

NAMALATA THUS!



**Political
youngbloods**

**Deadly Ears
resounding
success**

**Be your
own boss**



Contents

On the cover: Carbon Media's Wayne Denning, Danielle Ahboo and Alden Lyall are setting the benchmark for the Indigenous community's participation in a digital economy. Photo by Peter Waddington. See page 12.



Namalata is a Queensland Aboriginal word meaning "messenger".
Thusi is a western Torres Strait Islander word meaning "paper" or "book".

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Minister Desley Boyle holds great hopes for the future of youngsters like the Yulu Burrii Ba dancers she yarned with after their NAIDOC Week performance in Brisbane.

This year's NAIDOC celebrations were a sight to behold with people getting involved in Brisbane, Bundaberg, Bamaga and everywhere in-between.

I was privileged to be a part of the Brisbane flag-raising celebration outside the Executive Building on George St. It was great to see the Aboriginal, Torres Strait Island and Australian flags raised side-by-side. It highlighted a future of which Queenslanders can be proud. The celebration featured some wonderful dancing from Wagga Dance Company, Yuggera Aboriginal Dance Troupe and the children of Yulu Burrii Ba as well as some fantastic bush tucker.

It was also a chance to reflect on the reconciliation journey. Torres Strait Islander

Elder Uncle Steve Mam, for example, remembered demonstrating on the very same spot: throwing down his bow and arrows in protest at the government of the day while 15 police cars stood by ready for trouble. Now he was returning to the same spot, acknowledged as an Elder and a representative of the First Australians.

NAIDOC Week has grown from a day of observance into a week-long celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. This is a reflection of Australia's growing pride in the rich and varied history of our great country. Across Queensland there were breakfasts and dinners, family fun days and educational events, workshops and art installations. Increasingly it is an event celebrated by all Queenslanders regardless of origin. I hope you enjoy the pictorial wrap-up of NAIDOC Week in this issue.

Another area where we are seeing reconciliation in action is in the area of Indigenous business. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1900 businesses in Queensland are owned by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. From architecture to web design, tourism to farming, car hire to fishing, the owners of these small-to-medium sized businesses are putting themselves in the driver's seat.

This includes businesses like Carbon Media (featured on page 12) which recently won the Emerging Business category at the Reconciliation Awards for Business. Carbon Media is a wholly Aboriginal-owned new media production agency that is helping to change the face of the media through producing television commercials, corporate DVDs and even

a children's television game show.

At the request of the Brisbane Council of Elders, I have written to Australia's major media outlets and encouraged them to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working both in front of, and behind, the camera. I am pleased to say I have had a number of positive responses from people like the Seven Network's executive chairman Kerry Stokes and Foxtel's chief executive Kim Williams. It seems that reconciliation is not just everyone's business; reconciliation is business.

Hon. Desley Boyle
Minister for Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships



Priming political youngbloods

Looking down from the visitors' gallery, Elders saw a dream realised as 40 young people settled into the green leather upholstered seats of Queensland's Legislative Assembly.

It was Thursday 3 June and the young people had come from all over Queensland as part of the annual Office for Youth initiative, the Indigenous Youth Leadership Program.

For a few hours, they experienced what it could be like to wield political power.

Their time in Parliament — presenting and debating their own legislation — tested their understanding of parliamentary processes and public speaking, primed over six days.

The Indigenous Youth Parliament debated a three-pronged Bill for

healthier living: compulsory nutrition education; bans on all tobacco advertising and roadside alcohol ads; and raising the legal drinking age to 21.

Youth delegates were particularly fired up about the drinking age issue.

Stradbroke Island health worker Raymond Wilson, 21, was all for it. He's seen first-hand the high cost of alcohol abuse. As though fuelling his passion, Raymond was told while at the program of two deaths in his community.



Not everyone agreed that age was the answer. Paramedic Michael Farnham, 24, of Dalby said: "Raising the legal age won't stop underage drinking; it'll send it underground, where it can't be seen or monitored."

Ultimately the Bill was defeated.

Later, Raymond told *Namalata Thusi*: "I was born to be there (in Parliament). I was never taught public speaking or debating. I listen to and respect others' views

but I have never been frightened to get up and challenge a view I disagree with. It's a gift; one I very much hope to use to make a difference in the future."

Another who found herself right at home in Parliament was youth worker Hannah Taylor, 23, of Eight Mile Plains, a descendent of the Budjari people.

"The program was the best week of my life. I've always been interested in politics but this sparked the passion

that really had until now been overwhelmed by the impossibility of it ever happening."

Queensland Parliament is 150 years old.

