of the Noble Prize.

Eileen Unkari Crombie and Eileen Kampakuta Brown were both strong and remarkable women who worked hard to keep their culture and traditions alive. They shall be remembered for their passion and achievements, and they will be dearly missed by many.



## Aboriginal Message Radio program

Recorded weekly at Radio Adelaide, *Aboriginal Message* is heard around Australia through Aboriginal radio networks. If you have an interesting story or event that you would like to share on Aboriginal radio, please call Kaliah Alice on (08) 2110 2834 or email [aboriginalmessage@nativetitlesa.org](mailto:aboriginalmessage@nativetitlesa.org)

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