

Indigenous Education, Training and the Arts

News

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Issue Eight March 2009

Division of Indigenous Education, Training and the Arts

Welcome from the ADG

The awareness and application of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in schools are vitally important to improving educational outcomes for Indigenous students.

The Division is currently training staff to apply guidelines for [Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives in Schools](http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/indigenous/services/eatsips.html) (<http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/indigenous/services/eatsips.html>).

I encourage all schools to adopt these guidelines as they take up the challenge of closing the gap on educational outcomes for Indigenous students.

Training and educational pathways to employment are the focus of a series of expos around the state being supported by former rugby league greats that should draw plenty of interest. (See story page 4).

In the Arts, it is worth noting that one of the most significant Indigenous art events in Queensland this year – the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair – has moved location to the Tanks Arts Centre (see story page 5).

Thank you for your continuing support.

Terry Kearney, Assistant Director-General

STATEWIDE NEWS

Indigenous Year of Creativity ambassadors

Indigenous actor Leah Purcell and poet Sam Wagan Watson are among the Queenslanders serving as ambassadors for the Department of Education, Training and the Arts' [Year of Creativity](#).

Other Year of Creativity ambassadors are:

- Paul Bishop – Brisbane-based actor and presenter
- Alastair McLeod – Brisbane-based chef
- Phillip Johnson - Brisbane-based chef and author
- Dan and Matt Tobin - Brisbane-based designers

- Timothy Hill - Brisbane-based architect
- Dr William Tan - author, neurosurgeon, Paralympian
- Rebecca Sparrow - Brisbane author and columnist
- Michael Lavery - Brisbane-based architect
- Elleni Toumpas - Brisbane music photographer
- Owen Wareham - Brisbane-based national vice-president of the United Nations Youth Association
- John Lee - Brisbane-based founder of post-production company Cutting Edge
- Melissa Downes - Brisbane news reporter
- Brisbane-based TV presenters 'Curio' and 'Picasso'.

For more information visit:

<http://yearofcreativity.deta.qld.gov.au/>

Our State, Your Stories targets junior writers

The Department of Education, Training and the Arts' Year of Creativity involves a series of programs and activities to help young Queenslanders to expand their horizons including the [Our State, Your Stories](#) writing competition, which is also being held to mark Queensland's 150th birthday.

Students in Years 5 to 12 in all Queensland schools can enter the competition with prizes including the chance to work with author Rebecca Sparrow, having their stories published in *The Courier-Mail*, Dreamworld passes and a Brisbane Writers Festival prize pack. Entries close 9 April.

Students will also be able to share their creative messages, artwork and designs through *Launch Your Ideas* postcards which are postage paid thanks to Australia Post.

For more information visit:

<http://yearofcreativity.deta.qld.gov.au/our-state.html>

Toowoomba forum draws strong support

Almost 60 community members, government representatives and educators attended the Queensland Indigenous Education Consultative

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Committee's (QIECC) first community forum for the year in Toowoomba on 5 March.

A report from the forum will be provided to the State and Federal Governments, key stakeholders and forum attendees.

QIECC will also hold community forums and meetings this year in Longreach (9-11 June), Normanton (25-27 August) and Brisbane (25-26 November). The QIECC Annual Forum will be held in Rockhampton on 14-15 October.

For further information visit: <http://www.qiecc.eq.edu.au>
Or call the QIECC on freecall 1800 263 836.

Students head to Canberra for convention

Six Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students were among 26 Queensland senior secondary delegates representing Queensland at the three-day [2009 National Schools Convention in Canberra](#) from March 17 to 19.

The delegates were:

Alana Johnson, Kepnock State High School
Thomas Boase, St Joseph's College, Nudgee
Patrick McCarthy, Innisfail State High School
Jasmin Latu, Trinity Bay State School
Leon Curry, Mackay State High School
Dominique Wehrman, Charters Towers High School

The delegates were elected by 200 students from 50 schools who took part in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander zone conventions held in Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville run by the Department of Education, Training and the Arts in recent weeks.

Some 360 senior secondary students from 106 schools participated in non-Indigenous zone conventions. The zone conventions encourage students to debate constitutional issues, enhance their understanding of civics and voting and offer leadership opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the democratic process.