In that time, only one Aboriginal has been elected: Eric Deeral, the Member for Cook (1974 to 1977).

Queensland Parliament has yet to have a Torres Strait Islander representative.

More information

Indigenous Youth Leadership Program
Office for Youth
yilf@communities.qld.gov.au
Phone 07 3008 8633
or 1300 555 954



Members of the Mt St Michael's College community and Weemala Unit make a pact for reconciliation.

Award-winning yarnin'

A youth partnership has won the 2010 Premier's Reconciliation Award.

Since 2007, students from Brisbane Catholic girls' school Mt St Michael's (MSM) College have regularly visited the Australian Catholic University to meet tertiary students attending residential study blocks through the Weemala Unit.

Together they've shared stories, asked questions, and supported each other.

"Meeting in an informal setting has provided a space for the students to find common ground and increase their understanding of each other's cultures," says Weemala academic coordinator Dean Duncan.

The Commonwealth Bank won the Established Business category of the Reconciliation Awards for Business for its Indigenous banking team initiative. Blue Care won the Community category, and Carbon Media was the Emerging Business winner. Read Carbon Media's story on page 12.



Aunty Ruth's truly great

Brisbane Elder Aunty Ruth Hegarty (left) is officially a Queensland Great.

She was one of five individuals and one institution honoured as part of Queensland Week celebrations in June.

Aunty Ruth, 82, has campaigned on social justice issues for Indigenous people for decades. A founding

member of the Koobara Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Resource Centre in Brisbane, she was spokesperson for the Queensland 'Stolen Wages' campaign and the 'Redress Scheme'; and has participated in government advisory roles including the Domestic Violence Council.

Aunty Ruth is also a published writer, known for *Is that you Ruthie* and *My bittersweet journey*.

Members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community previously named Queensland Greats are:

- Kev Carmody
- Pearl Duncan
- Dr Evelyn Scott
- Aunty Olga Miller
- Uncle Bob Anderson.

Future served up

Patryce Nona, 17, is the inaugural recipient of the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) Tourism Scholarship. The scholarship, worth more than \$115,000 over three years, covers the full tuition fees of Patryce's Bachelor of International Hotel and Resort Management at Bond University on the Gold Coast as well as an internship.

Patryce, who grew up in Innisfail, hopes to travel the world with her degree.

Applications for the 2012 ILC Tourism Scholarship open in April 2011. More information [email scholarships@bond.edu.au](mailto:scholarships@bond.edu.au)



Different strokes

Meet Ellen Mills, one of six Townsville women learning construction skills in the first Indigenous Women in Hard Hats program.

Ellen has begun a painting apprenticeship with QBuild. Others are training as carpenters or construction workers.

Find out more about this program, helping Indigenous women enter non-traditional trades by emailing iwihh@communities.qld.gov.au or calling 1800 070 318



Cherbourg opens wide for dental clinic

Cherbourg community is all smiles at news of a training school for dentists, run by Griffith University, to be built as an extension to its health centre.

"The doctors and nurses at Cherbourg do a wonderful job but not having a dentist causes a lot of suffering; and we've been without for a very long time. Few children walk around here with pearly white teeth," says Cherbourg Deputy Mayor Gordon Wragge.

Griffith University's Colgate Chair of Rural, Remote and Indigenous Oral Health, Professor Ratilal Lalloo says the centre will have four dental surgeries and be staffed by supervised dentistry and oral therapy students.

The university service will be available to residents of Cherbourg community and its surrounds.

Delivering on housing promise

A promise to deliver more and better housing in remote Queensland communities is being realised with 46 new homes completed and 152 existing homes renovated.

Twelve communities — Woorabinda, Napranum, Doomadgee, Aurukun, Palm Island, Lockhart River, Mornington Island, Kowanyama, Hope Vale, Northern Peninsula Area, Wujal Wujal and Torres Strait islands — have so far benefited from the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, a joint Queensland and Australian government initiative.



Napranum Council CEO Margaret Barnes (second, right) and the council's housing officer Lima Boseun joined QBuild's Rick Parmenter and Alex Walsh and project manager Philip Gerchow to inspect a new home.

Allen Cuneen from the Program Office says while better housing now is important, so is the communities' capacity for future development, which is being enhanced by sureying and town planning.

"More importantly, surveys over individual housing lots will enable houses to be bought or sold, bringing home ownership under 99-year leases in Indigenous local government areas that

much closer to reality," says Allen.

More information

Phone 07 4057 3861

Restoring a sense of belonging



For 60 years, Aunty Therese Webster's mother lived in denial, claiming her ancestry as Italian rather than Aboriginal, for fear of losing her children.



