



NAIDOC WEEK

7 - 14 July 2013

We value the vision:
YIRRKALA BARK PETITIONS 1963



TEAMWORK: Some of the NEML team, from left, Audrey Raeburn, Coreena McKenzie-Ride, Jay Ramirez, Ryan Taylor, Bobbie Yates, Mary Porter and William Allan.

Passionate in new role

NATHAN Blacklock has taken on the role of New Careers for Aboriginal People (NCAP) officer for the New England and North West region.



Nathan Blacklock

Nathan comes to this role with an extensive knowledge of mentoring, sound networks throughout these regions and a genuine passion for helping Aboriginal people in the communities he services to move into employment or training opportunities.

Nathan is based at the Jobs Australia Enterprises Inverell office but will travel regularly throughout the two regions to provide NCAP services to people in these communities.

The NCAP program is a State Training Services NSW Department of Education and Communities program sponsored by Jobs Australia Enterprises and is designed to provide Aboriginal people with training and employment assistance and advice.

The service is totally free and open to all Aboriginal people.

It has proven to be instrumental in breaking down the barriers that Aboriginal people face when trying to secure employment or training opportunities. Nathan is very passionate in working with NCAP clients to ensure anyone who wants a job is given the best opportunity to get that job.

He also provides career advice and guidance for those clients unsure of the best options for them.

If you're Aboriginal and would like to meet Nathan to discuss your employment and training needs or register for NCAP services, call your local Jobs Australia Enterprises office to find out when he will be in your area or call him on 6722 4683.

Tackle your chronic illness with help from the team

EFFECTIVE management of illness is crucial to achieving a better quality of life as well as better health outcomes for Aboriginal people with a chronic illness.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experience a burden of disease two-and-a-half times that of other Australians. A large part of the burden of disease is due to chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, chronic respiratory disease

and chronic kidney disease. This can be reduced by earlier identification, and management of risk factors and the disease itself.

To help reduce chronic disease and its crippling effect upon wellness and quality of life for Aboriginal people, the New England Medicare Local Aboriginal Health team offers a range of services and programs aimed at chronic disease management and prevention through education, support, link-

age to specialists and Allied Health and co-ordinated care.

The earlier conditions are picked up the better, and having a managed treatment plan will be more effective. Australia-wide, only 20 per cent of the Aboriginal population actually has an annual health check with a GP, so the health team strongly encourages our local community members to have a yearly health check.

Running a number of programs

tailored to suit the needs of the Tamworth community, the team is able to help Aboriginal people from all walks of life.

New England Medicare Local Aboriginal Health is running a number of groups including Mums and Bubs, tai chi, hydrotherapy classes, care co-ordination and Strong Fathers, Strong Families. For more information phone 1800 652 800 during normal business hours.

NAIDOC HISTORY

BEFORE the 1920s, Aboriginal rights groups boycotted Australia Day in protest against the status and treatment of indigenous Australians. If it was to progress, the movement needed to be active. Several organisations emerged to fill this role – the Australian Aborigines Progressive Association in 1924 and the Australian Aborigines League in 1932. Their efforts were largely overlooked, and due to police harassment, the AAPA abandoned its work in 1927.

In 1935, AAL founder William Cooper drafted a petition to send to King George V, asking for special Aboriginal electorates in federal parliament. The federal government felt the petition fell outside its constitutional responsibilities. On Australia Day, 1938, protesters marched through Sydney, followed by a congress attended by more than 1000 people. It was known as the Day of Mourning.

Following the congress, a deputation led by William Cooper presented Prime Minister Joseph Lyons with a proposed national policy for Aboriginal people. It was again rejected because the government

did not hold constitutional powers over Aboriginal people. After the Day of Mourning, there was a growing feeling it should be a regular event. In 1939 William Cooper wrote to the National Missionary Council of Australia.

From 1940 until 1955, the Day of Mourning was held the Sunday before Australia Day, known as Aborigines Day. In 1955 Aborigines Day was shifted to the first Sunday in July and became a celebration of Aboriginal culture.

Major Aboriginal organisations, state and federal governments and church groups supported the formation of the National Aborigines Day Observance Committee. The second Sunday in July became a day of remembrance for Aboriginal people and their heritage. In 1972, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs was formed as a major outcome of the 1967 referendum.

In 1974, the NADOC committee was composed entirely of Aboriginal members. In 1975, it was decided the event should cover a week, from the first to second Sunday in July. In 1984, NADOC asked for National Aborigines Day to be made a national public holiday. While this has not happened, other groups have echoed the call.

With awareness of the distinct cultural histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, NADOC was expanded to recognise Torres Strait Islander people and culture. The National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee formed and it has become the title for the whole week. Each year, a theme is chosen to reflect important

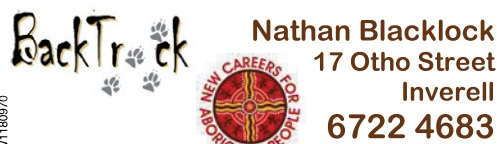
issues and events.

There were interim arrangements in 2005. Since then a National NAIDOC Committee, until recently chaired by former Senator Aden Ridgeway, has made key decisions on national celebrations each year. The National NAIDOC Committee has representatives from most Australian states and territories.



Jobs Australia Enterprises is proud to offer the NCAP & BackTrack Programs as part of our suite of services working with employers and the local community to close the gap in employment and social disadvantage in the Northern Tablelands. We can help with training, employment and mentoring to help Aboriginal people find employment and keep it.

Jobs Australia Enterprises, Aboriginal Employment Solutions, Back Track & NCAP proudly support Naidoc week.



New England Medicare Local proudly supports our Aboriginal Communities in the New England region through actively participating in significant events on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander calendar and through our dedication in Closing the Gap in Aboriginal health equality.

New England Medicare Local is available to provide support to Aboriginal people and communities through improving access to primary health care and better management of chronic disease. With over a third of our employees being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Origin we are able to tailor our programs to suit the needs of all communities within the region.

If you or somebody you know needs assistance with accessing primary health care please contact a member of the Aboriginal Health Team here in Tamworth on 1800 652 800 (free call) or you can find us at the NAIDOC Family Fun Day on July 12th from 11am.