Although the conventions have been run since 1997 with Indigenous students attending, a program for

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students was started in Queensland in 2005.

The Queenslanders joined 140 delegates from across the country at a Prime Minister's reception at Parliament House hosted by Maxine McKew, attended a reception with Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard at Old Parliament House, role played and participated in debates that culminated in a referendum and presentation of a communiqué to the President of the Senate.

For further information visit:

<http://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/area/sose/qsc.html>

Scholarships recognise potential leaders

This year, 92 Queensland students have been awarded scholarships through the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education toward Employment Scheme](#), including 10 students sponsored by the Department of Education, Training and the Arts.

The Department of Main Roads organises the scheme to recognise young Indigenous people with the potential to be leaders or role models, encourage Indigenous students to complete Years 10, 11 and 12 (or equivalent) and to provide scholarship recipients with financial support for expenses related to education and training.

Students apply in Year 9 and receive a scholarship of \$5000 over three years.

New scholarship holders are invited to attend opening events in Brisbane, which include an orientation dinner and a presentation ceremony. DETA's 2009 scholarship holders are from Innisfail, Ingham, Hughenden, Edmonton, Bowenville, Burketown and South East Queensland.

About 600 students have been awarded scholarships since the scheme started in 1998.

For more information visit:

<http://www.mainroads.qld.gov.au/web/careerCR.nsf/DOCINDEX/Indigenous+programs>

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Queensland artists receive funding support

Vital support to Indigenous arts centre infrastructure, development of a full-length dance production inspired by Native Title campaigner Eddie 'Koiki' Mabo, and the revitalisation of a cultural museum in a rainforest are among the latest projects to receive funding from [Backing Indigenous Arts](#).

Nine Queensland arts centres and three arts hubs will share funding of \$1.045 million with a further \$317,000 earmarked for 19 Building Skills and Opportunities arts projects.

Backing Indigenous Arts has already seen strong results for artists; printmaking workshops in Townsville last year led to a major commission for nine Indigenous artists to create 400 works for a newly-refurbished Townsville hotel and an accompanying exhibition, both opening in July 2009.

The Indigenous arts centre grants for 2008-09 mean that participating councils and organisations can develop specific programs that are beneficial to their local communities.

The funding also will help artists and art centres create works for the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, another key element of Backing Indigenous Arts, taking place from 21 to 23 August, 2009.

For more information visit:

<http://www.arts.qld.gov.au/funding/backing-indig-arts.html> or <http://www.arts.qld.gov.au/docs/bia-bso-summary.doc>

Award extended to all TAFE art students

A TAFE Queensland Indigenous art student has the chance to exhibit their artwork throughout the state through the TAFE Queensland-Heart Foundation [Indigenous TAFE Student Art Award](#).

Last year, the award was open to students from the Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE but in 2009 all TAFE institutes are involved.

The winning student will follow in the footsteps of 2008 winner Taum Reuben from Badu Island, who won with her lino print of the local squid season.

This year's winner will be offered the opportunity to showcase their talent alongside professional artists at the 2009 Heart Foundation Aboriginal Art Exhibitions, where their work will be offered for sale and 25 per cent of the price donated to the Heart Foundation.

The exhibitions will run at the State Library, Brisbane 4-10 May, Banggu Minjaany Art Gallery, Cairns 13-31 July and Cultural Centre, Townsville, 10-23 August. Entries close 17 April 2009.

For more information visit:

http://www.tafe.qld.gov.au/about_us/competitions/indigenous_art_award.html

National Indigenous Art Triennial at GOMA

Works by leading Queensland artists Vernon Ah Kee, Richard Bell, Dennis Nona and Judy Watson feature in a national Indigenous exhibition at the Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane to 10 May.

[Culture Warriors: National Indigenous Art Triennial](#) which has also shown in Canberra, Adelaide and Perth, offers Queensland audiences a unique opportunity to experience the incredible range and diversity of contemporary Indigenous art practice from across Australia.

Culture Warriors features more than 90 works created in the past four years by 30 leading Indigenous artists - some use traditional materials in highly original ways, some revitalise cultural practices, and others employ contemporary technologies and cross cultural references.

Ten of the 30 featured artists are Queenslanders - Vernon Ah Kee, Richard Bell, Dennis Nona, Judy Watson, Arthur Pambejan Jr, Daniel Boyd, Destiny Deacon, Danie Mellor and Christian Thompson - highlighting the national and international profile of our state's Indigenous artists.

