



# Who's Deadly? The Countdown Begins! DEADLYS FINALISTS ANNOUNCED – VOTE NOW!

**S**trong finalists in all 2011 Deadly Award categories reflect a big year of achievement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Australia.

The 2011 Deadlys were launched today at the Sydney Opera House in a ceremony that featured Aboriginal dance company Descendance and performances by Casey Donovan – and a blast from a didgeridoo rather than a drum roll as the finalists were announced.

Plenty of Australia's talent turned up to support the 17th Deadly Awards led by launch host acclaimed broadcaster Rhoda Roberts and SBS's Karla Grant.

The finalists' list represented the year that was for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia. In the film category, Mad Bastards, produced by Broome's Pigram brothers was, perhaps, not a surprise nominee, considering the film's success across Australia.

Bec Cole's Here I Am, a moving portrait of a mother/daughter relationship, is a finalist across two award categories. Similarly, the success in Cannes of Ivan Sens' Toomelah is reflected in the film's place as a finalist.

Junior Wimbledon champion Ashleigh Barty is a finalist in Female Sportsperson of the Year, and Patrick Mills, now playing in the NBA, joins the Male Sportsperson of the Year finalists.

Most Promising New Talent in Music finalist Benny Walker joins a strong line-up in this category, along with Iwantja Band, Corey Webster, Karnage & Darknis and Knowledge Bones.

Up-and-coming sporting talent across soccer, boxing, wrestling, netball and even Muay Thai holds the promise of future stars.

Health, Education, Employment and Broadcasting reveal the work that goes on behind the scenes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities across Australia, with three Indigenous-driven health programs coming out of the NT.

There were no surprises in the Outstanding Contribution to Literature category with finalists of the calibre of 2011 Miles Franklin Award winner Kim Scott, alongside Sally Morgan, Anita Heiss, young graphic novelist Brenton E McKenna and well-known writer Gayle Kennedy.

Executive producer and founder of the Deadlys, Gavin Jones spoke at the launch of the importance of the Deadly Awards to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, particularly young people.

"It always amazes me that people, no matter where they are from, know about the Deadlys," Mr Jones said.

"I've often wondered why the mention of the Deadly Awards always brings a knowing smile to people's faces, Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike.

"I think it's because of the nature of the event: above all it's real, by the people, for the people; it recognises the incredible creative force and talent of our people and it shows that we are in control of our destiny and that despite the past, we continue to achieve great things – great things now and we will continue to achieve into the future.

"The Deadlys also aims to provide positive role models from all walks of life to young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people around Australia."

The Deadlys will be held at the Sydney Opera House on 27 September 2011. Voting is now open to all for the 2011 Deadlys at [www.vibe.com.au](http://www.vibe.com.au)

The Australian Electoral Commission's Indigenous Electoral Participation Program officers will be distributing a reply-paid how to vote card for the Deadlys this year, in areas where officers are located across Australia, together with distribution of the reply-paid voting card in Deadly Vibe magazine and the Koori Mail.

For all media enquiries, please contact Maryann Weston on (02) 4822 8230 or [maryann@gjcvibe.com.au](mailto:maryann@gjcvibe.com.au) Alternatively, Jake Keane on (02) 9361 0140 or [jake@vibe.com.au](mailto:jake@vibe.com.au)

Embargoed until noon, 15 July 2011



The National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander, Music, Sport, Entertainment & Community Awards

# 2011 DEADLYS

Sydney Opera House, 8pm, Tuesday, 27 September, 2011

*who's Deadly in 2011?*

# 2011 DEADLYS

## *Music*

### **Most Promising New Talent in Music\***

Benny Walker - VIC  
Corey Webster aka Yung Nooky - NSW  
Karnage & Darknis - SA  
Knowledge Bones - WA  
Iwantja Band - NT

### **Album of the Year**

Gurrumul Yunupingu – Rrakala – NT  
Leah Flanagan – Nirvana Nights – NT  
Buddy Knox – Buddy's Blues – NSW  
Stiff Gins – Wind & Water – NSW  
Busby Marou – Busby Marou – QLD

### **Single of the Year**

Street Warriors – Summertime – NSW  
Knowledge Bones – Yeah Dard – WA  
Last Kinection – Happy People – NSW & QLD  
Yung Warriors – Just a Thought – VIC  
Briggs – The Wrong Brother – VIC

### **Band of the Year**

Dale Huddleston and the Riverbank Band – ACT  
The Last Kinection – NSW & QLD  
Black Image – QLD  
Dubmarine – QLD  
The Medics – QLD

### **Male Artist of the Year**

Dan Sultan – VIC  
Buddy Knox – NSW  
Gurrumul Yunupingu – NT  
Troy Cassar-Daley – NSW  
John Bennett – WA

### **Female Artist of the Year**

Jessica Mauboy – NT  
Naomi Pigram – WA  
Deborah Cheetham – NSW  
Casey Donovan – NSW  
Shellie Morris – NT

## *Sport*

### **Most Promising New Talent in Sport\***

Tahj Minniecon – Soccer – QLD  
Fred Mundraby – Boxing – QLD  
Shane Parker – Wrestling – NSW  
Thomas Boyle – Muay Thai – SA  
Tanisha Stanton – Netball – NSW

### **Outstanding Achievement in AFL**

Andrew Walker – Carlton  
Chris Yarran – Carlton  
Liam Jurrah – Melbourne  
Leroy Jetta – Essendon  
Stephen Hill – Fremantle

### **Female Sportsperson of the Year**

Kirby Bentley – AFL – WA  
Kyah Simon – Soccer – NSW  
Rohanee Cox – Basketball - WA  
Ashleigh Barty – Tennis – QLD  
Meghan Rutledge – Motocross – NSW

### **Male Sportsperson of the Year**

Benn Harradine – Discus – NSW  
Daniel Geale – Boxing – TAS  
Patrick Mills – Basketball – ACT  
Kurtley Beale – Rugby Union – NSW  
Des Abbott – Hockey – NT

### **Outstanding Achievement in NRL**

Ben Barba – Bulldogs  
Jharal Yow Yeh – Brisbane Broncos  
Jamal Idris – Bulldogs  
Chris Sandow – Rabbitohs  
Johnathan Thurston – Cowboys



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## *The Arts*

### **Female Actor of the Year**

Rarriwuy Hick – Wrong Skin (play) – NSW  
Deborah Mailman – Offspring – QLD & NSW  
Marcia Langton – Here I Am – VIC  
Pauline Whyman – Here I Am – VIC  
Shai Pittman – Here I Am – NSW

### **Male Actor of the Year**

Aaron Fa'Aoso – East West 101 – QLD  
Jack Charles – Jack Charles v The Crown – VIC  
Aaron Pedersen – City Homicide – VIC & NT  
Dean Daley-Jones – Mad Bastards – WA  
Richard Green – Snowtown – NSW

### **Dancer of the Year\***

Albert David – QLD  
Kathy Marika – NT  
Darren Compton – NSW  
Medika Thorpe – NSW  
Deborah Brown – QLD

### **Visual Artist of the Year\***

De Greer-Yindimincarlie – QLD  
Michael Cook – QLD  
Helen McCarthy Tyalmuty – QLD  
Jandamarra Cadd – QLD  
Lisa Michl – QLD

### **Outstanding Achievement in Literature\***

Kim Scott – That Deadman Dance – WA  
Gayle Kennedy – Yarning Strong Series – NSW  
Brenton E McKenna – Ubbys Underdogs – WA  
Anita Heiss – Paris Dreaming - NSW  
Sally Morgan – Charlie Burr and  
the Three Stolen Dollars – WA

### **Film of the Year**

Shifting Shelter 4  
Here I Am  
Mad Bastards  
Jandamarra's War  
Toomelah

### **TV Show of the Year**

On the Edge – NITV  
Living Black – SBS  
Marngrook Footy Show – NITV & ABC  
The Barefoot Rugby League Show – NITV  
Yamba's Playtime – Imparja Television



## *Community*

### **Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Worker of the Year**

Craig Bloxome, Therapeutic Residential Care Program, Anglicare Tasmania

Muriel Jaragba, Aboriginal Mental Health Worker, Groote Eylandt, NT

Alice Taylay, Wujal Wujal Primary Health Care Clinic via Cooktown, QLD

Sharyn Medway, Aboriginal Didgeridoo/ Art Project, Goulburn, NSW

Colin O'Donnell, Health Worker, Maari Ma Primary Health Care Service, Broken Hill NSW

### **Outstanding Achievement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health\***

Western Desert Kidney Health Project – Kalgoorlie WA

NPY Women's Council (Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council Aboriginal Corporation) – "No Safe Amount – The Effects of Alcohol in Pregnancy" – Alice Springs NT

Yamba Roadshow, Imparja Roadshow – Alice Springs NT

Aboriginal Research Health Promotion Strategy – Groote Eylandt NT

Maari Ma Health Worker Trainee Program – Western NSW

### **Outstanding Achievement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education\***

Barbara Tapsell – Aboriginal & Islander Education Worker, Darwin High School NT

Abergowrie College – QLD

Daniel Fusi – Menindee Central School – Western NSW

Deadly Ute Project – through Wimmera Hub, Horsham VIC

Charline Emzin-Boyd, Aboriginal Education Coordinator, NSW Teachers Federation, NSW

### **Outstanding Achievement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment\***

Brian Dowd – Black on Track – NSW

Charles Williams – Crown Ltd – NSW

MEGT, Indigenous Apprenticeship & Trainee Network – NSW

NSW Health – Nursing and Midwifery – NSW

Andrew Jackomos – Justice Department – VIC

### **Broadcaster of the Year\***

Bernard Namok Jnr – Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting – NT

Kevin Ebsworth – Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting – NT

Anthony Brown – 3KND, 1503AM – Melbourne, VIC

Mark Ross (Munkimuk) – Koori Radio 2LND, 93.7FM – Sydney, NSW

Karla Hart – Noongar Radio, 100.9FM – Perth, WA

\* These awards are judged 50% by popular vote and 50% by the Deadly Executive Academy.



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## **DEADLYS HALL OF FAME**

**The Ella Award for Lifetime  
Achievement in Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander Sport**

**The Jimmy Little Award for Lifetime  
Achievement in Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander Music**

## Music

### Most Promising New Talent in Music\*

#### Benny Walker

Talented singer/songwriter Benny Walker formed his first band at the tender age of 12. He cut his teeth on classic blues, surf and folk before finding his own voice in the raw honesty of acoustic roots music. His intuitive, heartfelt songwriting and rich, soulful voice leave no doubt he means every word he sings.

Born and bred in Echuca, Vic, Benny inherited his passion for music from his father and grandfather. He recorded his first EP, *No Cares*, in 2007, and after travelling around Eastern and Central Australia came home with a pocketful of songs and a determination to share his music with the world.

This year has already been eventful for Benny. His performances have included a string of live shows along the East Coast with comrade Tom Richardson, and he has some exciting festival appearances planned for later in the year. Benny's music combines raw, powerful, honesty and upbeat, catchy rhythms to deliver captivating music that will have you humming for days.

#### Corey Webster aka Yung Nooky

From searching around the house trying to find a dollar to feed himself to now living the dream, Indigenous Australian rapper Corey Webster (aka Yung Nooky) recently returned from the US where he recorded a track with Black Eyed Peas' member Taboo. Corey believes this honour was the perfect catalyst to take the voice of Australia's culture and music to America.

Corey Webster hails from Nowra on NSW's south coast. He has performed his music throughout Australia and is an aspiring Aboriginal hip hop artist from the Niara tribe, part of the Yuin Nation. In recent years, he has also been involved in a cultural research project at University of Wollongong, taking time to speak with researchers and demonstrate his music making and performance skills.

#### Karnage & Darknis

Karnage gains immense satisfaction from producing his own music. A proud Arrernte man from the Central part of Australia, Karnage moved to Adelaide at an early age and started writing and developing his own raps under the influence of the local Oz hip hop scene. His introduction to the work of many well-known rappers led to an interest in free styling, rapping with others and writing tracks by the age of 13. After building on his production skills for over 10 years, Karnage is now working alongside female artist Darknis, a Ngarrindjeri/Kokatha woman from South Australia. Darknis has always

loved expressing hip hop music on stage. Performing about and for her people gives her gratitude and strength.

Karnage has travelled to every community in South Australia, performing without payment, while working on a CD project for Nunkin Warin Yuntin health service. His work as a mentor at Kurruru Youth Performing Arts has involved teaching rap workshops to Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth. He finds this work very rewarding not only for himself, but also for his community.

#### Knowledge Bones

As someone who is fiercely proud of his Aboriginal heritage, WA-born Knowledge Bones was spellbound by music from an early age, embracing a diverse range of artists. Knowledge also raps under the name Black Dundee – an ode to his Indigenous roots – and is quickly making a name for himself as one of the country's most promising MCs. With a deft skill for freestyling, he is becoming known for turning heads wherever and whenever he spits.

When your first ever official gig is opening for the legendary Grandmaster Flash at the age of 20, it's pretty clear you're in the express-lane of hip hop's superhighway, heading into an exciting future. With his live performances continuing to gain him a loyal fan base and excitement surrounding his album release, Knowledge will be in the Class of 2011's Australian hip hop heavyweights. Aside from his musical endeavours, Knowledge has aspirations to run workshops for Indigenous children in various communities around Australia, with the aim of instilling in them the same strength of spirit he has had to forge in his rise up the hip hop ladder.

#### Iwantja Band

Iwantja Band are on their way... They played a record 10 sets at Dreaming Festival earlier this year, received a Breakthrough Grant courtesy of the Federal Government, are playing as part of the Sand Tracks tour with Manuel Dhurrkay (Saltwater Band) and will travel to the US in 2011.

Iwantja Band incorporates many styles of music, from reggae and rock, to country, blues and some instrumental. The group was received with great acclaim throughout 2010 and 2011, culminating in a performance at the 25th anniversary of the handback of Uluru to its traditional owners. Band members Jeremy Whiskey, Jacob Baker, Steven Brumby, Stewart Gaykamangu and Angus Pearson came from different corners of the Southern Central Desert to join their manager Mark Smerdon to launch the band's new album, *Palya*, at the Wide Open Space festival in Alice Springs in April. Most of the songs on the album are in Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara, the languages spoken at Iwantja (also known as Indulkana).