Aunty Therese's mother Kathleen was a child of the Stolen Generations who grew up in a succession of children's homes.

Aunty Therese heard whispers about Kathleen's past but the truth didn't surface until Kathleen had died and a nephew called with a curious question: "I've got a blood disorder that's only found in Aborigines. Know anything about that?"

For the past 20 years, Aunty Therese, of the Ngarigo people in New South Wales, has worked doubly hard to make up for a sense of lost identity and belonging, and to campaign for equality for Indigenous Australians.

"I am a proud Aboriginal woman," says Aunty Therese, one of Australia's delegates to August's 9th World Indigenous Women and Wellness Conference, a Queensland delegate at the recent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Gathering in Canberra, and a Seniors Week Award recipient (**story page 21**).

"I tell all the young people I meet to be proud of who they

are and where they come from. My mother never could enjoy that."

A nurse for more than 40 years, Aunty Therese settled in Laidley in south-east Queensland in 2001. She became an Indigenous Education Counsellor for the cluster of Lockyer Valley high schools and threw herself into community work: Neighbourhood Watch; Laidley Ambulance Committee; Relay for Life; and Cancer Council to name a few.

This year, Aunty Therese became a Certificate III in Community Service trainee with Laidley Community Centre.

"I am 62 and I am proof that you can teach an old dog new tricks," Aunty Therese beams, sweeping her hand around a newly-refurbished room that will soon run Internet and computer lessons for both youth and senior citizens.

When not lobbying council and businesses, campaigning for improved transport and health services or more job opportunities in

Karen Taylor, medical student, Griffith University

AMA Indigenous People's Medical Scholarship recipient Karen Taylor, 45, is a heartbeat away from becoming a doctor.

Q. You're one of a select few. AMA statistics indicate there are only 140 doctors and 137 medical students in Australia who identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. How can we get more Indigenous doctors?

A. Accepting that you don't have to come from a background with doctors as parents is important; and that's happening in the schools.

But retention is as important as recruitment. Medicine is hard. For mature age students with children of their own it becomes really tough financially. There's no chance to hold a job and study; and family life is affected. We can manage to repay HECS once we're working, but we need to be able to afford to live while studying. Scholarships like the AMA's are few and far between.



Q. Medicine wasn't your original dream and it isn't your first degree either. What happened along the way?

A. When I was at school, I dreamt of being a vet. The guidance officer discouraged me. I took that as meaning I wasn't smart enough. I worked in different jobs, travelled, and at 28 finally decided to do something with my life: I did high school chemistry at night class and went on to become a high school maths and biology teacher.

Q. So many different experiences have come together?

A. Nothing in life is a waste. Everything is a lesson.

Q. What of your future?

A. I'd like to gain some experience in a remote Indigenous community and work as a GP, with a particular interest in the health of mothers and children.



the area, Aunty Therese nurtures social connections. She runs Indigenous girls' gatherings for 12 to 17 year-olds and women's gatherings.

"Yarning is good for the spirit," she says.

Aunty Therese gets a real kick out of seeing the young women from her girls' gatherings "grow in confidence".

"You can achieve anything with a positive attitude," she maintains.

Aunty Therese desperately wants to help the Lockyer youth too but has to draw a line: "Much as I dislike admitting it, since I tell youngsters there's no such thing as 'can't', there are some things a female Elder cannot do. It's men business."

More information

Link-Up helps reunite Aboriginal families separated by adoption, forced removal, fostering or institutionalisation.

Phone **1800 200 855**
or email contact@qld.link-up.org.au

More information

www.ama.com.au

This is my business

Lance Butler (pictured below) was nine when he hooked his first barramundi. He's been fishing now for 40 years, 23 of those years as a professional fishing guide.

Two years ago, Lance became his own boss, running fishing tour business Northern Australia Sports Fishing, in far north Queensland.

In going it alone, Lance became one of nearly 1900 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who own their own business in Queensland.

Nearly 700 of those are in south-east Queensland and they're in just about all fields: from architecture to cleaning, hairdressing to cultural awareness, security to web design.

Among them is 27-year-old Allinta Rose (below right) who runs employment consultancy Deadly Solutions in Logan City.

Sharing common ground

Lance and Allinta run very different businesses but share the same principles and concerns.

Both love what they do.

"I am passionate about working with my own people. I saw a gap in the market, a need for more specialist support for Indigenous

jobseekers. Through one-on-one training, I give clients the tools to succeed," says Allinta.

"Fishing has been a way of life for me ever since I could walk," says Lance. "I still get huge enjoyment seeing a guest land a catch because that says something about my ability to find fish for them too."

