

June 2017

Issue 2



# Aboriginal Heritage Office Yarnupings

[www.aboriginalheritage.org](http://www.aboriginalheritage.org)



northern  
beaches  
council



STRATHFIELD  
COUNCIL

## Christmas Edition

### Welcome Ed!

We would like to welcome Ed Daley to the Aboriginal Heritage Office team as the new Heritage Officer. Ed's role includes the Volunteer Coordinator position. Find out more about Ed inside.

The best Christmas present is to be kind to each other. No need for wrapping & easy to get down the chimney!  
Ho ho ho!

**Volunteers  
Meet n Greet**  
Wed 13th December  
1 Pittwater Rd Manly  
6pm-7:30pm

#### In this Edition:

- P2: A Bit About Ed
- P4: Broome and a Bookshop
- P6: Dissin' the Homies
- P8: Crossword & Quiz
- P11: Listening Page
- P12: Yarn Up with Justice Pepper
- P14: A Day in the Life
- P16: Walk of the Month



# A Bit About Ed

By Ed Daley

Hi guys, my name is Edward Daley and I am the new Heritage Officer here at The Aboriginal Heritage Office and will be taking on the role of Volunteer Coordinator. The main reason I applied for this position was to help protect and gain a greater knowledge of our Aboriginal Culture and the protection of our many sites we have in this beautiful part of the country. In the future I hope to pass on as much knowledge as I possibly can to my children and my nieces and nephews which I think has been a bit lost in the past.

My Hometown is Wellington (Wello) NSW (where I was born and bred) which is pretty much in between Dubbo, Orange, Mudgee and Parkes and I completed all my schooling there. I am a very proud Wiradjuri Man but I also have a lot of mob who hail from Ngunawal and Weilwan country. Growing up my first 2 loves were Music and Rugby League, so I'm a really big fan of Stevie Wonder, Whitney Houston, INXS, Archie Roach and The Cronulla Sharks. I also love it each year when the Koori Knock Out (KO) rolls around. I played this year with NCC (Nanima Common Connection) and won a Koori KO with the Wellington Wedgetails against The Nambucca Valley Rams back in 1998.



Along with my siblings we would go out to our Uncle and Aunty's place in Warren for School Holidays. We always did a lot of hunting, swimming and fishing. There was never a dull moment growing up out there. I really love a good feed of YellowBelly and Warren had the best swimming spots ever.

I have a really big mob (family tree) and this was mostly explained to me by Nan on my Mums side of my family. When it came to culture and family anything I learned growing up pretty much came from her, she's been gone now for 14 years but I only have to close my eyes and think for a second and I can still taste her Johnny Cakes with melted butter and vegemite that she would make for us most mornings growing up as a kid. I adored her and am truly grateful to be her Grandson. I had the best Grandparents.

I am really looking forward to meeting and working alongside our many wonderful volunteers who take precious time out of their lives to help guard and protect our many sites we have here in the northern Sydney area. I am a very approachable easy-going person so if you see me about in your local area please come and say Hello.

Cheers Ed Daley

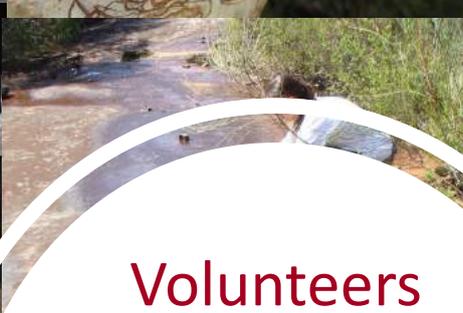


Dear Volunteers,

Our new AHO Volunteers Coordinator Ed Daley will be holding a meet n greet for new volunteers on Wed 13th Dec. It will be a chance for Ed to get to know and share stories with as many volunteers as he can and receive some feedback on how everyone's site is doing. Volunteers will also be able to apply again through Northern Beaches Council and sign off on health & safety (WHS) forms if you haven't already done so. If you can, get down to Manly on the 13th.