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## Single of the Year

### Street Warriors – Summertime

Rising from the ashes of groundbreaking hip hop group Local Knowledge, Street Warriors are forging ahead on the Australian and international music scene. Brothers Abie Wright (aka Predator) and Warwick Wright (aka Wok) are well respected pioneers of Indigenous Australian hip hop. They have rebuilt a loyal following around the country on the back of their energy-filled live shows, poignant lyrics and unique musical messages. Street Warriors draw their name, inspiration and force from their ancestors, many of whom were at the forefront of fighting for Aboriginal rights. They use their music and talent to improve and educate the prospects and attitudes of not only young Aboriginal Australians, but all Australians. Bursting from the speakers with their unique energy, the Street Warriors' debut album, *Unstoppable Force*, reveals a soundscape ranging from deep beats and tribal chants through to street raps and soulful RnB collaborations, as well as a Newie rock edge on tracks like 'Summertime'. It is the culmination of seven years of hard work and showcases the group's unique energy, realness and ability to still say what they want.

### Knowledge Bones – Yeah Dard

The release of his latest album *Eyes on the Prize* has rapper Knowledge Bones right up there with the best with his new single 'Yeah Dard'. Growing up in a lower middle-class suburb in WA, Knowledge was spellbound by music from an early age. Coming from a mixed Aboriginal and Anglo-Saxon background, he never had it easy.

"I express my anger in my music which might come across as cocky in some songs, but this is so people don't get a chance to stand over me," says Knowledge. "If they do, I come back hard and I don't quit for nothing."

Buoyed on by the likes of Talib Kweli, Mos Def, Lil Wayne, The Clipse, Jay-Z, Common, Linkin Park, Ice Cube, Nas, Big L, Big Punisher, Cuban Link, Notorious BIG and 2pac, his skills were soon recognised and the momentum has continued over the years, with Knowledge scoring himself performing slots with the best in the business. He believes the internet has changed the music industry, particularly for the wealth of exposure it gives to artists. Among his many gigs in 2010, Knowledge played live sets at Kings of Perth Rosemount Hotel and Good Vibrations Festival 2010, and hosted the PTAA Tattoo Carnival in Perth.

### The Last Kinection – Happy People

No strangers to the music industry, The Last Kinection drop 'Happy People', a feel-good summer jam taken from their new album *Next Of Kin*. The group has established

themselves as an empowering lyric-driven group with melodic production and a progressive hip hop feel, with an Indigenous essence. Tackling issues facing Australia has become their mantra. Great humour and captivating entertainment is what gives TLK's personality such charm.

The Indigenous hip hop trio made up of brother and sister Weno and Nay, as well as DJ Jaytee, believe their music and image is a way of expressing their pride and honour, respect and knowledge for their culture and elders. Drawing influence from their Kabi Kabi heritage, TLK represent what it is to be Aboriginal in today's Australia with great intelligence, integrity and humour. In 2010, The Last Kinection signed with Elefant Traks before taking out two Deadlys for Outstanding Achievement in RnB/ Hip Hop and TLK's Naomi Wenitong (Nay) for Female Artist of the Year. This year will see TLK in nine different communities within NSW as part of the 'Hip Hop Campaign', raising awareness about Hepatitis C alongside the Department of Health. The Last Kinection have a close connection to the community, running music workshops about the music business, production, singing, MCing and DJ techniques, songwriting and performance.

### Yung Warriors – Just a Thought

The Yung Warriors aims were to start earning income, polish their stage show, record a brilliantly produced album, do live shows for their communities and in the mainstream, to tour regionally. Countless gigs later, they have achieved all they set out for and more by performing their original style of music – a blend of culture, clubby, acoustic, hip hop and rock.

Tjimba Possum Burns and Narjic Day Burns share a father in Selwyn Burns, the legendary rock artist. Tjimba is recognised as a brilliant musician and performer, playing guitar and didgeridoo with total confidence. He is joined on stage by his brother Narjic who also lives for culture, music and dance and writes his own hard rock tunes. Danny Ramzan completes the trio with his strong natural sense of hip hop writing and producing.

The group has just released their first single 'Just a Thought' from the album of the same name. Up-and-coming Melbourne video film producer Josh Davis produced the official video, which was shot in and around the streets of Fitzroy and Collingwood and includes the people and cultural landmarks within the Indigenous community who have a long-held association with this area. Yung Warriors continues to actively support its community and lift the standards of the Indigenous urban/hip hop movement, from voluntary community gigs to massive international support slots for artists such as Akon, 50 Cent, The Game, Outlawz and The Big Day Out.

## Briggs – The Wrong Brother

From the moment Briggs released his debut EP, the brilliant and groundbreaking *Homemade Bombs* (2009), it was obvious to everyone that this marked the arrival of a powerful and unique voice on the scene. Powered by a rapid-fire, melodic, direct approach, Briggs was as funny as he was deep. Then came a great opportunity – the opening slot on a sold-out national tour with the Hilltop Hoods. The Hoods instantly connected with Briggs and were so impressed by his performance they took him along on their 2009 European tour, and eventually offered him a home at their fledgling label Golden Era Records.

All this has paved the way for the imminent release of his debut album, *The Blacklist*. While *Homemade Bombs* gave us a taste of what he can do, *The Blacklist* is nothing short of brilliance. It's a genuinely unique symphony of words, thoughts and sounds that have the potential to propel him onto the national stage overnight. The album features a plethora of bangers, but the standout by far is the breathtaking lead track 'The Wrong Brother', another monster creation by Briggs and brought to life by director Ellery Ryan Jnr. Briggs got a bit of help making *The Blacklist* from a few of his hard-hitting colleagues. Guest vocalists include Hilltop Hoods, Trials and Dylan Smith (of Direct Influence).

## Album of the Year

### Gurrumul Yunupingu – Rrakala

Gurrumul is a member of the Gumatj clan of north east Arnhem Land and it is the songs and stories of the Gumatj clan that Gurrumul has adapted into contemporary song styles. At the age of 15 he was identified as an extremely talented multi-instrumentalist and joined the ARIA Award winning band Yothu Yindi where he played an integral role until 1992. Gurrumul is earning a reputation internationally as well as nationally. Rolling Stone Magazine recently referred to him as "Australia's most important voice". He is also earning the attention of the mainstream music scene in Australia and was nominated for several 2008 ARIA Awards, including the coveted Male Artist of the Year and Album of the Year. His debut self-titled album *Gurrumul* released in February 2008 received worldwide reviews. This year saw a new release from Gurrumul, *Rrakala*. Once again, his incredibly moving voice wraps itself around deeply felt lyrics. On *Rrakala*, Gurrumul has added some extra stylistic instrumental techniques, including his multi-instrumental talents including piano, drums and harmonies.

## Leah Flanagan – Nirvana Nights

*Nirvana Nights* released in 2010, was recorded by Leah Flanagan in Melbourne, with musical collaborators Stephen Schram and featuring Liz Stringer. Leah Flanagan is a singer-songwriter from Darwin and the stories told on *Nirvana Nights* are vignettes of Leah's life.

The title track is about a little music venue in Darwin called the Nirvana Restaurant that has been supporting local musicians in Darwin for nearly 15 years. It's a place where Leah has performed often and also worked as a waitress. Another track, 'September Song', is about the little things in life that make one happy, and was inspired by a boat called the Day Marie that Leah has sailed on numerous times in the Darwin Harbour. Having recently finished up a national tour to promote the album with shows in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra and Adelaide, Leah has been earning some great reviews.

## Buddy Knox – Buddy's Blues

Buddy Knox first picked up a guitar at just 10 years of age. He was voted Australia's Best New Blues Talent at the Australian Blues Music CHAIN Awards in 2008. Buddy was also a Finalist for Male Artist of the Year in the 2009 Deadly Award. His big ambition as a teenager was to "play like Chuck Berry". With his passion for guitar, his natural gift and music being an important aspect of his life, Buddy's destiny with the guitar was set. After winning numerous awards and appearing at many festivals around the country he released his debut album, *got da blues* in January 2008.

Last year Buddy recorded his second album, *Buddy's Blues*. This album includes Buddy's own works and a couple of his favourite covers. Buddy made the 2011 APRA Development Awards finals in the songwriter category for his original songs from this album. This album also includes the National Musiccoz Awards 2010 Top Ten Finalist: 'Squeaky Chair Blues'.

## Stiff Gins – Wind & Water

Since forming over 11 years ago, the Stiff Gins, Nardi Simpson and Kaleena Briggs, have travelled the world, received prestigious awards and created a loyal fan base with their songs and performances. They've performed for troops in the Middle East and remote communities in Australia.

In March this year they released their third album *Wind & Water*. Fans of the Stiff Gins' original sound won't be disappointed by the album as they have remained true to their acoustic roots. The new album *Wind & Water* reflects both Nardi and Kaleena's heritage as saltwater sistas. From the radiance of 'Yandool', a welcome sung



in the traditional language of Kaleena's people, through the shimmering pop sensibilities of first single 'Diamonds on the Water', to the gentle country closing 'River Song', each of the 11 tracks on *Wind & Water* capture moments and turning points in the women's lives.

## **Busby Marou – Busby Marou**

The boys from Rockhampton, Busby Marou, released their debut self-titled album in June 2011. Their debut includes the emotive first single 'Biding My Time', which is steadily becoming a hit. The quality of the songs, Tom Busby's cheeky on-stage presence and Jeremy Marou's freakish musical ability on all instruments combine to deliver a distinctly Australian way of sharing stories. Their unique songwriting brings together harmonies, musicianship and a natural ability with guitars.

Most of the Australian music community was first introduced to Busby Marou with their inclusion on the Finn Tribute album *He Will Have His Way*. Their version of 'Better Be Home Soon' did a great job of garnering interest within the music industry. Busby Marou also took out the 2009 Deadly Award for 'Most Promising New Talent in Music' and a Q Song Award for their song 'Paint My Cup'.

## **Band of the Year**

### **Dale Huddleston and the Riverbank Band**

Dale Robert Huddleston and The Riverbank Band have been performing their original pop and rock songs and supporting many other Aboriginal Artists for the past 20 years. Based in Canberra, they have released the independent, original albums *Simple Things* (1999) and *Home is Where the Heart is* (2005), as well as the country cover albums *Songs You Know by Heart* and *Middle & Country Rockin* in 2010.

They have supported class acts like Jessica Mauboy, Blue King Brown, Casey Donovan, Yothu Yindi, Russell Morris, Shane Howard and the Goanna Band, Jimmy Little, Archie Roach and Troy Cassar-Daley. They have also performed extensively around NSW and interstate, including at the Dreaming, National Folk, and National Multicultural Festivals, as well as the National NAIDOC Awards and other regional and country-music festivals, such as The Annual Cultural Showcase in Tamworth.

### **The Last Kinection**

The Last Kinection (TLK) are a hip hop trio from Newcastle, comprising Joel Wenitong (Weno), Naomi Wenitong and Jacob Turier (DJ Jaytee). They all had independent prior success, with Naomi (MC Nay) being one half of pop group Shakaya, while Joel and Jacob were part of the group Local Knowledge.

The Last Kinection's debut album, *Nutches*, was featured on Triple J and community radio across Australia. They followed this up with *The Next Of Kin* last year.

They have played at major festivals throughout Australia including The Peats Ridge Festival, The Dreaming, Groovin' The Moo, the Field Day Festival, the Sydney Festival and many more.

The band came back from a disastrous car accident in September 2008 to create more amazing music and tour with Public Enemy as well as a national tour.

TLK won 'Most Outstanding Achievement in Hip Hop and R&B' at the Deadly Awards in 2009 and 2010. Naomi Wenitong also won 'Best Female Artist' at the Deadlys in 2010.

### **Black Image**

Black Image is a five-piece band from Cooktown, QLD. After forming in 1997, the band travelled through many parts of Australia, performing their blend of rock, reggae, country, blues and traditional Indigenous rock music. The band has been at the forefront of the music scene in Cape York, producing two albums *Durrbil/Dikarrba* (2002) and a single on a compilation album called *Indigenous Saltwater Songs, Beautiful Land and Sea* (2007).

Black Image band were named Band of the Year at the 2007 Deadly Awards. The band consists of five brothers: Clifford, Damien, Anselm, Dylan and Vincent Harrigan.

They have performed at various events including The Music Oz Awards, the Woodford Festival, the Village Festival of Yeppoon and the Laura Dance Festival. They have supported acts such as Troy Cassar-Daley, The Wolverines and Yothu Yindi.

### **Dubmarine**

Hailing from Brisbane, Dubmarine combine reggae, dancehall, electronic and acoustic musical styles. Their debut offering *Dub From the Deep*, with Brisbane Dub technician Drew-ID, was released in September 2007 and received regular airplay.

Dubmarine have played throughout Australia and New Zealand with support slots for The Black Seeds (NZ), The Red Eyes, The Cornerstone Roots (NZ), and Sydney skankers, Kingtide. They have also performed at The Dreaming Festival, Woodford Folk Festival, Island Vibe Festival, The Speigeltent, Valley Fiesta and Reggaetown festivals. In 2009, Dubmarine performed at Parklife, The Australasian Work Music Expo, U Tribe Festival and the Brisbane Festival.

In 2010, Dubmarine released their latest single, 'Chip', the first new music from the band since their debut. In mid 2010, they also embarked on their debut tour of Europe taking to the international stage in festival slots in The Netherlands, Belgium and The Czech Republic.

# 2011 DEADLYS

## The Medics

The Medics, from Cairns, are no strangers to the Deadly Awards, having taken out Band of the Year in 2010.

They began in 2009 as guests on the Groundswell tour (an initiative of Arts Victoria), and have since shared the stage with bands such as Faker, Blue King Brown, Something with Numbers, The Panics, The Grates, Scribe, Kisschasy, The Amity Affliction, Behind Crimson Eyes and City Riots. They released an EP called This Boat We Call Love last year to critical acclaim and have recently released a single 'Beggars' in iTunes.

The Medics are a tight-knit group of friends and family. The band features Jhindu Lawrie, Charles Thomas, Andrew Thomson and Kahl Wallace on electric and acoustic guitars, bass, drums, glockenspiel, keyboards, percussion and three-part vocal harmonies. They are also mentored by Jhindu Lawrie's father, Bunna Lawrie, from the legendary band Coloured Stone.

## Male Artist of the Year

### Dan Sultan

With a voice that is simultaneously sweet and rough, this young front man knows how to turn on a crowd. His first album, *Homemade Biscuits*, was released with the help of John Butler's Seed program and he won Single of the Year at the 2007 Deadly Awards for his song 'Your Love is Like a Song'.