Cash flow, they agree, can be tough.

"When I first went into business — back in 1985 — I was young and didn't have any idea about things like money. It's important to keep a track of what comes in, and what goes out, and factor in things like tax," says Lance.

Lance's business is seasonal, at its busiest in April, May and June, after the Big Wet. Guided tours of Hinchinbrook waterways, closer to his Ingham home, and hand-made wooden fishing lures, keep cash coming in during the quieter months.

Achieving life balance can be tough too. "Employees can take holidays: employers feel bad about taking time off — whether it's a holiday or because of sickness — because that can mean lost business but it's important to take time out to think about where your business is going," says Allinta.



Expert advice

The Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation's (DEEDI) has nine Indigenous Enterprise Development Officers (IEDOs) providing the building blocks for successful business across Queensland.

John Gillespie is one of them. A former primary producer and agribusiness consultant with a degree in economics, he works in the south-east corner and has 75 businesses on his books, mostly in the start-up phase.

IEDOs provide free business planning assistance and business readiness workshops.

"We work through a whole lot of issues so that an individual, or a couple, or an organisation is truly business-ready, or at least

direct them towards further assistance" he says.

"Defining the business is often the hardest but it's also the most important. If you're opening a coffee shop, you're not simply selling coffee and cake. You're selling atmosphere; ambience."

The Australian Bureau of Statistics suggests 42% of all small businesses fail in their first four years.

John reckons Indigenous businesses are no more at risk than any other business.

"Being your own boss is tough. But go into it prepared, knowing what your product is and what you want from it, and realise it won't happen overnight but that it can happen, and you have the ingredients for success."

Useful business contacts

Queensland's Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI)

DEEDI's Business Hotline can help you find your nearest IEDO: **1300 363 711**

www.indigenous.business.gov.au

DEEDI runs business seminars and workshops.

A free interactive online tool, Smart Skills, helps you learn more about business planning, marketing and communication, finance, networking and running a business. <http://skills.business.qld.gov.au/>

Indigenous Small Business Solutions mentors and small business workshops

www.smartbusinesssolutions.qld.gov.au

For your nearest location, call **1300 40 60 80**

Indigenous Business Australia (IBA)

IBA has a network of qualified business consultants to help, whether starting out, or looking to expand your business.

It also provides small business loans (up to \$20,000) with National Australia Bank.

www.iba.gov.au

Phone FreeCALL **1800 107 107** for the office nearest you

South East Queensland Indigenous Chamber of Commerce

Network with other Indigenous business people

www.seqicc.com.au

Phone **07 3404 3934**



Questions you must ask

- What are you 'selling'? — whether a service or a product
- Who is your market?
- Do you have competitors? What's your point of difference?
- How much money do you need to make to live? How will this affect your price? Will it price you out of the market?
- Are you suitable for the venture? Do you have the skills, experience and attitude to stick with it?
- How will you finance the start-up?
- Is the time and environment right for your business to take-off?
- How will you market yourself?

Provided by DEEDI Indigenous Business Development



The desire I had to ...
promote Indigenous
role models...
burned strong.

Ervyn Fisher (Murgon State School), Elizabeth Rautenberg (Laidley District State School), Cody Schloss (Corinda State High School) and Letterbox co-creator Wayne Denning. Photo courtesy QUT.

Posting a business win

Birri-Gubba man Wayne Denning is the ultimate postmaster, delivering a positive face of Indigenous Australia to the world through game show, Letterbox.

Brisbane-based digital and broadcast media house Carbon Media recently won the Queensland Government's Reconciliation Award for Business — Emerging Business.

For founder Wayne Denning, that recognition reinforced how right he was to abandon his government policymaking career four years ago and set up a business in digital media.

"I had little experience in television or multi-media production but the desire I had to tell the stories, promote rights issues, document languages and promote Indigenous role models burned strong.

"I've always wanted to inform and influence but thought that was out of my league — something only the likes of Packer and Murdoch could afford: that is, until the emergence of digital technology," he says.

Wayne is a graduate of Queensland University of Technology's Master of Business Administration (MBA) program. Carbon Media 'graduated' from QUT's Creative Industries Incubator program, benefiting from swish commercial inner-Brisbane offices, support services and business mentoring.

Since 2006, Carbon Media has created television commercials, websites, social media campaigns, documentaries and corporate DVDs as well as live streaming of major music and sporting events.

Children's TV game show Letterbox was Carbon Media's real groundbreaker: the first TV game show made especially for Indigenous Australian children, starring Aboriginal kids from communities like Cherbourg competing in

English spelling, memory and grammatical games as well as a segment focusing on Indigenous languages and culture.