For more information visit:

http://qag.qld.gov.au/exhibitions/current/culture_warriors

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Origin Greats back employment expos

The Department of Education, Training and the Arts is participating in a series of Indigenous career and employment expos being held around the state from next month.

The Former Origin Greats (FOGS) Indigenous Employment and Career Expos follow on from a successful event held in Brisbane last November. It is backed by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

The expos aim to offer Indigenous job seekers the opportunity to connect with Queensland's most prominent employers and education and training organisations.

[Former Origin Greats](#) is a non-profit organisation committed to helping rugby league and other communities and charities throughout Queensland.

Members are the elite group of 163 players who have represented Queensland in State of Origin since its inception in 1980. Many of Queensland's highest profile sportsmen are FOGS, including Allan Langer, Shane Webcke, Mal Meninga, Wally Lewis, Kevin Walters and Gordon Tallis.

The six expos will feature live appearances by current and former Queensland State of Origin stars, in six Queensland locations in 2009:

- Wednesday 29 April - Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre
- Wednesday 10 June - Rockhampton Showgrounds
- Wednesday 29 July - Cairns Convention Centre
- Wednesday, 12 August - Mackay Entertainment Centre
- Wednesday 9 September - Mount Isa Civic Centre
- Wednesday 7 October - Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane.

Watch video highlights from the inaugural FOGS Indigenous Employment Expo, Brisbane, November 2008 (2 min): <http://au.youtube.com/watch?v=-IIUHD200SI>

For more information visit: www.fogs.com.au

Queensland Hockey unifies art and sport

Hockey Queensland has welcomed its \$10,000 of [Q150](#) Community Funding for Hockey Art that will tell the stories of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and European history in the Torres Strait over the past 150 years.

Julie McNeil, program manager for Hockey Queensland's Remote and Indigenous Hockey Development Program, says the project merges sport with the cultures of the Torres Strait Islands.

"Essentially we are using art to respect and learn about the unique cultures of the Torres Strait Islanders and we are using sport and its health benefits to engage with youth and their families," Ms McNeil said.

[Hockey Art](#) involves painting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island stories on pieces of hockey equipment. By combining sport and culture, the Hockey Art program provides a vehicle for remote and Indigenous communities to share their culture with local, national and international hockey players as well as the broader community.

Hockey Art sticks with cultural and community significance have been presented to hockey organisations around the world, including the Beijing Sports Academy and the International Hockey Federation in Brussels. The Q150 funding will enable the development of the Hockey Art program to continue.

For more information visit:

<http://rihp.hockeyqld.com.au/art/> or
<http://www.q150.qld.gov.au/index.aspx>

Queensland music awards close March 31

The memory of two Queensland music greats lives on with the annual [Grant McLennan Memorial Fellowship](#) and [Billy Thorpe Scholarship](#).

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The \$10,000 Billy Thorpe Scholarship, developed in consultation with the Thorpe family and Chugg Entertainment, and the \$20,000 Grant McLennan Memorial Fellowship, developed in consultation with The Go-Betweens co-founder Robert Forster and the McLennan family, are administered by Arts Queensland.

Applications for both awards close 31 March.

For more information visit:

<http://www.arts.qld.gov.au/funding/grant-mclennan.html> or

<http://www.arts.qld.gov.au/funding/billy-thorpe.html> or call (07) 3224 4896 or 1800 175 531.

REGIONAL NEWS

Cairns hosts education conference and innovation symposium on 22-24 June

Far North Queensland, North Queensland and the Mackay-Whitsunday regions are participating in an Indigenous education conference in Cairns on 22-23 June and a symposium on 24 June.

The conference will develop four service lines to improve achievement and offer real life opportunities for Indigenous students around:

- Early Years foundations
- Student health and physical activity
- Culture and enterprise
- Participation to employment

Schools, work units, government and non-government agencies are invited to nominate to present a workshop on an initiative related to the four service lines that is improving the learning and life outcomes for Indigenous students.

Nomination forms are available from:
Ellenah.Pothin@deta.qld.gov.au

Innovational - a symposium in creativity, learning from and through the Arts will be held on Wednesday, 24 June, the day after the conference.