Since then, he has gone from strength to strength with performances at Sydney's State Theatre, with the likes of Paul Kelly, Kev Carmody and Missy Higgins during the *Cannot Buy My Soul* concert.

In 2009, Dan joined the acclaimed Black Arm Band, sharing the stage with Australian music greats such as Archie Roach, Jimmy Little and Shane Howard. His second album, *Get Out While You Can*, was released in 2009 and reached number one on the independent Australian charts and was a Triple J feature album.

In 2010, he appeared in the feature film *Bran Nue Dae*, alongside Geoffrey Rush and Missy Higgins. Dan won two Deadly Awards last year: Male Artist of the Year and Single of the Year – for 'Letter'.

### Buddy Knox

Described as Australia's answer to BB King, Buddy Knox has been playing guitar since he was 10 years of age and his big ambition was to "play like Chuck Berry". His father is Roger Knox of Euraba band fame.

In 2006, he formed the Buddy Knox Blues Band, which won the Best New Talent Category in the Australian Blues 'Chain'

Awards at Goulburn in February 2009. He was also a finalist for the Best Male Vocal Category. His debut album, *got da blues* (2008), won the Newcastle Blues Awards Album of the Year.

He has toured with big names such as the Warumpi Band, Troy Cassar-Daley, Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody.

### Gurrumul Yunupingu

Rolling Stone magazine called him "Australia's most important voice" after hearing his double platinum debut self-titled album *Gurrumul* (2008).

His highly anticipated second studio album *Rrakala* was released this year to massive critical acclaim and international success. On this album, Gurrumul has taken the next step in diversifying his musical prowess. He journeys deeper into his Aboriginal identity with his new material and revisits his family's songwriting and old band material. His formidable instrumental abilities on drums, piano and nylon string acoustic and electric guitars are evident on this album, but most of all it is his angelic voice that captures the listener and which Sting has described as being "like the voice of a higher being".

Gurrumul was born on Elcho Island, off the coast of Arnhem Land. He is from the Gumatj clan of the Yolngu and his mother is from the Galpu nation. He sings in the Yolngu language and his extraordinary and captivating talent is truly unique. He was an integral member of Yothu Yindi and also plays with the hugely popular Saltwater Band.

### Troy Cassar-Daley

Troy Cassar-Daley is at the top of the Australian country music scene and he has a reputation among his peers in the Australian music industry as being the most loved and respected singer/songwriter in country music.

His career spans eight albums over 16 years, he has been awarded four ARIAs and has won a total of 21 Golden Guitars. He is the most awarded recipient of the Male Artist of the Year in Golden Guitar history. At last year's CMAA Golden Guitar awards, he won six out of the six categories he was nominated for with his album *I Love This Place*.

Throughout his career, Troy has been awarded numerous other accolades including seven Deadlys, four CMAA Entertainer of the Year awards and the 2008 Country Music Association of America Country Music Global Artist Award.

### John Bennett

From the remote country where sea meets desert, WA's John Bennett has emerged as a singer/songwriter with an astounding ability to transport listeners to his home country and transcend cultural barriers. Singing of country

# 2011 DEADLYS

and connection to community, John has just launched 'Wangkaja', the first single from his self-titled debut album.

Born in Derby, John lives on the remote lands of Karajarri country between the Indian Ocean and the Great Sandy Desert in the Kimberley region of WA. John speaks of the beauty of the land and sea that surrounds a remote Aboriginal community and the wonderful characters who populate it. His songs capture the heart and the soul of his people and their deep connection with the land.

John is a multi-instrumentalist who has already picked up an APRA award for best songwriter.

## Female Artist of the Year

### Jessica Mauboy

Now an R&B singer-songwriter and actress from Darwin, Jessica Mauboy first graced Australian television as a shy 16 year old on Australian Idol in 2006. She was runner-up that season, but was subsequently signed to Sony Music Australia.

Her debut album *Been Waiting* (2008) achieved double platinum sales, garnered seven ARIA award nominations and produced her first number-one single 'Burn', as well as the album's other top-10 hits, 'Because' and 'Running Back'.

In 2010 Jessica starred in her first feature film, *Bran Nue Dae*, alongside Ernie Dingo, Geoffrey Rush, Dan Sultan and Missy Higgins.

In November last year she released her second studio album, *Get 'em Girls*, which debuted at number six on the ARIA Albums Chart and was certified gold by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA). The album features the top-10 hit 'Saturday Night', with American rapper Ludacris. With this album, Jessica Mauboy has found her true sound, working with the best in the business, as well as winning over new admirers to her talent and soaring vocals.

### Naomi Pigram

Naomi Pigram has a new and unique style, emerging out of the current generation of Broome musicians. She comes from a dynamic musical background and is the daughter of Stephen Pigram of Pigram Brothers fame.

Naomi is a sultry singer-songwriter who oozes talent, presence and technique. She has previously fronted notable Indigenous bands *One Strum* and *St Agnes*. Her forthright songwriting, incorporates a characteristically soulful and finely wrought sound, with heartfelt lyrics that appeal to all audiences.

Naomi teamed up with former *St Agnes* band members Aaron Panaia, Bart Pigram and Marcel Wynne for her first solo album *Other Side Of Town* (2009).

She won the Too Deadly Female Vocalist of the Year award in Perth in 2009. She was also nominated for Most Promising Artist and Best Female Artist of the Year for *Other Side Of Town*. She has also toured nationally with the Jimmy Chi theatre production *Corrugation Road*.

### Deborah Cheetham

As an Indigenous soprano, actor and author of the internationally acclaimed play 'Baptist Abba Fan', Deborah Cheetham has established her place as an artist in great demand.

Since her international debut as a singer in 1997 she has performed in the theatres and concert halls of United States, Europe, the UK and New Zealand and throughout Australia.

She sang for the opening ceremony of the 2003 Rugby World Cup and performed at the opening ceremony of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. She is also the writer, composer, director and lead role in *Pecan Summer* - Australia's first Indigenous Opera, which premiered on country in Shepparton, VIC, in October 2010. It is based on the Cummeragunja walk-off. She wrote, composed and performed in the production by the Short Black Opera Company.

### Casey Donovan

Casey Donovan studied music at the Australian Institute of Music before becoming the youngest winner of Australian Idol at age 16.

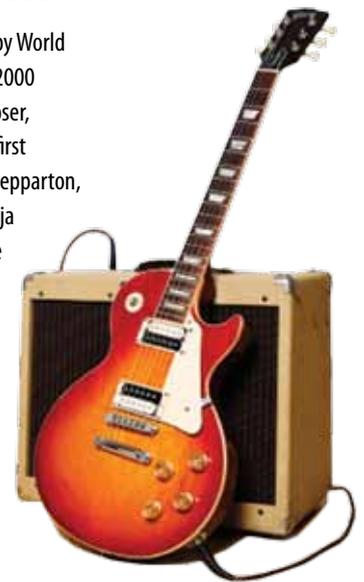
A multi-award winner and nominee, Casey won an ARIA Award for 'Listen With Your Heart' and Deadly Awards for Best Album, Best Single and Most Promising New Talent. She has made regular appearances on television and radio and been a star performer at major events including the Commonwealth Games, the Woodford Dreaming Festival and Foxtel's 10th Birthday.

After Australian Idol, Casey re-established herself as a solo artist and released her EP *Eye 2 Eye*. She hosts a regular radio segment on *Deadly Sounds* with Rhoda Roberts.

In 2009, Casey made her theatrical debut in 'Miracle In Brisbane' for the Brisbane Festival. Casey received rave reviews for her role in 'The Sapphires' last year, as presented by Company B Belvoir and Black Swan State Theatre Company.

### Shellie Morris

Shellie Morris has been described as an Aboriginal chanteuse of rare seriousness and grace. She is a featured singer with the celebrated *Black Arm Band*. She has performed everywhere from rural outback Australia to London Festival Hall and the Sydney Opera House with great reviews.



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Shellie has released two albums and is writing the music for her third CD. She has won Female Musician of the Year at the NT Indigenous Music Awards and her album *Waiting Road* was nominated for Album of the Year at the 2007 Deadly Awards.

Last year Shellie sang alongside the international music stars Sinead O'Connor, John Cale, Meshell Ndegeocello, Rickie Lee Jones and Gurrumul Yunupingu for the show '7 Songs to Leave Behind'.

She has also performed at WomadUK and Womadelaide and has shared the bill with artists like Yothu Yindi, Archie Roach, Grinspoon, Vicka and Linda Bull, Jimmy Little and Shane Howard.

## The arts

### Dancer of the Year\*

#### Albert David

A former Bangarra Dance Theatre dancer and choreographer, Albert has since performed choreographic works by Stephen Page, Kim Walker, Bill Pengelly, Raymond Blanco, Virginia Ferris, Jason Pitt, Vivienne Rogis and Elizabeth Dalman, performing in a number of works with her Mirramu Dance Company. He has continued to choreograph. In 2002 he performed in his own work 'Giz', and in 2006 he travelled to Canada to choreograph for the Canadian Indigenous dance company Red Sky Performance. In 2011, Albert choreographed and performed dances in the Deadly TV production *Move It Mob Style*.

#### Kathy Marika

Kathy has worked as a tutor in Aboriginal dance and culture, teaching traditional art and craft, weaving and carving. Her appearance in Bangarra Dance Theatre's work 'Bush' (2003) marked her performance debut in contemporary dance theatre. Kathy continued to perform with Bangarra for 'Clan' (2004), 'Bush' (2004 USA tour) and 'Spirit' (2006 Australian tour and 2011 European tour). In 2009, Kathy travelled with and facilitated the Bangarra dancers' cultural exchange with the Yirrkala community in Northeast Arnhem Land and performed in Bangarra's 20th Anniversary celebrations 'Fire – A Retrospective'. In 2011, Bangarra invited Kathy to become an Artist-in-Residence in recognition of her close and valuable association with the company.

#### Darren Compton

Darren Compton is a multi-skilled dynamic young Indigenous performer, a proficient didgeridoo player and dancer, in both traditional and contemporary styles covering the mainland and Torres Strait islands. Performing with Descendance Dance Theatre since 2008, Darren's recent dance performances

include a contemporary interpretation of a creation story from the Yuin people, dance and music performances to international students during Macquarie University's Diversity Week and NAIDOC week celebrations at TAFE, Western Sydney.

#### Medika Thorpe

Medika has always been passionate about dancing. She performed in the production of the 'Praying Mantis Dreaming' with Bangarra Dance Theatre at the age of nine, where she travelled around Australia and also over to London. She participated in the Opening & Closing ceremonies of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games and was also part of a Hip-Hop dance group called 'Caramell' that won the Groove Dance-Off competition back in 2002. A role model at Vibe 3on3® events, Medika coordinates the girls' dancing workshops to inspire young Aboriginal kids through dance and to boost their confidence.

#### Deborah Brown

Deborah Brown is a leading performer with Bangarra Dance Theatre, possessing a strong technical and highly artistic dance style. Her solo in the 2010 season of 'Artefact' at the Sydney Opera House was described as "masterly". A Torres Strait Islander leader who conducts workshops for young Indigenous people in communities and schools, Deborah has a strong commitment to passing on knowledge and sharing her experiences as a role model for any young person aspiring to become a performer.

### Male Actor of the Year

#### Aaron Fa'Aoso – East West 101

Aaron Fa'Aoso is known as the tough islander cop Sonny Koa in the award-winning TV series *East West 101*, but he is also a talented director and producer who has his own new series in the pipeline – *The Straits*.

Fa'Aoso began his acting television career in 2006 when he played Eddie Gaibui on RAN, a six-part drama, which aired on SBS. In late 2007 (continuing in early 2008), he began appearing in *East West 101*. In 2008, he had a guest role in *Sea Patrol*, which aired on Network Nine.

In 2009, he appeared in season two of *East West 101* and starred in the film *Subdivision*. In 2011, he returned to star in the third and final season of *East West 101* on SBS.

Before deciding to give acting a try, Aaron was a health worker in the Torres Strait and also an aspiring rugby league player.

#### Jack Charles – Jack Charles v The Crown

Uncle Jack Charles is an Australian legend – a veteran actor, Koori elder, activist and, until recently, heroin addict and



cat-burglar. 'Jack Charles v The Crown' is a play about his life – told by him at Sydney's Belvoir Street Theatre this year.

From Stolen Generation to Koori theatre in the '70s, from film sets to Her Majesty's prisons, 'Jack Charles v The Crown' runs the gamut of a life lived to its utmost.

Charles' unswerving optimism transforms this tale of addiction, crime and doing time into a kind of vagabond's progress – a map of the traps of dispossession and a guide to reaching the age of grey-haired wisdom.

This fleet-footed, light-fingered, one-man show is a theatrical delight and a celebration of Black Australia's dogged refusal to give up on getting on.

Jack helped found the first Indigenous theatre company in 1972. His acting career – though thwarted by a cycle of addiction and imprisonment – nevertheless featured appearances in 'The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith' and 'Blackfellas', and many other theatrical performances.

### **Aaron Pedersen – City Homicide**

Aaron grew up in Alice Springs and prior to acting, he was a journalist with ABC2 at Elsternwick studios in Melbourne. His first acting role came about in 1995 "as a bit of a joke" when he offered himself for a role in the mini-series Heartlands starring the Oscar-nominated Cate Blanchett and Ernie Dingo. He rose to fame in 1995 where he was co-host of the successful Australian game show Gladiators Australia.

After that, the roles kept coming with feature film Dead Heart, the telemovie The Territorians, then the TV series Wildside, Saturday Night, a two-hander feature film and Water Rats. He starred in Wildside and Water Rats for two seasons. His other dramatic roles have included MDA (2002), The Secret Life of Us (2005), The Circuit (since 2007) and City Homicide (since 2007).

### **Dean Daley-Jones – Mad Bastards**

At the time Dean was cast as TJ in the film Mad Bastards, he was working in the building industry in Broome as a labourer and roofer. He moved to Broome in The Kimberley to escape the chaos of city life.

He had worked on film sets, but principally as a grip, and he approached Mad Bastards in the hope of being hired again as a grip. Eventually the creative team realised that a leading man was under their noses.

Dean recalled difficult times in his own life in order to deliver an authentic performance as TJ. It made the film mentally draining and emotionally challenging for him, but he says it was an enormously positive experience, too.

"The film made me want to be a true father to my own son. At times it was tedious being on set, but then I would tell myself that this was the greatest thing I have ever done because I am representing my people."