Aired on National Indigenous Television (NITV) and ABC3, and seen in 44 countries across Asia, the Pacific and India via Australia Network, Letterbox is about to go into its second season.

"Any child can have fun playing Letterbox, but we chose to showcase young Indigenous children who rarely have the opportunity to prove they are positive role models," Wayne says.

Positive imagery of Indigenous living is important to Wayne: "Visitors to Australia come and see our beaches, our desert, the rainforest. Cities are cities wherever they are, but our original cultures — the oldest living cultures in the world — those are unique.

"Carbon Media is proudly Aboriginal. That's the company's unique selling point; and it is Australia's to capitalise on globally too.

"We're setting a benchmark as a model for the Indigenous community to participate in the digital economy."

Business forum serves up master classes

More than 100 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business operators and entrepreneurs gathered in Brisbane recently to attend workshops on business planning, marketing, tendering and joint ventures.

All were offered as part of the 2010 Reconciliation Business Forum, an annual initiative of Queensland's Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation.

The 2010 forum, titled Master Business, was designed to capture the public interest in the television hit series Master Chef.

Delegates workshopped various business creation and growth themes such as how to write the best business plan, prospectus, marketing plan or financials.

Their ideas, developed in small groups, were presented to a panel of experts including joint venture capitalists, bankers and marketers.

Ecotourism operator Jacob Cassady was one delegate keen to learn more about marketing.

His business, Mungalla Station near Ingham, was highly commended at the Queensland Reconciliation Awards for Business.

"I know we have a good product at Mungalla Station but we need to do better getting ourselves out there," he said.

"I learnt a lot as a team member in a marketing workshop that I'll take back to our business. Networking with other people at the forum was really helpful too."

More information

www.reconciliation.qld.gov.au



Dreamin' makes big time

Indigenous art is hot!

That's the verdict based on sales and crowd numbers at the second annual Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF).

More than 10,500 visitors attended the three-day event in late August, enjoying its blend of traditional and contemporary visual arts, film, dance, music and theatre.

About 200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, born or based in Queensland, exhibited.

"CIAF is a celebration but at its roots, it has an economic base, trying to develop and

improve an economy for local artists," said artistic director Michael Snelling.

More than \$750,000 changed hands as buyers' representatives, gallery curators and art dealers from as far away as Europe snapped up works by emerging and established artists.

More information

www.ciaf.com.au

Above: Injinoo Dancers perform

Right: Shaun Edwards was one of 200 artists given global exposure at the fair.



A first for Queensland's most vulnerable

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a disability in Far North Queensland are reconnecting with their culture, families and communities, with the support of Jerry Callope, Disability Service's first Cultural Liaison Officer.

After years living away in care facilities, Chris* had lost contact with his family. A client of Cairns-based Life Without Barriers, he spent more and more of his days sitting in a chair, unresponsive.

Cathy*, also living in Life Without Barriers accommodation in Cairns, is 800 kilometres from her homeland and had only seen her relatives twice in 11 years.

Then Jerry Callope came into their lives.

Normanton-born Jerry is part the Queensland Government's Positive Futures program, seeking to improve the quality of life of adults with an intellectual or cognitive disability and challenging behaviour.

"Indigenous people make up a significant number of Far North Queensland adults with a disability receiving a restrictive practice, like containment or seclusion, as a response to challenging behaviour," Jerry says.

"Positive Futures encourages disability service providers to find other ways to support people through looking at their life, including their cultural identity, family and interests.

"People with complex needs like Chris and Cathy have to live many miles away from their homes to get the best care. I'm helping set up natural links so they can stay in touch with their family and community," Jerry says.

In just one month, Jerry was able to re-establish contact for Chris with his father, whom he hadn't seen in more than four years. A family reunion followed.

"It had been many years since he last saw his family but when Chris and his uncle embraced each other with a big hug, we could tell the bond was still there," Jerry says.

Jerry has also brought Cathy back in touch with her family. He has arranged for Cathy's parents to use the telephone at the health centre in their



remote home community so that their daughter is now just a phone call away.

Life Without Barriers is creating a senior disability support worker role to continue Jerry's important work.

More information

Phone Positive Futures
1800 177 120 or visit:
[www.disability.qld.gov.au/
positive-futures](http://www.disability.qld.gov.au/positive-futures)

*real names changed

NAIDOC Week statewide



NAIDOC Week in Queensland was a true celebration of The First Australians: a time to marvel — and hold the head high — about the world's oldest living cultures. *Namalata Thusi* caught the action across Queensland.