The symposium will include interactive sessions, a keynote 'hypothetical' challenging notions of creativity and sharing of strong local practice.

The Arts will feature as a powerful pathway in growing higher order thinking and genuinely creative learning opportunities.

For more information: cindy.hales@deta.qld.gov.au

Cairns Indigenous Art Fair has new home

The inaugural [Cairns Indigenous Art Fair \(CIAF\)](#) will kick off at Tanks Arts Centre from 21-23 August.

The 2009 CIAF will temporarily move from the Heritage Sheds on the Cairns waterfront to make way for an upgrade of the cruise terminal. Tanks Arts Centre's three tanks will house the art fair, a selling exhibition and a performance program.

CIAF offers a unique opportunity for art lovers and collectors to buy and discover works from Queensland Indigenous artists. It will also feature emerging and mid-career artists from Indigenous Art Centres in Far North Queensland and the Torres Strait.

Many Indigenous artists from the region have been inspired by the landscape of Far North Queensland, and Tanks Arts Centre, in the Cairns Botanic Gardens, will be a fitting location for the first fair.

Having CIAF at Tanks also means easy access to printmaking workshops which will be held during the event at the nearby new Djumbunji Press KickArts Fine Art Printmaking Centre.

CIAF will also feature a symposium at the Centre of Contemporary Arts in Cairns, which will discuss key issues relating to the Indigenous arts industry in Australia.

The Fair is a significant component of the Queensland Government's Backing Indigenous Arts program. Art work produced through Backing Indigenous Arts will be featured at CIAF.

For more information visit: www.arts.qld.gov.au/ciaf

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Printmaking studio opens international doors

A new printmaking studio for Far North Queensland is on its way to becoming a key production link in the arts and tourism economic backbone of Far North Queensland.

[Djumbunji Press](#) – KickArts Fine Art Printmaking Centre, opening on 14 March in Cairns, will champion the region's artists and create new works of art for the national and international market.

Djumbunji Press uses the pioneering print methods developed by KickArts in partnership with some of Australia's pre-eminent Indigenous printmaking artists.

These innovative methods are giving Far North Queensland artists a name on the world art scene and Djumbunji Press will give these artists the opportunity to generate income, create new works and share their skills.

The Queensland Government, through the \$10.73 million Backing Indigenous Arts program, has partnered with KickArts and James Cook University to develop Djumbunji Press as a professional facility offering workshops, custom printing and studio space.

Through commissioning new works and an artist-in-residence program, Djumbunji Press will promote contemporary arts and enhance the cultural life of Far North Queensland.

Djumbunji Press will also be a supplier for the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair.

For more information visit:

<http://www.arts.qld.gov.au/funding/cairns-print-centre.html>

Skills on Show Careers Expo in Townsville

Indigenous Schooling Support Unit North Queensland (ISSU NQ) is supporting the Skills on Show Careers Expo at Barrier Reef TAFE Pimlico on 28 May.

ISSU NQ manager Darran Kennedy said SF4NQ 2009 would be bigger and better than ever with additional exhibitors, increased attendance from schools and parents' information sessions.

Mr Kennedy said an exciting component would be the TRY-A-TRADE GALLERY where qualified trainers guide students through activities to give them a hands-on experience in areas of interest; being able to 'have a go' and find out exactly what is involved would allow students to make informed decisions about career options.

This year ISSU NQ has developed a new resource for Community Education Counsellors (CEC) entitled *Career and Employment Expos – A CEC's Guide* to assist CECs to make the most of careers markets and employment expos for their students.

Schools are attending from Ayr, Ingham, Charters Towers and Townsville. ISSU officers will be talking to schools in the region to encourage students to bring their resumes and expressions of interest for work experience.

For more information please contact ISSU NQ, 26 Burt Street, Mundingburra, 4812; PO Box 1746, Aitkenvale DC, QLD, 4814; Tel. 07 4775 6055; email: darran.kennedy@deta.qld.gov.au

NATIONAL NEWS

Ad campaign challenges stereotypes

Professor Mick Dodson, 2009 Australian of the Year and co-Chair of Reconciliation Australia, believes a new advertising campaign will challenge Australians to rethink negative stereotypes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Developed as a community service announcement, the Reconciliation Australia campaign is informed by the Australian Reconciliation Barometer, groundbreaking research that explores our attitudes to each other as Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Findings of the research include:

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- There are equally low levels of trust between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians
- There is low recognition of Indigenous achievement outside of high profile successes in sport and the arts
- Australians overall rate themselves ahead of Indigenous people in possessing positive qualities like a sense of humour, and being welcoming and hard working.