### **Richard Green – Snowtown**

Richard Green is an award-winning actor, screenwriter and Dharug language teacher. He has been nominated for his role in the Australian movie Snowtown.

His nomination says: "Richard's small but vital role was unforgettable. Richard is also a wonderful advocate in the community for Language Revitalisation, and he is strong in his identity and culture."

Richard has also appeared in the feature films Boxing Day and The Last Confession of Alexander Pearce.

### **Female Actor of the Year**

#### **Rarriwuy Hick – Wrong Skin (play)**

Rarriwuy Hick, one of the performers of 'The Chooky Dancers' is a natural born dancer and actor. Rarriwuy recently performed in a play directed by Nigel Jamieson, Ngurrumilmarmiriyu (Wrong Skin), a mixture of hip-hop dance, traditional Aboriginal dance and West Side Story-type choreography, which tells the story of two lovers, teenagers from different Aboriginal groups who are not allowed to marry – a 'wrong skin' relationship. Rarriwuy comes from a strong dancing background as her mother Janet Munyarryun, of Arnhem Land, was a founding member of premier Australian Aboriginal dance company – Bangarra. At 20 years of age, this performer is just getting started. Already she has set up her own production company, Black Cockatwo, along with rapper Corey Webster.

#### **Deborah Mailman – Offspring**

Deborah Mailman is one of Australia's most popular and successful actors. She has received national acclaim, winning both the AFI and Film Critics' Circle Awards. Since then she has worked extensively in film, television and theatre and is most recognised for her role as 'Kelly' in the television series The Secret Life of Us, and more recently as 'Cherie' in Offspring. Deborah is a well-known face in Australian film, theatre and television, from leading role and guest appearances to presenter roles across a broad range of programs and genres. Deborah recently made her directorial debut with the short film Ralph. Deborah's outstanding performances have been acknowledged with two Silver Logies for Most Outstanding Actress, a Matilda Award, a Helpmann Award for Best Supporting Actress, a Helpmann Award nomination for Best Actress, a 2007 Deadly Award for Best Female Actor and in 2003 she was named NAIDOC Person of the Year.

## **Marcia Langton – Here I Am**

Professor Marcia Langton is both an actor and an academic born and raised in Queensland. Marcia acted in the short film *Night Cries: A Rural Tragedy* in 1990 and was enticed out of acting retirement for the film *Here I am*, playing the role of 'Lois'. However, Marcia is best known for her academic endeavours. Marcia is an anthropologist and geographer. Since 2000 she has been the Foundation Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies at the University of Melbourne. Marcia has made a significant contribution to Indigenous studies at three universities and to Government and non-government policy and administration throughout her career. Her work in anthropology and advocacy of Aboriginal rights was recognised in 1993 when she was made a member of the Order of Australia. She became a fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia in 2001 and was awarded the inaugural Neville Bonner Award for Indigenous Teacher of the year in 2002.

## **Pauline Whyman – Here I Am**

Pauline Whyman is a well-respected actor in Australian theatre and recently played 'Skinny' in the Beck Cole film *Here I Am*. 'Skinny' (Pauline) is one of the lighter characters from Temple House in this heartfelt film, a character that is all about having fun. Pauline is a two time Victorian Indigenous Performing Arts Award winning actor. Career highlights for Pauline include *Stolen* (Ilbjerri/Malthouse Theatre), *Windmill Baby* (Yirra Yaarkin), *Fever & Up The Ladder* (Melbourne Workers Theatre), *The Birthday Party* (Melbourne Theatre Company) and *The Cherry Pickers*, *Stolen & Blacked Up* (Sydney Theatre Company). Pauline now lives in Melbourne, and in 2007 she wrote and directed an SBS TV short film based on an event from her childhood called *Back Seat* (produced by Kath Shelper).

## **Shai Pittman – Here I Am**

Shai Pittman played 'Karen' in the recent Beck Cole film *Here I Am*. Shai started her acting career at the age of seven as a featured extra on a runaway bus in an episode of *Police Rescue*. More recently she is the proud mother of her two-year-old son and juggles her family life with her acting career. In between, she has featured as Cathy Freeman's body double in an Earth Hour commercial, posed as an athlete on the billboards and postage stamps celebrating the Athens Olympics. She featured in the television series *All Saints*, playing a supporting role. Her most significant work is playing opposite Chris Haywood in an AFTRS short film, the celebrated two hander *Fuse* in 2005. Shai is from Blacktown and loves swimming and diving for abalone with her Yuin family and friends on the South Coast of NSW. *Here I Am* is her first role in a feature film.

## **Visual Artist of the Year\***

### **De Greer-Yindimincarlie**

De Greer-Yindimincarlie is an award-winning Aboriginal artist hailing from Wiradjuri country in central western NSW, now living on the Sunshine Coast of QLD. With an impressive body of work spanning 20 years and being sold worldwide in places like the UK, US, Zimbabwe, Japan and Canada, it's little wonder De won the South East QLD NAIDOC award 2008 for distinguished services in the visual arts industry.

De works across many mediums including visual arts, music, graphic arts and film, as well as being a workshop facilitator and mentor who runs arts-based programs with Young Indigenous people who are classified 'at risk' in the community.

Inspired by everyday occurrences, De's artworks incorporate both modern and traditional Aboriginal colours and evoke feelings in all who come into contact with them.

De started her artistic career as a musician and then worked for many years as a graphic designer, and is now a world-renowned Aboriginal artist. De also won the 2008 South East QLD NAIDOC award for Visual Arts.

She recently produced a film called *The Bunya Guitar* - it is the story of reconciliation, traditional knowledge and friendship.

### **Michael Cook**

Michael Cook is an artist who produces unique photographic works and has a storytelling style. His images are both profound and beautiful. As a former fashion photographer, he knows how to provide aesthetic pleasure and turn that into socio-political commentary.

Since Michael's first solo exhibition, *Through My Eyes* (2010), his works have been acquired by the National Gallery of Australia and many private collectors.

His other exhibitions include *Undiscovered* (2010) and *Broken Dreams* (2010) and both of these works consist of 10 large photographs illustrating narratives examining historic and contemporary relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Recently, he was selected as a finalist in the 2011 Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards. He was also a recent finalist in the 15th Redlands Westpac art prize, and has been invited to take place in the highly regarded 2012 National Indigenous Art Triennial at the National Gallery of Australia in 2012. He also won the Visual Artist of the Year Deadly Award in 2008.

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## Helen McCarthy Tyalmuty

Helen McCarthy Tyalmuty was born at Tennant Creek in 1972 and spent most of her childhood at Nauiyu Nambiyu Community (Daly River).

In 1993, she was involved in her first art festival at Daly River. For 10 years she successfully combined a job as a teacher in remote communities with her painting activities.

Helen had her first solo exhibition in 2006 in Melbourne and further solo and group exhibitions there, and in Sydney and Perth have quickly followed.

In August 2007, Helen received the People's Choice Award at the 24th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award for her painting Tyemeny Liman's Wutinggi (Grandpa Harry's Canoe).

Helen was also a finalist at the 2008 Telstra Awards. One of Helen's paintings was selected to feature as a backdrop on Oprah's Australian show late last year.

Helen continues to have solo exhibitions nationally and internationally. She continues to make a valuable contribution to the aboriginal art world and passing on knowledge to the wider community.

## Jandamarra Cadd

Jandamarra Cadd from Queensland has enjoyed painting for the past 18 years, having been introduced to it as a troubled teen.

He calls his style Unified Art – the expression of universal fundamentals that bind us together as humans, while still celebrating our diversity as expressed through culture, race, gender and age.

One of his paintings United Journey won the Indigenous Employees Award and was purchased by the Attorney General's office and now hangs on their wall in Canberra.

He combines traditional Aboriginal art with modern portraiture to achieve his own unique and inventive style of painting.

Jandamarra is often called upon to facilitate painting workshops at Indigenous awareness events and has facilitated art therapy with young Aboriginal people.

## Lisa Michl

Lisa Michl was born in Cairns in 1977 and is of the Kokoberrin language group, located on the Central West Coast of Cape York Peninsula.

Lisa's work is known nationally for incorporating beautifully coloured earth tones and intricate marks or lines that form

delicate yet sometimes bold designs. She describes her art as a way of mapping country, and of sharing the knowledge of significant places and stories passed down by her ancestors. Her work speaks strongly about strengthening culture and the importance of maintaining the connection of country, lore, ceremony and language to succeed in a contemporary world.

She has been exhibiting her fine art paintings since 1993 with over 12 solo exhibitions throughout Australia with four solo exhibitions in 2009.

Her work has appeared in group exhibitions like Story Place: Indigenous Art of the Cape York and Rainforest in 2003 at the Queensland Art Gallery and Out of Country in 2004 in Düsseldorf, Berlin, Washington and New York. Lisa's paintings have been acquired by several collections including the Queensland Art Gallery, The Australian Embassy in Germany and The Australian Government ArtBank.

## Film of the Year

### Shifting Shelter 4

Acclaimed filmmaker Ivan Sen follows the lives of four young Aboriginal people in rural northwest New South Wales. This is the fourth instalment in the lives of Cindy, Danielle, Ben and Willie. Shifting Shelter 4 is a powerfully poignant insight into the lives of these four characters, who all have children now and are in their mid thirties. From the 'coming of age' teenagers full of hopes and dreams in the first Shifting Shelter back in 1995, to today's adults dealing with the harsher realities of life and raising their own families, Shifting Shelter 4 is an extraordinary project that charts the lives of Aboriginal people in a way that no other Australian documentary program ever has.

This film is the latest in Beneath Clouds director Ivan Sen's ongoing series, and was produced by David Jowsey. The 52-minute film premiered at the Message Sticks Film Festival 2011.

### Here I Am

Director Beck Cole's new movie Here I Am, explores the strength and resilience of women, through three generations. Following the groundbreaking success of First Australians, Beck's first feature film is a moving portrait of a mother/daughter relationship, inspired by the birth of Beck's own daughter. Fresh out of prison, beautiful yet complex Karen is a young woman with a burning desire to turn her life around for good. On her release from prison she finds herself on the streets with no one to call for help. Determined to stay on track, Karen finds shelter at Temple House – a safe haven for Aboriginal women like herself. With the support of her new family of friends Karen begins the journey of



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reconnecting with her estranged mother and her young daughter and is soon propelled to face the difficult truth that shame is a powerful force and sometimes the most important person to forgive is yourself. The 90-minute feature is a real story played by real people. Beck said she enjoyed working with her ensemble of actors, but particularly acknowledged the performance of Shai Pittman as Karen, “a highly demanding role, both emotionally and physically”.

## **Mad Bastards**

Dean Daley-Jones as TJ is a scary bloke in Mad Bastards. He is joined by fellow actors, Lucas Yeeda, Greg Tait and John Watson in this film about manhood in Aboriginal Australia that manages to be funny, tender, entertaining and meaningful. Mad Bastards was produced by the Pigram Brothers, David Jowsey of BUNYA Productions and Brendan Fletcher. It was directed by Brendan, a confessed white middle-class man from Sydney. Brendan came to movies through music video and to Aboriginal culture through his friendship with the Pigram brothers, who also provide this film’s lovely soundtrack. Making videos with them introduced him to Aboriginal life, something most white Australians never experience. The film grew out of extensive interviews Fletcher conducted in the Kimberley. The stories went into the script, and the people who told those stories, sometimes ended up in the movie. Shooting took place over a couple of years, with a series of script-readings and consultations aimed at keeping it real. It worked: the film’s sense of reality is its greatest asset.

It brings all aspects of Aboriginal life into perspective with a raw, gritty script, heartfelt acting from personal experiences, all in a beautiful location in the Kimberley. Running time for the drama is 97 minutes.

## **Jandamarra’s War**

Director Mitch Torres first heard the story of Jandamarra from her grandfather and it has fascinated her ever since. Jandamarra’s War is the story of an Australian Aboriginal man who led a rebellion against invading pastoralists in the latter part of the 19th century in defence of his people’s ancient land and culture. Until his death in brutal retribution, this formidable Bunuba warrior waged a three-year guerrilla war, earning him both the admiration of his people and international notoriety.

This 55-minute documentary was also written by Mitch Torres and based on the book Jandamarra and the Bunuba Resistance by Howard Pedersen and Banjo Woorunmurra. Jandamarra’s War is fashioned as a factually based, ripping yarn. In her director’s statement, Mitch Torrens says: “I wanted to make a film that depicted Jandamarra not only as a hero who fought the cruelties and injustices suffered by his people

at the hands of the settlers, but also as somebody who was very human.” The film stars Darcy Anderson, David Beurteaux and Emmanuel J Brown. It was filmed entirely on location on Bunuba country, with cinematography by Alan Collins.

## **Toomelah**

Toomelah is a full-length motion picture by acclaimed director Ivan Sen and stars Toomelah Primary School Year 5 student Daniel Connors. The film premiered at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival. The story centres on a small 10-year-old boy, Daniel, who dreams of being a gangster. He is kicked out of school and befriends a local gang leader, until a rival gangster arrives back from jail to reclaim his turf. A showdown ensues and Daniel is caught in the middle, leaving him with a choice to make about his uncertain future. Joining Daniel in Toomelah’s star line-up are Christopher Edwards (Linden), Danieka Connors (Tanitia), Michael Connors (Buster) and Dean Daly-Jones as Bruce. The film is set entirely in the remote Indigenous community of Toomelah, located on the NSW/Qld border. It is a deeply personal and provocative, yet comic, story that intimately depicts Mission life in contemporary Australia and reveals the challenges facing the young Gamilaroi people of Toomelah Community.

## **TV Show of the Year**

### **On the Edge – NITV**

Earth Star Managing Director and On the Edge creator, Fran Dobbie says she wanted to make an inspirational series and create a program that changes lives and gives hope and healing for many families.

The reality series ‘On the Edge’ is about life growing up as an Indigenous teen in Sydney’s western suburbs. It is a tell-all 13-part series filmed among the fringes of public housing where a group of teens and their families open up to allow Australian audiences into their homes. Under the guidance of specialist teachers, Fran Dobbie and Alec Domadgee, the teens are faced with overcoming their fears and life challenges. From teen bullying to tackling confidence and identity, each week an episode touches on issues every Australian parent needs to watch.

NITV Commissioning Group has worked with first time Indigenous Producer/Writer Fran Dobbie to create the series since 2007 when the concept became a pilot episode. Throughout the NITV Commission, more than 30 personnel were employed by Indigenous Production House Earth Star to make the inspirational series.