Takyla Hiles, Tyreece Hiles and Darrell Hiles wanted to know more about the didg after Craig Wright performed at Goondiwindi's celebrations.



In Brisbane City's George Street, passers-by came to a standstill as the Queensland Government held its very first public reception for NAIDOC Week, complete with traditional dance and music and a flag-raising ceremony.



Another Brisbane pedestrian stopper: giant styrofoam letters spelling out NAIDOC became an eye-catching public art installation in Queen Street Mall.



National NAIDOC winners

Congratulations to two Queenslanders honoured at the National NAIDOC Awards.



Ali Drummond, 91, was one of two to be named Male Elder of the Year. An expert pearl diver, and someone CSIRO has turned to as a source of knowledge of the Torres Strait marine environment, Mr Drummond is also a former champion lawn bowler. He's a great role model for healthy ageing.

National Youth of the Year
Jessica Smith, 25, the
Indigenous support teacher



at Brisbane's Lourdes Hill College, says education is the key to unlocking potential.

"I love my Aboriginal culture and I want the best for our people," she says. "That's what keeps me going. The youth I work with are so vibrant and full of joy, often in the face of adversity and hardship. Plus, working with Indigenous youth is working for my son's future too."



Michael Bulla performed before 3000 people in Mackay.



Carlene Oliver, Janis Ah Chee and Lucy Warrack were among 70 women who attended a leadership seminar, co-hosted by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS) and the Office for Women.



A march through city streets in Rockhampton was not only legal but loud and proud of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage.



More than an ear ache

Aboriginal kids are three times more likely to have hearing problems than non-Indigenous Australian children but Queensland's Deadly Ears program is making a resounding difference.

Otitis media — or middle ear infection — is common in childhood. It is the reason for about eight per cent of all child health presentations to general practitioners across Australia.

But in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities, the rate of chronic ear disease is

so high — about 40% — that it exceeds World Health Organisation's categorisation of a major public health problem.

"Otitis media is without doubt the most pressing health issue facing Aboriginal Australia," says Dr Christopher Perry who has spent decades

working in Indigenous communities.

He's also part of Queensland Health's Deadly Ears program, a one-of-a-kind service in Australia that is making a difference.

"Deadly Ears is about identifying the kids with hearing loss early, and

making sure there are support services for them — including audiology, speech pathology and occupational therapy," says Dr Perry.

"In doing that, the pain and suffering is reduced, as are the impacts on childhood development like speech and learning."

Ask Sarah...



Q. What are some of the signs of otitis media?

Ear ache, fever and rubbing or pulling the ear are classic signs but other signs may be inattention, always saying 'what?' when spoken to or having the TV turned up loud. Ask your GP or health clinic to check your kid's ears.

Q. How do you stop your toddler Charlie from squirming in your arms during an ear check-up?

Hold on tight. Your doctor, ear health worker or nurse will show you how. Your baby or toddler won't like it but it takes only a few minutes: grin and bear it! As soon as the check-up is over, loosen your grip and your baby will be fine.



Q. What advice do you wish every parent knew about otitis media?

Teach your child good hygiene from the start — washing hands before eating, after playing with

an animal, after going to the toilet — and how to blow his nose properly every day. That runny nose is full of harmful germs that can cause otitis media.

Since 2006, the program has assessed, repaired damage and restored hearing to more than 2000 children.

About 200 people from about 70 facilities, including more than 20 Indigenous communities, also have been trained in ear care.

Deadly Ears Community Engagement and Development Coordinator Sarah Boyne knows first-hand how painful middle ear infections can be.

"My first ear infection was when I was eight weeks old. I practically grew up on

painkillers and antibiotics!" says Sarah.

One of the lucky ones, Sarah has no permanent hearing impairment but she did suffer: "I was left out socially because I couldn't go swimming. I missed a lot of school. That affected my speech and language development and general learning: my understanding of some basic concepts was pretty fuzzy."

Now a mother, Sarah keeps a particular eye on toddler Charlie's health including ear checks.

Deadly Ears coming soon to...