“The Barometer tells us that entrenched negative stereotypes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people still exist,” Professor Dodson said.

“These stereotypes influence our behaviour towards one another and stop us from getting on with the job of building better relationships and closing the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.”

Each ad opens with two faces—one appearing to be Indigenous, the other appearing to be non-Indigenous—with a headline that challenges the viewer to judge the faces based only on what they see: “Which one of these men is unemployed?” The endline is: “We’re hoping you couldn’t answer that.”

The advertising uses real people with headlines that confront stereotypes around substance abuse, unemployment, child care, professional achievement, who is Aboriginal and crime.

“These ads confront negative misinformed views about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by challenging the audience’s view and why they hold it,” Professor Dodson said.

“The campaign could make some people uncomfortable but the first step to changing attitudes is recognising these perceptions exist, and then busting the myths they represent.

“It will certainly get people talking and thinking, and hopefully learning something about the diversity of Indigenous culture and achievement.”

Three billboards are installed on 1537 Ipswich Road, Rocklea in Brisbane, the M4 Motorway Homebush NSW and Cnr Barkley and Inkerman Streets, St Kilda VIC, and on street posters sites in each city.

The campaign and the Barometer can be viewed at: www.reconciliation.org.au

National Indigenous Studies conference

The [Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies \(AIATSIS\)](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au) is calling for papers for the 2009 National Indigenous Studies Conference to be held at the Australian National University in Canberra from September 29 to October 1.

The conference titled *Perspectives on urban life: connections and reconnections* will consider a range of questions facing Indigenous people living in urban and semi-urban/regional areas.

The conference will allow for a diverse range of people to discuss issues of relevance for today’s urban Indigenous population, including community members and organizations, Traditional Owners, policy makers, service and industry providers, government agencies, consultants, academics and researchers.

The conference also offers an opportunity for participants to hold workshops before and after the event and to exhibit displays and trade stalls.

For further information visit: www.aiatsis.gov.au; email: conference2009@aiatsis.gov.au or phone 02 6261 4221.

IN BRIEF

Engaging Indigenous Communities Conference Mercure Hotel, Brisbane, April 7-8, 2009

Moving forward together by uniting communities, strengthening partnerships and improving cultural, social and economic outcomes.

For more information: Phone: 02 9431 8755
Fax: 02 9431 8766; www.liquidlearning.com.au

Seven Seasons in Aurukun: my unforgettable time at a remote Aboriginal school

Arriving in a tiny Aboriginal community in far north Queensland, Paula Shaw had little idea what to expect. *Seven Seasons in Aurukun* is her very personal story of teaching at the local school and making a life for herself in a challenging new world.

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Seven Seasons in Aurukun is a must-read for teachers, those committed to improving Indigenous education in Australia, and those interested in understanding the complexities of life in remote Australia, according to Professor Martin Mills of the University of Queensland's School of Education.

Sevens Seasons in Aurukun by Paula Shaw is published by Allen and Unwin:
<http://www.allenandunwin.com/default.aspx?page=305&book=9781741757071>

2009 Ideas Festival 25-29 March

The [Ideas Festival](#), a six-day festival of ideas, innovation and invention, will be held at Brisbane's South Bank from March 25 to 29. It is open to all and mostly free. As part of the department's Year of Creativity, the festival will highlight opportunities for teachers to embed creativity in their teaching programs.

For more information visit:
<http://www.ideasfestival.com.au>

**Employment conference
Stamford Plaza, Brisbane on 20-22 April**
[The Indigenous Employment and Economic Development conference](#) will explore opportunities to achieve outstanding economic outcomes.

For more information visit:
www.TonkinCorporation.com

We welcome your contributions

This newsletter is published monthly by the Division of Indigenous Education, Training and the Arts in the Department of Education, Training and the Arts to highlight programs and events that benefit Indigenous Queenslanders.

Please send contributions to the editor:
carmel.carrick@deta.qld.gov.au