Head of Program Content Management, Tanya Denning says the series is exactly what NITV is about: “It gives voice to a new Indigenous filmmaker to express a story from

her community that will not only entertain all audiences but will definitely give them something to think about.”

Each week the series features Indigenous role models, such as singer Jessica Mauboy, Aboriginal comedian Sean Choolburra and Australia's own Super-Middleweight Champion boxer Anthony Mundine, as they empower the young people to resist the pitfalls of peer- pressure and bullying.

## **Living Black – SBS**

Australia's premier Indigenous current-affairs program, Living Black, provides timely, intelligent and comprehensive coverage of the issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. However, Living Black is not just for Indigenous viewers. The program also informs a wider audience about contemporary Indigenous issues and why they matter to all Australians.

Living Black began in February 2003. Its brief was to provide a much-needed voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who wanted their say on current issues of concern.

The show was launched with Karla Grant as host and an all-Indigenous production team, who thoughtfully assembled a mix of stories, focusing on social and political issues while also covering the arts and sport.

Now in its 14th season, Living Black returns to SBS TV with a team of video journalists who traverse Australia searching out, filming and reporting stories. The VJs travel light, carrying only a mini-DV camera and minimal sound and lighting equipment. They work solo and are deliberately unobtrusive to bring out the best in their interviewees, as well as capturing the real truth of the moment.

Karla Grant maintains her on-air presence as host, while also working behind the scenes as Executive Producer.

The Living Black team is made up of passionate and enthusiastic individuals committed to two things: giving all Australians a place to learn about Indigenous issues and giving Indigenous Australians a chance to speak their mind.

Living Black has been described as a unique program that fills a void in the media landscape while providing coverage of issues affecting indigenous Australians today. The show also provides a platform for the Indigenous community to express their positive, as well as topical, stories about life in Aboriginal communities.

## **Marngrook Footy Show – NITV & ABC**

'Breaking down the barriers' – the Marngrook Footy Show aims to reach a broad range of the community while delivering a balanced view of games to be played and highlighting the talent and skills of AFL footballers,

including current and former Indigenous players.

The weekly national TV show, broadcast live on ABC2 and on delay on NITV, is generating growing audiences each week as the word spreads. The original concept of the program was developed by host Grant Hansen and began broadcasting on radio in 1997. After 10 years on air, the show was developed for TV with the commencement of National Indigenous Television.

The Marngrook Footy Show proudly presents a show jam-packed with an infectious mix of personalities, humour and analysis of footy issues and regularly pays tribute to the Indigenous pioneers of the game, with feature stories outlining their huge contribution. Studio audiences are swept up in this euphoria at every show, with quality guest appearances by many of the greats in the game.

Each week, the lively panel brings a wealth of experience in Grant Hansen, Alan Thorpe, Gilbert McAdam, Ronnie Burns and Chris Johnson, with female reporters and newsreaders Leila Gurruwiwi and Shelley Ware, who hit the road every week to bring exclusive interviews with players and club stories and Tiddas tips.

## **The Barefoot Rugby League Show – NITV**

This is the fourth season that NITV Sport has brought the Barefoot Rugby League Show to viewers. Respected and loved among NRL fans and players alike, it is considered to be down to earth, with solid discussions about rugby league from grassroots community footy to the NRL.

The Barefoot Rugby League Show also features NRL match previews and interviews with league personalities, who keep the audience informed and entertained about the game, as do Gadigal Information Service's Brad "Go Lapa" Cooke and former NRL player Tony "Murri in a Hurry" Currie as they debate all the latest happenings from the NRL to grassroots footy.

The 90-minute, panel-based show features weekly NRL match highlights, profiles of Indigenous NRL players and coverage of regional and junior competitions as well as player yarns.

Over the past four years they have had high-profile guests, such as David Gallop, Cliff Lyons, Garry Jack, Steve 'Blocka' Roach, Ben Barba, Phil Sigsworth, Wendell Sailor, Gorden Tallis and Jamal Idris, to name just a few. This year promises to have just as many insightful interviews with those in the know in the NRL industry.

The Barefoot Rugby League Show also brings the best stories from park and bush footy, with stories from Cairns to Mt Isa to Wollongong.

## Yamba's Playtime – Imparja Television

Yamba's Playtime is a 30-minute variety style program for children and includes music, song, dance, stories and tales about activities in the life of 'Yamba the Yerrampe' (honeyant). Produced and aired by Imparja Television, it has a viewing audience of around 420,000 people.

There is ANTastic dancing, singing and learning to be enjoyed by everyone, when Jacinta, Chabb and Flopp get together for fun-filled episodes of Yamba's Playtime. Yamba has a special theme and does lots of different things – such as craft, cooking, reading, talking to special guests and having fun outdoors with some of his friends.

Yamba's Playtime has been entertaining audiences throughout remote Australia for 16 years.

The program's producer, Julie McAllan, is a singer/songwriter and former early childhood teacher. Jacinta Castle, Yamba's best friend, is also a singer/songwriter and performer.

Hi5 screenwriter Cameron Clarke believes that while Yamba's playtime is primarily aimed at a young Indigenous audience with its energy, music and sense of story fun "it appeals to a much broader demographic and is enlightening on so many levels".

In 2009, Series One was granted a Pre-school Classification, a first in Australian television history as it was the first time an Indigenous themed pre-school program had been granted this in its 30-year classification history. History was made again when the Yamba's Playtime one-off Christmas special was broadcast nationally on the Nine Network.

In March this year, another one-off special called "Yamba's Easter Adventure" was granted a Pre-school classification, with the Nine Network looking at broadcasting it for Easter 2012.

## Outstanding Achievement in Literature\*

### Kim Scott – That Deadman Dance

The highly acclaimed 2011 winner of the Miles Franklin Literary Award, *That Deadman Dance* is inspired by the history of early contact between Kim Scott's people, the Noongar, in his hometown of Albany in Western Australia, and white colonialists. In writing the novel, Kim drew on the literary traditions of his people. It is a mixture of both historical fact and narrative, with strong credible characters formed through archival records. *That Deadman Dance* also won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for best book in south-east Asia and the Pacific.

Aside from penning three novels, Kim works fulltime in Indigenous health. He began writing shortly after becoming a secondary school English teacher. He has taught in urban and rural Australia and in Portugal. He spent some time teaching at an Aboriginal community in the north of Western Australia, where he started to research his family's history. He was the first Indigenous writer to win the Miles Franklin Award for his second novel, *Benang*.

### Gayle Kennedy – Yarning Strong Series

Gayle has written and published five children's books for the 'Yarning Strong' series published by Oxford University Press. Gayle Kennedy is a member of the Wongaiibon clan of South Western NSW. She was the Indigenous Issues Editor and Writer for *Streetwise Comics* from 1995 to 1998. In 2005, her book of poetry *Koori Girl Goes Shoppin* was shortlisted for the David Unaipon Award, and she won the award in 2006 with her book *Me, Antman & Fleabag*. The book was also shortlisted for a Victorian Premier's Literary Award and Deadly Award. Gayle has presented at the Sydney Writers' Festival, Brisbane Writers' Festival, Wordstorm, Festival of the Dreaming and local NAIDOC events. Gayle has also written a screenplay for TRAX and Outback Theatre for the Young, which will be released in 2011.

### Brenton E McKenna – Ubbly's Underdogs: The Legend of the Phoenix Dragon

This is the first graphic novel of a trilogy written and illustrated by Aboriginal artist Brenton McKenna, who is based in Broome, WA. Set in Broome during the 1940s, amid a backdrop of fictionalised Chinese and Aboriginal mythology, the book follows the adventures of Ubbly, a smart, streetwise Aboriginal girl who is the leader of a small ragtag gang known as the 'Underdogs'.

McKenna has been drawing cartoons and writing stories since his primary school years. He studied visual arts for two years at Goulburn TAFE and in 2009 was one of 20 successful applicants to be awarded a highly sought-after mentorship with the Australian Society of Authors. Brenton has attended several art workshop/residencies which have generated much national interest over the past few years. He has also illustrated *Living Alongside the Animals* — Anangu Way (Wingfield, Austin, IAD Press, 2009). In most of his work, McKenna tries to infuse humour and action, as well as mystery and suspense. He currently lives in Broome with his partner and three young children.

### Anita Heiss – Paris Dreaming

Wiradjuri author Dr Anita Heiss has a PhD in Aboriginal Literature and is a dedicated advocate for Indigenous literacy



in Australia. Paris Dreaming is her fourth chick-lit book and follows her best-selling books Manhattan Dreaming, Not Meeting Mr Right and Avoiding Mr Right. She is credited with creating a new literary genre of 'Koori Chick Lit' with her four books. In Paris Dreaming, the main character, Libby, is on a man-fast: no more romance, no more cheating men, no more heartbreak. After all, she has great friends, loving cats and a high-powered job at the National Aboriginal Gallery in Canberra. But when fate takes Libby to work in Paris, romance suddenly becomes a lot more tempting.

Anita is already the winner of three Deadly Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Literature. She was the first Aboriginal PhD graduate from the University of Western Sydney and was listed in the Bulletin/Microsoft Smart 100 in 2004. She is patron of the South Sydney Youth Services and a board member of the National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy. Anita currently resides in Sydney.

### **Sally Morgan – Charlie Burr and the Three Stolen Dollars**

Sally Morgan is a Palkyu woman from the Pilbara in the northwest of Western Australia. She is recognised as one of Australia's best known Aboriginal artists and writers, particularly for her award-winning book My Place.

Sally was born in Perth in 1951, the eldest of five children. As a child she found school difficult because of questions from other students about her appearance and family background. She understood from her mother that she and her family were from India. However, when Sally was 15 she learnt that she and her sister were in fact of Aboriginal descent. This experience of her hidden origins, and subsequent quest for identity, was the stimulus for her first book My Place, published in 1987, which was followed by a biography of her grandfather Jack McPhee in 1987, titled Wanamurruganya. Sally is currently the Director of the Centre for Indigenous History and Arts at the University of Western Australia. She is also a Patron of Indigenous Literacy Day.

Charlie Burr and The Three Stolen Dollars is written by Sally Morgan and her children Ambelin, Blaze and Ezekiel. They drew on their own childhood experiences to create this brand new series for younger readers. Set in the Australian outback, the series follows its narrator, Charlie Burr, on his accidental adventures in the bush. The first adventure involves three stolen dollars, some missing gold, a two-humped camel and a naughty little dingo pup. Sally has written five books for children, as well as establishing an international reputation as an artist.

## **Sport**

### **Outstanding Achievement in AFL**

#### **Andrew Walker – Carlton**

Young midfielder Andrew Walker is having a deadly 2011, eight years after being drafted by Carlton and given their No. 1 guernsey. As of Round 16, he was Carlton's leading goal-kicker, the fifth-highest in the AFL – and he's been dubbed "the matchwinner" by fans and media for rising above the pack in the fourth quarter. Speed and accurate kicking on the run are his trademarks, producing an amazing 64 per cent goal accuracy percentage and an average 2.5 goals per game. Disciplined on field, he frustrates his opposition by giving away very few free kicks, playing a leading role in Carlton's premiership campaign.



#### **Chris Yarran – Carlton**

Drafted by Carlton in 2008 after a stellar year with Swan Districts, zippy forward Chris Yarran picked up an AFL Rising Star nomination in 2010. A classy player, Yarran possesses excellent skills, great goal-sense and always looks hungry for the ball. While he has struggled to impact the scoreline as much as expected in the first half of 2011, he showed glimpses of his brilliance in the second half of 2010, kicking several fast goals. With his momentum climbing, Yarran is an increasing threat to fullbacks everywhere.

#### **Liam Jurrah – Melbourne**

Melbourne's leading goal-kicker of 2011, Liam Jurrah has stunned opposition defenders with his lightning-fast moves in the forward line. Given he was only drafted in late 2009, this would be impressive enough, but remarkably, Jurrah missed half the 2010 season with a shoulder injury that required a reconstruction. On his return he kicked nine goals in two matches and was awarded Mark of the Year. Continuing this form in 2011, the former Yuendumu Magpie is Melbourne's best hope for a finals appearance.

#### **Leroy Jetta – Essendon**

Former South Fremantle Bulldog Leroy Jetta has won the respect and loyalty of Bombers supporters with his tough, uncompromising attitude to the midfield and forward line. One of the club's top five goal-kickers as of Round 16, Jetta is a play generator, gathering and delivering to key forwards all day long. Jetta makes it look easy, no matter the conditions or the intensity of the opposition, whether diving hard at the ball with courage and ferocity or roving intelligently outside the pack.

# 2011 DEADLYS

## Stephen Hill – Fremantle

One of a group of debutants fielded by the Dockers in 2010, by late last year Stephen Hill was proving such a threat in the midfield he was considered the most heavily tagged player in the team. Hill is a risk taker – he backs himself and when it pays off, his style of footy is beautiful to watch. Often seen sprinting along the wing, Hill has extended his range from swift playmaker to penetrating goal-kicker and has already contributed 11 goals to keep Fremantle on track for a strong finish in the final eight.

## Outstanding Achievement in NRL

### Ben Barba – Bulldogs

He played a handful of NRL games in 2009, but Ben truly burst onto the NRL scene in 2010, having already broken several point-scoring records while playing for the Bulldogs Toyota Cup team. Playing at fullback, his pace and try-scoring instincts have been a revelation for the Bulldogs – helping the 22 year old to become one of the league's most lethal attacking players. Ben finished the 2010 season with 15 tries to his name, and as of Round 15, 2011, he was the NRL's joint leading try-scorer, having crossed for 13 tries in 15 games.

### Jharal Yow Yeh – Broncos

In 2010, Jharal went from being a fresh-faced rookie to one of the game's best outside backs, scoring a whopping 18 tries in 18 games in his debut season in the NRL. His outstanding form continued into the 2011 season, and he was rewarded with selection into the Queensland team for all three games of the State of Origin series where he scored tries in Games One and Three. As of Round 15, 2011, Jharal has scored 13 tries in 14 matches, making him the joint leading try-scorer in the competition.

### Jamal Idris – Bulldogs

Now in his third full season of NRL football, Jamal is a former NRL Rookie of the Year who continues his development as one of the game's elite centres. Noted for his size and athleticism, a strong 2010 season saw Jamal selected in the New South Wales' side for Game One of that year's series. Jamal finished the year being named in the Australian Kangaroos' training squad. While the Bulldogs have struggled in 2011, Jamal has been among the club's best performing players. Jamal will join the Gold Coast Titans in 2012 on a four-year contract.