Eidsvold — 5 October
Bamaga — 18 to 22 October
Doomadgee — 9 November
Cherbourg — 23 to 26 November
Woorabinda — 3 December

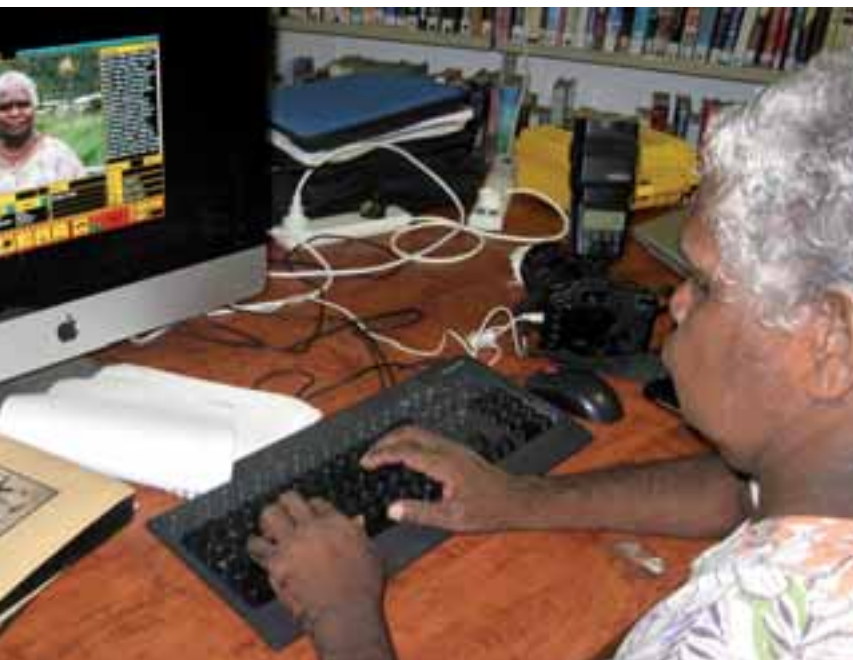
More information

Deadly Ears

Phone 07 3250 8509

email RCH-DeadlyEars@health.qld.gov.au

Around the state



Yesterday's ways sown for tomorrow

Wujal Wujal artist Doreen Creek uses seeds to create jewellery. She's adding her story and photographs of her work to a digital archive at her local Indigenous Knowledge Centre. It acts like a virtual museum, enabling knowledge and culture to be preserved, accessed,

managed, shared and promoted in a very 21st century way. The State Library of Queensland is trialling the ARA Iritija software in Wujal Wujal and Hope Vale communities.

More information:
<http://ikcnetwork.blogspot.com/>

Camooweal graduation marks new start

They came to Camooweal from places like Palm Island, Aurukun, Dajarra, Ingham, Rockhampton and Yarrabah with one aim: to gain workplace skills that would boost their job prospects.

Meet the 28 graduates of the Dugalunji Civil Construction and Mining Skills Prevocational

Training Program, a Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.

Over 13 weeks, they have learnt horticulture, landscape rehabilitation, mining, building and civil construction skills and are now workforce-ready.

More information:
1300 369 925



Inspired Suncoasters

A recent youth motivation day at Nambour proved a talent finder.

The event, targeting 15 to 25 year olds, was full of activity: from traditional fire-starting and dance to an AFL workshop, face painting and a contemporary performer workshop, getting youth up on stage to rock.

"It was a wonderful demonstration of the amazing skills and talents of young people in our Sunshine Coast community," reports Youth Justice officer Toni Jenkins.

Right: *Lucy Killip paints Tai Lea Hawkins' face at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth Motivation Day in Nambour.*



Memories to dance to

Memories flooded back recently when University of Queensland (UQ) archives were opened up to members of the Mornington Island Dancers.

Mornington Island has been the subject of anthropological research since 1974 and UQ's Aboriginal Environments Research Centre, as well as the Fryer Library and Anthropology Museum, holds a vast collection of photographs, documents and objects.

"This visit provided an ideal opportunity for the group to discuss our ongoing research and view and request copies of photographs," said PhD candidate Cameo Dalley whose research focuses on the social relations of people living on the Gulf island.

Dancer Roxanne Thomas, a little girl when UQ researchers first came to the island, said, "The thing we love best is seeing our photos."



Legendary Elders

Six Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were elevated to legendary status during Seniors Week in August.

They were among 15 older Queenslanders who received 2010 Premier's Awards for Queensland Seniors in recognition of their volunteer work.

Pictured below are: Cherbourg's Sandra Morgan (far left), a driving force behind the Cherbourg Historical Precinct; Doreen

Ball and Lily Yougie from the Wujjal Wujal Warranga Justice Group; Aunty Annie Roe and Clifford Appo who support the Bundaberg Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing and Advancement Society; and Laidley's Aunty Therese Webster. Read her story on page 8.

For more info on the other winners, go to www.communityservices.qld.gov.au/seniors/events/premiersawards/



Congratulations Coen families for achieving **90%** school attendance consistently during 2009, meeting the state average.