### Chris Sandow – Rabbitohs

After debuting in 2008 for Souths, Chris has matured into one of the game's elite half-backs. He's a personality player who has endeared himself to league fans by playing well above his size, and the 2011 NRL season has been the strongest of Chris' career so far. Chris has produced several

dominant performances in 2011 and has also developed into the league's most accurate goal-kicker. His rising status in 2011 was evidenced by a lucrative contract offer from the Parramatta Eels, and Chris will join the club in 2012.

### Johnathan Thurston – Cowboys

One of rugby league's most influential players, Johnathan earned Man of the Match honours in both the inaugural All Stars match and Game One of the 2010 State of Origin series, prompting numerous former players to label him as the Maroons' greatest ever half-back. A playmaker who is renowned for his tenacity and competitiveness, Johnathan's form in 2011 has seen the Cowboys exceed all expectations to be sitting comfortably amid the top eight mid-season, and as of Round 15, Johnathan led the Dally M Medal count, awarded to the game's best player.

## Female Sportsperson of the Year

### Kirby Bentley – AFL

Originally from Mount Barker in WA, at the age of 15, Kirby won selection to the Western Australian Under-17 netball team and the National Under-17 squad, and won the 2001 Junior Noongar Sports Star Award. From 2002 to 2004, Kirby played for the Perth Orioles before moving to Canberra to join the Darters in 2005 on a scholarship at the AIS.

In 2007, Kirby tore her ACL in a netball match and spent 12 months in recovery. After switching to Australian Rules football in 2009, she has improved with each every season. She now assists with the David Wirrpanda Foundation's Dare to Dream Girls' program, inspiring girls to dream while building their self-esteem.

In June 2011, Kirby, now 25, was awarded the Debbie Lee Medal as the fairest and best player in Australian women's football, following the AFL Women's National Championships in Adelaide. Kirby was named the player of the championships thanks to an outstanding tournament, during which she gained maximum votes in all games and also earned selection into the All-Australian team.

### Kyah Simon – Soccer

Born in 1991, Kyah Simon is a young football star currently playing for Australian W-League club Sydney FC.

Kyah grew up in the Western Sydney suburb of Blacktown and made her international debut playing for the Young Matildas against Hong Kong in an Olympic qualifier in August 2007, then followed it up with a friendly against Japan in Kobe in 2008. Competing at the Peace Cup in June 2008, Kyah scored the dramatic winning goal in the dying seconds of the Matildas' match against Brazil, handing the Australian national team their first-ever win over the South American nation.





After signing with W-League Central Coast Mariners, Kyah made her debut in the Australian W-League against the Melbourne Victory in October 2008. In Round 3, Kyah opened her scoring account in the league with a double against Canberra United. Kyah then capped off a marvellous debut season by being named the female U20 Footballer of the Year at the 2008 Australian Football Awards. In 2009, Kyah toured Europe with the Young Matildas and was a member of their Asian Championship campaign.

In June 2010, Kyah kicked the winning penalty for the Matildas in the final match of the AFC Women's Asian Cup, played against Korea DPR. The win ensured the Matildas returned home with Australia's first-ever major international soccer title.

In July 2010, Kyah became the first Indigenous Australian to score at the soccer World Cup, scoring two second-half goals against Norway in the final group match to push the Matildas into the quarter finals.

### **Rohanee Cox – Basketball**

Women's National Basketball League (WNBL) sensation Rohanee Cox has had a rollercoaster career but now stands as one of the premier women's basketball players in Australia.

Rohanee is a former AIS scholarship holder who played with the Opals in Brazil in 1998 and won silver with the Australian Gems in 1997.

After suffering a career-threatening knee injury in 2003, she returned to the court with the Townsville Fire where she was named Most Valuable Player at the end of the 2005/06 season.

In 2006, Rohanee was included in the Australian Opals squad for the FIBA World Championships.

In her 24 games of the 2007/08 WNBL season, Rohanee scored a huge 515 points (the second-highest points-scorer behind Natalie Porter) and ranked sixth in the league in total rebounds. These impressive stats launched Rohanee back into the Australian Opals.

Her excellent form throughout the Opals' Olympic campaign helped the Australians win silver at the Beijing Olympic Games.

In March 2009, Rohanee was named Most Valuable Player for the 2008/09 WNBL season after finishing with a total of 4656 points at an average of 21.2 points per game. Rohanee also top-scored in 14 of 22 games, shooting at 44 per cent from the field, and was one of the league's best rebounders, ranked sixth with 7.9 per game.

After missing the first half of the 2009/10 while recovering from knee surgery, Rohanee returned as a dominant force in her 13 games for Townsville, averaging 16.8 points, 4.8 rebounds and 1.8 assists per game.

In June 2011, Rohanee signed with Western Australian WNBL club the West Coast Waves.

### **Ashleigh Barty – Tennis**

From Ipswich, QLD, 15-year-old Ashleigh Barty played several sports as a youngster, but it was tennis that captured her interest the most at age five.

At 13 years of age, Ashleigh won two International Tennis Federation (ITF) Under-18 events in Ipswich before completing an undefeated singles campaign for Australia at the ITF World Junior Tennis Competition in the Czech Republic in August 2009. Ashleigh was awarded Female Junior Athlete of the Year, at the Newcombe Medal awards in December 2010, and won the 14s and 16s nationals and ITF Tournaments back-to-back.

Coached by Nicole Pratt, and helped by Jason Stoltenberg, Ashleigh has built a reputation as a tough, hard-nosed competitor.

In July 2011, Ashleigh became Australia's first girls' champion since Debbie Freeman in 1980 when she won the Wimbledon Girls Singles title, and the second Indigenous Australian to win a Wimbledon title after Evonne Goolagong-Cawley.

Playing against third seeded Russian Irina Kromacheva in the final, Ashleigh came from behind in the first set, and survived a couple of anxious moments in the second after blowing a 4-1 lead, before steaming through the tie-break to claim a career-best win.

### **Meghan Rutledge – Motocross**

Over the past 12 months, Picton teenager Meghan Rutledge has taken on and beaten the best in Australian motocross racing.

Meghan began racing at the age of seven, quickly winning several titles. In 2004, she became the first female to win a NSW State Title competing against boys. She is also the first female to win the Oakdale Motorcycle Club junior club championship – her home club where she got her start in racing.

In the past year, Meghan has won Australasian, Australian and state titles. In August 2010, Meghan won the NSW 12 to Under-16 years 85cc all-female championship and 13 to Under-16 250cc all-female little class. She was also the runner-up in the boys 13 to Under-15 year's lites.

At the Queensland titles in March 2011, Meghan won the junior lites four- and two-stroke classes, also finishing runner-up against the boys in support class.

She is currently first in this year's NSW State Titles women's class with one round remaining.

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Meghan also spends many hours helping her coach to train younger children in the sport and encouraging everybody to give it go. Meghan has a great attitude of “anything is possible if you put the effort in” – a motto that is clearly paying dividends in her own career.

## Male Sportsperson of the Year

### Benn Harradine – Discus

Born in Newcastle, NSW, in 1981, discus thrower Benn Harradine moved to Melbourne in 2004 to begin training under coach Gus Puopolo with the ambition of winning Gold at the Commonwealth and Olympic Games.

Making Benn’s rise to the elite level of international discus throwing even more impressive is the fact that he was born with a rare liver condition known as congenital hepatic fibrosis, which prevented him from being able to play contact sports.

In 2006, Benn competed at the Melbourne Commonwealth Games where he made the final, finishing eighth overall.

Leading into the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Benn broke the Australian discus record twice in two weeks, while competing in the US and won the Australian title. In Beijing, Benn became the first Indigenous field athlete to represent Australia at the Olympics.

At the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi, Benn became the first Indigenous Australian to win a field medal at a major championship, throwing a distance of 65.45m, a tad shy of his personal best but enough to win him the Gold Medal.

### Daniel Geale – Boxing

Born in Launceston, TAS, in 1981, Daniel was introduced to the sport of boxing through his father, and as an amateur he won both Australian and Oceania welterweight titles, as well as a Gold Medal in the welterweight division at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester. Daniel also represented Australia at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

After turning professional in 2004, Daniel amassed an impressive record for 17 wins from 17 bouts before clinching the IBO middleweight title. After three successful defenses of his IBO title, he lost the belt to fellow Indigenous boxer Anthony Mundine in a controversial points decision over 12 rounds in Townsville, QLD.

After a comprehensive points victory over top-ranked title challenger and former world-title holder Roman Karmazin in October 2010, in May 2011, Daniel defeated Sebastian Sylvester in Germany by split decision to

become the new IBF middleweight world champion.

In doing so, Daniel became just the fourth Australian boxer to win a world title on foreign soil, and the second Aboriginal Australian to do so after Lionel Rose.

### Patrick Mills – Basketball

Patrick was born and raised in Canberra and is a star graduate of the AIS. He first played for the Australian Boomers at the 2007 FIBA Oceania Men’s Championships.

In late 2007, Patrick joined St Mary’s College in California and quickly established himself as one of the most talented college players in the United States, breaking several school scoring records in the process.

In April of 2009, Patrick was selected with the 25th pick in the second round (55th pick overall) by the Portland Trailblazers, becoming the second Indigenous player to be drafted into the NBA.

After fracturing a bone in his foot during practice for the NBA summer league Patrick had to fight his way back into the Trailblazers’ line-up, finishing his debut season in the NBA.

In the 2010/11 season, Patrick enjoyed more minutes on the court, seeing his averages rise in all major stat categories, and he also became the first Indigenous Australian to play in the NBA play-offs. A Season highlight was an NBA career-high 23-points game against Golden State in the final game of the regular season.

### Kurtley Beale – Rugby Union

Born in Sydney in 1986, Kurtley was signed by the Waratahs at the age of 16 after proving to be a standout in schoolboy rugby, playing for St Joseph’s College. By the time he finished Year 12, Kurtley had captained the Australian Schoolboys’ team, and at just 17, he had joined his first Wallabies’ training camp.

After being named Player of the Tournament at the 2007 Australian Rugby Championship, Kurtley made his senior debut for NSW against the ACT, scoring a try in his first game in the sky-blue colours. That year also saw him make his Australia A debut at the Pacific Nations Cup.

By the start of the 2008 Super 14 season, Kurtley had established himself as the Waratahs’ first choice five-eighth, and in 2009 he made his Wallabies debut in a victory over Wales.

In 2010, Kurtley was shifted to the fullback position where he produced several standout performances. The year was also his biggest on the international stage: he finished the year with 7 tries from 12 test appearances for Australia.

## **Des Abbott – Hockey**

Born in Darwin in 1986, Des played his first game for Australia as a junior in 2002. In 2005, he was part of Australia's silver-medal winning junior world championship team.

In 2007, Des made his senior Australian debut, playing in the Dutch Series in Canberra. By 2008, he had cemented his place in the national squad after helping Australia to victory in the 2008 Champions Trophy in Rotterdam, scoring a crucial goal in the final match.

Des was a member of the bronze-medal winning Australian team at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing and was named Sportsperson of the Year at the 2009 Northern Territory Sports Awards.

In 2010, Des was a member of the Australian squad who won the Champions Trophy in Germany, and he also won a Gold Medal with the squad at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi. He is considered to be one of the best strikers in international hockey.

## **Most Promising New Talent in Sport\***

### **Tahj Minniecon – Soccer**

One of the bright young stars of Australian soccer, Tahj was born in Cairns in 1989, and began his A-League career with the Brisbane Roar in 2007 after a stint at the AIS. Something of an enigma in his Hyundai A-League career thus far, Tahj will be looking to make the 2011/12 season his finest yet.

Possessing searing pace, he is one of the A-League's most difficult opponents, but niggling injuries having curtailed his progress somewhat and his best is yet to come.

In the 2009/10 season the Qantas Young Soccerer's last-minute goal in the National Youth League Grand Final secured a famous 2–1 victory, and the club's first ever piece of silverware.

In 2010/11, Tahj answered his critics when finally hitting full fitness and bolted back into Miron Bleiberg's starting eleven, returning to the electrifying football he's known for and forming a crucial part of United's finals charge. Blessed with footballing talent, Tahj will want to consolidate his progress and continue that rich vein of form well into the 2011/12 season.

### **Fred Mundraby – Boxing**

Fred was born in Cairns base hospital in 1987 and comes from the small, remote community of Yarrabah. One of six children, he began boxing at the age of 14, choosing the sport over football.

Fred had 57 amateur fights with only nine losses before turning professional in 2006 – winning the vacant Queensland featherweight state title in his first pro bout. After also winning the Queensland bantamweight title in his third fight in 2007, Fred then won the Australian bantamweight title by TKO in the second round – joining a long and proud list of Aboriginal fighters have won an Australian title. After a draw in his next bout, Fred won eight successive fights.

In his quest to win a world title, in 2010, Fred moved to Brisbane to box on a full-time basis under the tutelage of Steve Deller and the team at Fortitude Boxing, winning the Australian super flyweight title in August 2010.

In May 2011, Fred travelled to Tokyo, Japan, to vie for the OPBF super flyweight title, and despite bravely fighting on through several rounds with a broken jaw, he was forced to retire from the bout in the fifth round due to the injury.

Possessing knock-out power in both hands, Fred has a burning ambition to scale the heights of world boxing.

### **Shane Parker – Wrestling**

22-year-old Shane Parker made history in September 2010, becoming the first Indigenous wrestler to represent Australia at the Commonwealth Games, and has been both the Australian and Oceania Champion in the 55kg division in the Greco-Roman discipline

Originally from Mt Druitt in Western Sydney, Shane was a classmate of Wallabies' fullback Kurtley Beale. Shane also played rugby at school, and started in the sport of wrestling at the age of 10 when he was introduced to the Aboriginal wrestling style of coreeda. He converted to freestyle wrestling at 14 and then later moved into Greco-Roman style.

In Delhi, he competed in the 55kg class, fought out on the second day of the wrestling program, and was unlucky to be knocked out in the first stage.

A young prospect, Shane is still developing in the sport and will be an improved wrestler from the Games' experience.

### **Thomas Boyle – Muay Thai**

Thom has been training at the Southside Muay Thai & Fitness Thai Boxing Gym, located in Somerton Park, SA, for three years. In that short space of time, Thom has already achieved some commendable achievements, progressing in leaps in bounds in the contact sport of Muay Thai boxing.

Currently, Thom balances his sport with full-time work, training every morning from 6am for an hour, and two hours a night, six days week – evidence of his determination to succeed in his chosen sport.

As an amateur, Thom has already fought nationally and internationally, and fell only one match short of winning a medal at the 2010 World Championships.

Thom's current record stands at 11 fights for seven wins, with four of those coming by way of knockout. He has won the IKBF Australian Amateur Middleweight Muay Thai title, and was a member of the Australian team that competed at the World Amateur Muay Thai championships. Tom now has plans of turning professional within the next 12 months.

### **Tanisha Stanton – Netball**

A talented all-round sportswoman, 15-year-old Tanisha Stanton, from Newcastle, NSW, played hockey and excelled in athletics before becoming a high-achieving rep touch football and netball player.

In 2007, Tanisha earned her first netball rep call-up, playing for the under 12 Newcastle side. In the same year, she was selected to play for the Hunter Region's NSWCHS School team, and the Wallsend Representative Under 12s in touch football.

In 2008, Tanisha was selected to attend the Hunter Sports High School for both Netball and Touch Football – and was selected in the NSW Indigenous Netball Squad. That year also saw Tanisha begin to play in the Newcastle Open A Netball competition.

In 2009, Tanisha rose to become co-captain of the Newcastle Rep U14 netball team, and she was also selected in the NSW Indigenous Netball Squad. On the touch footy field, she made the Newcastle U14 Rep side and captained the Hunter Hornets U14 Rep team, winning Player of the Final, and she also made the NSW Merit Team (Hornets).

2010 saw Tanisha join both the Hunter Academy of Sport Netball and touch football squads – and in May she toured with the Australian Indigenous School Girls netball team. She was awarded with the 2010 Department of Education Nanga Mai Award for Outstanding Achievement in Sport.

In 2011, Tanisha earned more representative netball honours, this time playing for the U17 Newcastle squad, and she again toured with the Indigenous Schools netball side, this time to New Zealand. On the touch field, she captained State champions Newcastle City Touch in the U16s, and became a grade player in the Wallsend division.

## **Community**

### **Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Worker of the Year**

#### **Craig Bloxome, Therapeutic Residential Care Program, Anglicare Tasmania**

Craig Bloxome has a long history of supporting his community. Since 1992 he has committed himself to community work and improving the lives of Indigenous people by helping to steer young people away from potential bad influences and towards positive activities.

Craig worked for many years at Nowra, on the NSW South Coast, where he ran a surf-lifesaving program in conjunction with the local surfing clubs. Working as a project officer in the Children and Family Services Section of the South Coast Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation, Craig was a strong contributor to the health and wellbeing of Shoalhaven's Indigenous people. He facilitated community initiatives and projects for young Indigenous adults and advised and advocated for families.

Craig moved to Tasmania in January this year and is now working for Anglicare as the Manager of a Therapeutic Residential Care (TRC) Program in Launceston. The program manages 13 Indigenous kids, among others, across five residential places.

Long-term, Craig would like to continue his work promoting health and wellbeing among Aboriginal people.

#### **Muriel Jaragba, Aboriginal Mental Health Worker, Groote Eylandt, NT**

Muriel Jaragba has been at the forefront of Aboriginal mental health for well over a decade. An Anindilyakwa woman, she lives and works with her people on Groote Eylandt in Arnhem Land. Fluent in three Aboriginal languages, Muriel helps many clients and their families across several communities and is highly knowledgeable in both traditional Aboriginal healing and Western approaches to address mental health problems.

Muriel is often the first 'port of call' in dealing with crises relating to mental health issues. This means that she may be required to help clients or their families at any hour of the day.

Muriel contributes to the wider Aboriginal society through her significant research work with close collaborator Dr Kylie Lee. Together with Dr Lee, Muriel has written several peer-reviewed journal articles about mental health and substance use. She has also made numerous conference presentations about Aboriginal mental

health, drug and alcohol, and health promotion across the country. She is also involved in developing suitable programs to help cannabis users, families, the wider community and other groups across the country.

Muriel has been instrumental in the production of nine film projects, focusing on several important health issues including: sickness from tobacco, quit smoking medicines, cannabis and mental health, stress and grief, and problem drinking. The latest film project, *Anija*, developed in 2010, is on problem drinking.

The significance of Muriel's achievements has been nationally and internationally recognised. Her groundbreaking substance use and mental health research efforts, (along with her collaborators), was nationally recognised with a finalist nomination in the 'research' category at the 2010 National Drug and Alcohol Awards.

Muriel's outstanding achievements, in a difficult area – mental health and drug and alcohol – have contributed greatly to enhancing the health and wellbeing of many people across various Aboriginal communities.

### **Alice Taylay, Wujul Wujul Primary Health Care Centre via Cooktown, QLD**

Alice Taylay is a health worker committed to providing primary health care in Wujul Wujul, Far North Queensland, working at the Wujul Wujul Primary Health Care Clinic, and is involved in numerous supporting community activities.

Alice has been recognised for her 27 years of outstanding service by Queensland Health.

Alice has a wide knowledge on various Indigenous health issues and is benefited by a clear understanding of the local environment – she is always involved in primary health care to address community-identified health concerns.

Alice is the epitome of the hard working, quiet achiever, working diligently behind the scenes to improve the lives and wellbeing of those in her community.

### **Sharyn Medway, Aboriginal Didgeridoo/ Art Project, Goulburn NSW**

Aboriginal sexual health officer, Sharyn Medway works across the NSW's Southern Local Health Network, and has been conducting information and education outreach for 11 years across the South East and coastal regions of NSW.

Sharyn works with young Aboriginal people to provide awareness and knowledge of STIs and the importance of 'staying safe'. Over the years she has learnt that the best way to get the message out is to deliver information and education in a positive and fun way.

To this end, Sharyn has established didgeridoo workshops where participants paint the didgeridoos to tell their own stories. There is also a DVD that accompanies the workshops with didgeridoo lessons and information about bush tucker.

The workshops take a holistic approach to health – not only talking about STIs and needle and syringe exchange, but also looking at social needs.

As well as education on STIs, Sharyn also undertakes some pre and post STI counselling. Sharyn is no stranger to working with mental health issues and previously worked in mental health for seven years, after gaining her Bachelor of Health Science from Charles Sturt University.

### **Colin O'Donnell, Health Worker, Maari Ma Primary Health Care Service, Broken Hill NSW**

Maari Ma Health is an Aboriginal community-controlled health organisation dedicated to improving the health outcomes for communities in the far west region of New South Wales with a special focus on Aboriginal health.

Colin O'Donnell is a senior Health Care Worker and Clinical Leader of the Keeping Well Team at the Maari Ma Primary Health Care Service in Broken Hill, NSW. Colin was a finalist in 2010 at the NSW Aboriginal Health Awards.

Colin was among four finalists to be recognised among nominees around the state for his exceptional contribution to Aboriginal health and his local community. He has played a key role in the early development of chronic disease programs. Colin has worked for Maari Ma for more than 12 years, and the strength of Maari Ma's service delivery to clients with a chronic disease is in part due to Colin's dedication and passion, and his total commitment to see improvements in the health of his clients.



### **Outstanding Achievement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health\***

#### **Western Desert Kidney Health Project – Kalgoorlie WA**

The Western Desert Kidney Health Project – launched in October 2010 in Kalgoorlie – is an exciting and unique health and arts project, designed and implemented by the Aboriginal people of the Goldfields and Western Desert in WA with Wongutha Birni Aboriginal Corporation, the Rural Clinical School of WA, Bega Garribirringu Health Service, the GP network and all the GPs, Clinics and health service providers. This multi-disciplinary team of Aboriginal health, medical and community development workers and artists are aiming to reduce disease and diabetes by 20 per cent over three years in 10 Aboriginal communities, representing six language groups.

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The project covers an area the size of Victoria that is populated by almost 8,000 people whose expected life-span is 17 years less than that of non-Aboriginal people. Contributing factors in this reduced life expectancy are kidney disease and diabetes.

A key component of the project is a travelling roadshow that visits communities to screen for kidney disease and diabetes, and to educate on kidney disease and how it can be prevented. Art is also used in educating about kidney disease. Local artists, the community animators and schools came together to produce an animation: Alfie the Tooth Fairy took flight! Alfie is an unwise Tooth Fairy who loves fast food and soft drinks, so he spends his time saving up his money and sneaking away to the burger shop. His unhealthy lifestyle eventually catches up with him and he crashes into a tree because he has become overweight and his eyesight has been affected. Alfie is taken to the Healing Tree where his Black Box is examined and found to be full of sugar because Alfie has developed diabetes. Alfie is taught all about diabetes and its complications, and what he can do to minimise his risk. Alfie becomes a new fairy who is health conscious and fit. The Western Desert Kidney Health Project is an example of what can be accomplished through community-driven health initiatives.

## **NPY Women's Council – "No Safe Amount – The Effects of Alcohol in Pregnancy" – Alice Springs NT**

The Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council is an Aboriginal, community-controlled organisation dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of approximately 6000 Anangu men, women, and children living in the Central Australian region. Its land covers 350,000 square kilometres of the remote tri-state area of Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. NPY Women's Council was formed in 1980 to provide a voice for women in the remote tri-state central desert region and the members' determination to improve the quality of life for families in the region continues to drive the organisation today. "No safe amount – The Effects of Alcohol in Pregnancy" is an early intervention and prevention campaign designed to raise awareness of the deleterious and permanent effects on the unborn child of using alcohol during pregnancy, particularly awareness of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), through an educational/advertising campaign and DVD resource using a combination of media including animation and live action.

The campaign was developed in partnership with young people in the remote Aboriginal Community of Imanpa, including script development, pre- and post-production and casting.

The stories contained within the DVD were role played by local community members who were actively engaged in the process. And the three 30-second broadcast-quality commercials are in both Pitjantjatjara (the local language) and English. The three components of the campaign are: Ititjara (pregnancy); The Growing Brain; and Responsible Fathers. In 2010 the TV commercials were aired for three months on Imparja Television, which has the largest broadcasting footprint in Australia, ensuring the message was spread far and wide. The commercials have been recognised with a 'highly commended' at the National Drug and Alcohol Awards.

## **Yamba Roadshow, Imparja Roadshow – Alice Springs NT**

"Yamba's Roadshow" is a travelling roadshow that comprises a half-hour musical performance about healthy living. The performance targets pre-school age children and covers topics such as eating healthy, cleaning teeth, blowing noses, getting plenty of sleep, and eye health (washing hands and face). With original songs and actions, the children

join in, remembering the messages and enjoying their favourite Indigenous honeyant, too. The roadshow tours in remote areas of the Northern Territory and has been taken to Yuendumu (February 2011) and the Barunga Festival (June 2011), as well as working with remote health organisations, such as Wurlu-Wurlinjang Wellbeing Unit in Katherine, reaching out to the communities Rockhole, Barunga, Beswick, Binjari and Kalano with their Family Fun Day. The roadshow is working into Mutijulu, Santa Teresa and Ti Tree later in 2011 and remote areas of Imparja's footprint in Queensland in 2012 and 2013.

The roadshow is supported by the 'Yamba the Honeyant' Healthy Living series on Imparja Television for the past two years. The Yamba the Honeyant concept is also being used in work with the Trachoma team, based in Melbourne to help reach pre-school children with messages on washing hands and faces to prevent trachoma. Healthy Living posters comprising of Yamba the Honeyant are also distributed to remote health clinics of the Northern Territory. The posters include information and messages on brushing teeth, blowing noses, visiting the doctor and getting plenty of sleep. The Yamba Roadshow and the Yamba the Honeyant concept is an innovative and proven way to teach children about ear, nose and eye health.

## **Aboriginal Research Health Promotion Strategy – Groote Eylandt NT**

The Aboriginal Research and Health Promotion Strategy (ARHPS) is a partnership between Groote Eylandt Health Clinics; Dr Kylie Lee (University of Sydney); David Hansen

(The Perfect World); and Anindilyakwa Land Council. The ARHPS recognises that making significant contributions to Aboriginal health requires co-operation and dedication and that, often, the combined efforts of several individuals and organisations working together are needed to prevent, identify and treat health problems. The ARHPS is one such collaboration that is working to improve health literacy and outcomes for the Anindilyakwa people of Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island (Arnhem Land, NT).

The APRHS partnership has grown over the last decade to improve understanding of Aboriginal drug, alcohol and mental health issues in the Groote archipelago. The ARHPS utilised research upfront, conducting research with communities to determine prevalence, patterns and associations of drug, alcohol and mental health problems that are so common in many Aboriginal communities Australia-wide. The research findings then underpinned health promotion to implement community-led initiatives aimed at improving the quality of health for the whole community, young and old. Nine films have been made so far under the ARHPS, about a range of important health issues, including: sickness from tobacco, how to use quit smoking medicines, cannabis and mental health, how to cope with stress and grief, and problem drinking. Each production is based on ideas suggested by health workers and community members and is more than just a translation of a health message into Anindilyakwa (the local Indigenous language). The ARHPS demonstrates that using film to talk about important health issues is a dynamic and culturally appropriate way to engage with communities about health.

### **Maari Ma Health Worker Trainee Program – Western NSW**

The Maari Ma Health Worker Trainee Program contributes to primary care in Aboriginal communities through training at the grassroots level in areas as diverse as nutrition and diabetes education; nursing and midwifery; child health; mental health; palliative care; counselling and medical practice administration. Maari Ma's 2010/11 Aboriginal Health Worker Trainee cohort is made up of 10 people local to the far west of NSW, from the communities of Wilcannia, Menindee, Ivanhoe and Broken Hill. They range in age from 20 to 41 and come from diverse backgrounds, including kitchen hand, administration, cleaner, and bar help. With a wide array of schooling backgrounds behind them, the Maari Ma cohort all enrolled in the Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (Practice).

All 10 of the trainees completed the course with 100 per cent completion and pass, juggling the demands of working and studying, all the while supporting each other to complete the course. All have now flagged their next step

towards improving the health of their local communities: midwifery, nursing, nutrition, diabetes education, mental health and palliative care. The graduates have accepted the challenge of working for and with their communities to improve health and close the gap, and in particular have taken on the responsibility of leading within their communities on health. The Maari Ma Health Worker Trainee Program recognises that qualified and professional Aboriginal health workers are a significant step along a path towards true community control for Aboriginal people.