Mark has audience rolling in the aisles

About 120 Cooktown residents were rapt when one of Queensland's funniest Indigenous performers, Mark 'Chasing the Lollyman' Sheppard performed his side-splitting take on media, popular culture and urban Indigenous identity.

His one-man show was brought to Cooktown by Gungarde Community Centre Aboriginal Corporation in partnership with Cooktown ATSI Office.

Mark's show is one of seven projects to receive one-off state-federal

Indigenous Theatre Fund support, boosting Indigenous theatre practice in Queensland.

More information Indigenous Theatre Fund www.arts.qld.gov.au

Straight shootin' Susan

Ten months ago, Susan Thomas (right) joined the Rowes Bay Archery Club in Townsville hoping to improve her fitness.

Now she's the first Aboriginal woman to represent Australia in archery at an international competition.

In August, Susan flew to Germany as part of the Australian team competing in the five-day World Field Archery Championships.

Susan likened her event, the Ladies Bare Bow Recurve, to a cross-country trek, shooting arrows along the way at circular or animal-shaped paper targets from distances of between six and 73 metres.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think this would happen," Susan, 47, told *Namalata Thusi* as she packed her bags for the flight of a lifetime.

"I was at the crossroads in my life and wanted to feel better — lose a bit of weight, strengthen and tone — and had friends who were archers".

"It's definitely improved my upper body strength — my nephews tease me about my deadly upper arm and chest muscles — and the breathing techniques have helped my asthma too.

"Age is absolutely no barrier to staying active and getting into shape: I'm proof of that!"



Cunnamulla kids scramble for deadly sports

More than 100 kids jumped at the chance to meet some of Queensland's top sporting identities recently, when the Department of Communities' Deadly Sports program came to Cunnamulla.

Former Brisbane Bullets coach Brian Kerle ran a day-long coaching clinic with ex-Brisbane Bronco Mick De Vere and former Brisbane Lion Darryl White.

Rugby league and softball were the sports of choice at Cunnamulla.

Deadly Sports goes to primary schools around the state, encouraging sport and physical activity to become a part of everyday life.

More information
P 07 3235 4196
E deadlysports@communities.qld.gov.au

Sports clubs pitch for \$\$\$

Up to \$50,000 is available for projects that get communities moving!

The Sport and Recreation Active Inclusion Program funds community activities and education so that more individuals and groups get active.

Sports clubs can also seek funding — up to \$5000 —

to help with skills training, volunteer development and participation.

Applications close 15 October.

More information
[www.sportrec.qld.gov.au/
Funding/Newfunding
programs/Active
InclusionProgram.aspx](http://www.sportrec.qld.gov.au/Funding/Newfundingprograms/ActiveInclusionProgram.aspx)

October

- 1 *Flash Women* photographic exhibition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in Queensland.
State Library of Queensland.
Free. Until 31 January 2011

- 14-31
The story of the miracles at Cookie's table
Cremorne Theatre,
South Bank
www.qpac.com.au

- 22-23
Didgeridoo Festival
Gin Gin Showgrounds
jinjinburra@dodo.com.au

- 24 Dreamtime Gundooos perform in Global Grooves
Mackay
www.mackay.qld.gov.au

- 29 Wujal Wujal Day

- 29-31
Island Vibe Festival Point Lookout, Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island)
www.islandvibe.com.au

November

- 2 Melbourne Cup ('Bank' holidays in many regional council areas)

- 5 Dan Ropeyarn Cup Day, Bamaga

- 7 Black Diggers Remembrance Ceremony
8am, Yugambah War Memorial, Burleigh Heads
More info 07 3807 6155 or www.yugambah.com.au

- 12-13
Cunnamulla Fella Festival
John Kerr Park
www.paroo.qld.gov.au or 46558470

- 26-28
First Contact 17th annual Sports and Cultural Festival
Robbie Williams Recreation Reserve, Camp Hill, Brisbane
More info 07 3420 4291 or email admin@firstcontact.asn.au

- 30 St Andrew's Family Festival, Poruma, Torres Strait

December

- 3 International Day of People with a Disability

- 5 International Volunteer Day

- 9 Native Title Determination Day — Ugar, Torres Strait

- 10 Native Title Determination Day — Badu, Torres Strait

- 13 Native Title Determination Day — Iama, Torres Strait

- 15 Native Title Determination Day — Boigu, Torres Strait

- 25 Christmas Day

- 26 Boxing Day

- 27 Christmas Day public holiday

- 28 Boxing Day public holiday

Be informed and inspired on the issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. Subscribe now to *Namalata Thusi*. It's free!

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winds and waters we all now share...*

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