### **Outstanding Achievement in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Education\***

#### **Barbara Tapsell – Aboriginal & Islander Education Worker, Darwin High School NT**

Barbara Tapsell is an inspirational Larrakia and Tiwi woman, who has worked tirelessly to empower Aboriginal people through education programs and support for almost 20 years.

Barbara is an Aboriginal Education Worker at Darwin High School, where she is highly regarded by students and staff. Her commitment to students has helped many overcome barriers in gaining education.

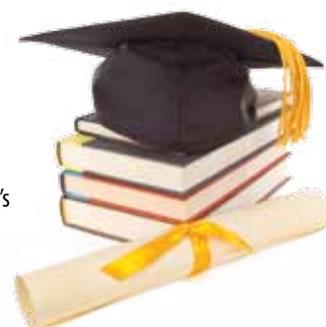
Born in Darwin, Barbara holds an Associate Degree in Aboriginal Community Management, a Diploma in Business, a Certificate in Childcare Studies, a Field Officer's Certificate and a Certificate in General Studies. She is a Director of the Larrakia Development Corporation and the Chair of the Corporation's Employment and Training and Advisory Committees. Barbara is also a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Barbara has shaped the future of students through her contribution to education in the Northern Territory where she continues to strive to create opportunities for Aboriginal people.

#### **Abergowrie College – QLD**

Thousands of Indigenous students travel to boarding school each year in their quest for education. Abergowrie College addresses the challenges of communication when boarders leave their community, especially considering for many it is their first time living away from home.

Abergowrie College is an all-boys Catholic Boarding School located in the Herbert River Valley, west of Ingham. The largest Indigenous boys' boarding school in Australia, it has an enrolment of 200 boys from 42 communities, encompassing the Torres Strait Islands, Cape York, Gulf, NPA and PNG, west to Mt Isa, south to Brisbane, Palm Island and Hinchinbrook area. Students speak over 70 different languages.





Education does not stop in the classroom, because Abergowrie believes in a holistic education where boys are educated in Residential Assemblies on everything from health to nutrition, but they have fun while fulfilling their obligation to learning and “Closing the Gap”.

A fully operational Learning Enhancement Centre is managed by two teaching staff and two teaching aides and a series of educational programs has been implemented, such as a first-of-its-kind primary health-care program, public speaking and a variety of Indigenous programs.

It has an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dance Troupe, which is in high demand and involved in Traditional Welcomes and performances within the north Queensland region. The troupe promotes the College through culture and tradition and the students take responsibility for training, choreography, costumes and performances and they share the knowledge passed down from their Elders.

Abergowrie also has a “Skype Community Link Up” to assist in overcoming homesickness, maximising the communication between the College and boarders’ communities.

### **Daniel Fusi – Menindee Central School – Western NSW**

Menindee Central School Aboriginal male educator Daniel Fusi has been described as an inspirational role model for the Aboriginal people in the community.

Daniel has made a significant contribution to improve the educational outcomes for Aboriginal students at the school by gaining support of the Aboriginal community in developing appropriate and successful programs. These programs are aimed at encouraging the students to traineeships and to involve the Aboriginal Elders in the learning process.

Daniel is also involved in community activities such as rugby league.

Daniel goes over and beyond his call of duty because he has the best interests of the students at heart. Menindee Central School’s vision is a community school where people develop in a caring, stimulating environment.

According to its principal, Brian Debus, Menindee Central School has received recognition statewide for its high student retention and attendance rates, built up through programs designed to bring its students’ education levels on a par with those of other NSW schools.

Many teachers who have started their career at Menindee Central School have stayed on to build their lives as part of the community.

### **The Deadly Ute Project – through Wimmera Hub, Horsham VIC**

The Deadly Ute Project was aimed at Koori boys and girls aged 14 to 19, who may or may not be engaged with school. The project used practical tasks in modifying and decorating a ute to teach Koori youth a wide range of skills and provide opportunities they may otherwise not have access to.

Under the umbrella of an Adult and Community Education (ACE) organisation (the Wimmera HUB) and the University of Ballarat, the young people who completed the program received a Statement of Attainment in units, from Certificate II in Automotive and Certificate II in Creative Media, to Certificate II in Visual Arts and Certificate III in Business.

They also received a broad range of skills that will open up further study options or employment pathways. In addition they gained skills in multimedia production, communication, publicity and business.

The ute was painted in traditional artwork as part of the Visual Arts, Craft and Design Units, where participants were assisted by an experienced Koori artist.

### **Charline Emzin-Boyd, Aboriginal Education Coordinator, NSW Teachers Federation – NSW**

The welfare of Aboriginal teachers is a high priority for Charline Emzin-Boyd. Charline is the NSW Teachers Federation Aboriginal Education Coordinator who works tirelessly in the promotion and support of Aboriginal teachers throughout the Federation (Teachers Union).

Elected to the position in 2002, Charline is a Bunjalung woman from the North Coast, who has statewide responsibilities for Aboriginal education. She is a member of the DET’s Director General’s Advisory Committee, AEU, and NATSI Education Committee. An elected member of the AEU’s Federal Executive, she also works with Federation’s Aboriginal Members and Education Restricted committees.

Negotiating at state, regional and local levels on issues relevant to Aboriginal Education is an invaluable strength she brings to the position. Dealing with individual teachers, as well as providing a voice for NSW Aboriginal leaders as a whole within the sector, Charline has increased membership of Aboriginal members of the Union through many campaigns.

Many Indigenous Australians still experience unemployment, poor health, deplorable housing, poor education and domestic violence at levels that would not be tolerated by the majority of Australians. Indigenous leaders have long since realised that the answer doesn’t only lie with governments but with the people themselves and many are working tirelessly to address the problems.

## **Outstanding Achievement in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Employment\***

### **Brian Dowd – Black on Track – NSW**

Brian Dowd and 'Black on Track' is all about creating opportunities for all Indigenous Australians to identify, accept and self-heal by taking responsibility for their life choices, and becoming empowered through self-worth. 'Black on Track' works closely in communities with such organisations as Mission Australia, FaHCSIA and Joblink Plus, to provide job-readiness programs for Indigenous job seekers. Over the past six years, Brian Dowd – owner and founder of Black on Track – has grown this program to a nationally and internationally recognised organisation. Black on Track, formerly based in Newcastle, has now launched its national tour with communities from NSW, QLD, WA, TAS, NT. Black on Track currently operates on a 91 per cent program-completion success rate.



### **Charles Williams – Crown Ltd – NSW**

Crown is one of Australia's largest entertainment groups and wholly owns/operates two of Australia's leading integrated resorts, Crown Entertainment Complex in Melbourne and Burswood Entertainment Complex in Perth, while having numerous overseas interests. Crown Limited was the first company to sign the Australian Employment Covenant in 2008, a commitment to providing 300 careers for Indigenous Australians. Via an internal Indigenous Employment Program, 114 Indigenous Australians have been employed across many areas of the business. Crown's Indigenous Employment Program Coordinator, Charles Williams, provides the drive for such a program at Crown Melbourne where the key to its success is a holistic approach: one that focuses on all aspects of Indigenous employment and a clear aim of providing long-term sustainable careers for Indigenous Australians. In 2010, the success of this program was recognised when Crown was awarded the "National Diversity at Work" award in the category of Employment and Inclusion of Indigenous Australians.

### **MEGT, Indigenous Apprenticeship & Trainee Network – NSW**

MEGT (Australia) Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation that specialises in employing apprentices and trainees. MEGT employs over 1000 apprentices and trainees and has been in operation for 27 years. MEGT has a significant commitment to Indigenous employment and has established a separate "Indigenous Apprenticeship and Traineeship Network" (IATN) division, which specialises in the employment of Indigenous people. In the two years IATN has been operating, over 150 Indigenous people have been employed with a 70 per cent

retention rate. IATN has won Government contracts under the IEP program and is now winning tenders with mainstream employers as well. IATN currently services NSW, Southern QLD and North Eastern Victoria with plans for WA and SA. IATN is staffed by a dedicated team who are all passionate about employment opportunities for all Indigenous Australians.

### **NSW Health – Nursing and Midwifery – NSW**

The NSW Aboriginal Nursing and Midwifery Strategy was developed as a result of the NSW State Government's commitment in 2001 to increase the number of Aboriginal nurses and midwives in rural and remote NSW, and to improve career development opportunities for Aboriginal employees. As part of this strategy, the NSW Nursing & Midwifery Cadetship Program was developed in 2004. This program involves Aboriginal students undertaking full-time study in an undergraduate nursing/midwifery degree or a Diploma/Certificate IV in enrolled nursing, while being employed in a NSW Public Health facility. The NSW Department of Health Nursing and Midwifery Office, the Centre for Aboriginal Health and the Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations are working in partnership to implement this program. To date, 30 participants have graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing/Midwifery Undergraduate degree and two participants with a Diploma of Nursing. There are currently 42 students on the cadetship program with another 17 graduating at the end of 2011.

### **Andrew Jackomos – Justice Department – VIC**

The Koori Justice Department under the guidance and leadership of its Director, Andrew Jackomos, has committed to targets of recruiting Indigenous cadets within each of its eight divisions. The first four cadets commenced in 2009. Another four cadetships were filled in 2010. Under the program, Indigenous tertiary students interested in a career in Justice are linked with business units within the Department in a cadetship arrangement involving full-time study and work-experience placements. At the successful completion of their cadetship, cadets are offered ongoing employment in the department. This is an exciting new program for Justice that not only enables Indigenous students to gain professional qualifications and experience, but secures cadets an ongoing position. Mr Jackomos has shown dedication to boosting economic opportunities in Victoria for Aboriginal people, while always maintaining a true connection to Aboriginal communities.

## **Broadcaster of the Year\***

### **Bernard Namok Jnr – Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting – NT**

Bernard Namok Jnr has come a long way in broadcasting since he started out volunteering with Radio 4MW (Torres Strait Islander Media Association) during his senior high-school year. In 2008, he was offered a job in Maningrida in West Arnhem Land as the RIBS operator while doing his Diploma in Radio Broadcasting. He won a Koori Mail Scholarship for Most Outstanding contribution to Radio Broadcasting. He now works for the Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association as a Senior Broadcaster. He has won awards in the Emerging Talent Award at the National Remote Media Festival as well as the Top End Unsung Heroes Youth of the Year for the NT.

Bernard has covered issues on oral history, getting health messages across to remote communities, as well as interviewing ministers and other luminaries, covered local meetings and events around the communities and even local footy grand finals.

Some of his nominations say: "Bernard is an inspirational role model not only to Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Youth, but also to all his people and wider Australia" and that "he continues to inspire Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youths throughout Australia".

### **Kevin Ebsworth – Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting – NT**

Kevin Ebsworth, aka BigSexyKev (BSK), has worked hard to achieve his goals and is graduating this year in broadcasting. He works at TEABBA Radio.

His nominations say: "Kevin brings a new energy to broadcasting while remaining humble and thankful to those who have supported him. Kevin is a role model and inspiration for all Indigenous and non-Indigenous people of all ages" and "he's a peoples' person and he has huge respect in any community he goes into".

Another says: "I live in Orange NSW and he airs in The Top End, and I take every opportunity I can to tune in and listen to him. He is committed to linking communities far and wide with current affairs, music and his fabulous sense of humour."

Kevin has also been involved in teaching school students in Albury about Aboriginal culture and playing the didgeridoo.

### **Anthony Brown – 3KND, 1503AM – Melbourne, VIC**

Anthony Angry Ant Brown is a breakfast host on Radio 3KND where he has been doing the breakfast show for the past four years. He is currently the program manager at 3KND. His radio show, the Angry Ant Breakfast Show, is popular and the audience is expanding. He is well known across Victoria and has interviewed many great acts that have toured the state.

He is a Gunditjmara man from western Victoria, but has lived and worked with the Melbourne Aboriginal community for over 30 years. Anthony has also worked in Koori Kids Adolescent Mental Health for the past 10 years. When not working on his radio show, Anthony helps coach a football team for kids with disabilities and is also the team manager of the local Koori football team, the Fitzroy Stars. Anthony has also won the Australia Day City of Yarra Community Award for his work in the Aboriginal community and with radio.



### **Mark Ross (Munkimuk) – Koori Radio 2LND, 93.7FM – Sydney, NSW**

Mark Ross, also known as Munkimuk is a Sydney-based Indigenous hip hop performer and broadcaster, but he is also recognised as the Godfather of Indigenous Hip Hop. Munkimuk presents the Indigenous Hip Hop show and Munky's Funky Lunch on Koori Radio 93.7FM. He also hosts a nationally syndicated weekly radio program "Indij Hip Hop Show", which is produced from Koori Radio in Sydney.

He can also be heard live around the country on the National Indigenous Radio Service, on CAAMA Radio in Alice Springs and through the desert and live across the nation on the CRN Network. His Hip Hop Drop segment can also be heard on the Deadly Sounds show across the nation.

He is well-known for his production and recording of various artists over the last 15 years, including Yothu Yindi, Nabarlek Band, Swannz, Mas-siva and many other groups and artists.

He was also a founding member of Deadly award winning group South West Syndicate. He has since gone solo and released his debut album in 2005. He raps in Jardwadjali (from the Grampians in Victoria) and Eastern Arrernte (from Alice Springs) as well as in English. He is also an accomplished freestyle MC and has toured internationally. In 2006, Munkimuk was nominated for a Single Release of the Year Deadly Award for his song 'Dreamtime'.

Munkimuk also works around Australia on community educational hip-hop projects such as 1999's Desert Rap with Brothablack from South West Syndicate and Morganics.



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**Karla Hart – Noongar Radio,  
100.9FM – Perth, WA**

Karla Hart is a Noongar yorga from the South West of WA and has lived in Perth for 13 years. Her nomination says she deserves to be acknowledged for “her hard work, dedication and commitment to the Noongar community” and that “she is always such a warm presence on air, on the stage and at our community events”.

Karla has also recently recorded some of her own music, and she MCs up a storm performing at various events throughout the Noongar Nation. She is leading the way for our young people and representing the Noongar nation proudly.

Karla has been busy and involved in the arts industry in WA for four years, and she has also been involved with theatre, film, dance, writing and directing. She also does a lot of work for Yirra Yaakin, teaching metro and intrastate school-age children about traditional and contemporary dance and acting and writing techniques.

Karla is proud to manage and perform with Kwarbah Djookian, a traditional women’s dance group.

**\* These awards are judged 50%  
by popular vote and 50% by the  
Deadly Executive Academy.**

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