"Great things in business are never done by one person. They're done by a team of people." Steve Jobs



**Volunteers**

**Meet n Greet**

**Wed 13th December 2017**

**1 Pittwater Rd Manly**

**6pm-7:30pm**



[www.aboriginalheritage.org/volunteers/](http://www.aboriginalheritage.org/volunteers/)  
[ahovolunteer@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ahovolunteer@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au)



"I do the dishes every night - other people volunteer, but I like the way I do it". Bill Gates

# Broome & a Bookshop

By Karen Smith

It seems like many seasons ago now that I took my annual leave in Broome. Led there by the songs of the Pigram brothers, I could smell, touch and see Broome in my mind's eye.

I had a wonderful time, although it was hard for me to find that Aboriginal Culture was not at the forefront. I found no Aboriginal people employed in the many Tourist ventures and the flights into Fitzroy Crossing, where I could learn about the great warrior Jandamurra, were finished for the season. There was no Aboriginal museum and I found out that the town was largely divided. The blackfellas lived in one area and the tourists and whitefellas in another.

I did all I could to find out about the people of Broome. I talked to our people in the street. I met an Elder Stockman. I talked to our people living in and around the park in town, waiting for the bus back to Derby or Fitzroy or other places. I met an Aboriginal artist, Eddie Blitner, at my hotel who was painting the wall with a mural. I took a tourist venture to One Arm Point and learned a story of the Bardi Jaawi People. We went into the Aboriginal run camping ground Lombadina. <http://www.lombadina.com/>

Embarrassingly, we drove into Beagle Bay community and were paraded through the Pearl Shell Church decorated and built in the early 1900s by the Pallotine monks. We used the community toilet and left, seeing and speaking to no one. I felt terrible to have gone into the Beagle Bay community to see a church - not welcomed and I guessed not welcome. I only hope the Beagle Bay Community got a substantial sum off the tour organisers.

In the local museum I found 2 large scrapbooks where all newspaper articles about Aboriginal people since the 40s or 50s had been pasted in. I sat there for many hours learning about the families and the people of Broome. I also saw several ancient carved pearl shell that had been traded far into the interior.

**One of my favourite places was the Magabala Bookshop. The Magabala Books website speaks of their beginning:**

*Magabala Books was born out of a traditional Aboriginal song and dance festival held in September 1984 at Ngumpan near Fitzroy Crossing in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Here it was decided that an organisation be established that was firmly rooted in Aboriginal law and culture— the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre (KALACC). KALACC was to be run by Aboriginal leaders and one of its aims was to protect the rights of traditional storytellers and artists. <https://www.magabala.com>*

I wanted to spend much money at Magabala Books but had to limit myself for the plane baggage limit. It is great that you can now buy these books online.

One of my favourite books that I brought back was 'Elephants in the Bush' by author Clarrie Cameron.

Continued on Page 5



Eddie Blitner at work on the mural

"The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them." Mark Twain

He is from Yamatji Country in the Midwest Country. He dedicates his small book of stories to his father, Leedham Cameron Snr and to his Uncle George Curley, who he says were exceptional story tellers.

“When I was small us kids would sit with our mouths open drinking up their stories.”

Read more about Clarrie here <http://www.yamajart.com/artists/clarrie-cameron/>  
<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/busstelegraph/elephants-in-the-bush/4940974>

‘*Elephants in the Bush*’ was a great read. Light hearted and fun and told with wit and a twinkle in the eye. The book made me laugh out loud. In this all too serious world *Elephants in the Bush* lifts our spirits and our hearts. Would you like a Christmas gift for a friend to make them happy – this is the one.

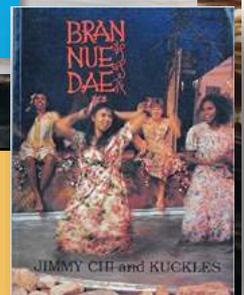
## Feel like going back home

I feel like going back home  
Right now while the mangos are ripe  
Frangipanis starting to bloom  
And the blue bone are starting to bite  
Hey mum I can just taste your fish soup and rice  
I'm coming back home to you  
Can't hack the pace of the city life  
Soon I'll be dreaming in Broome  
Lazy breeze flowing through your mind  
Sky blue seas catch a feed there anytime

Stephen Pigram



“Naked truth is too ugly. That’s why she must be dressed in the finery of parable”. Jimmy Chi





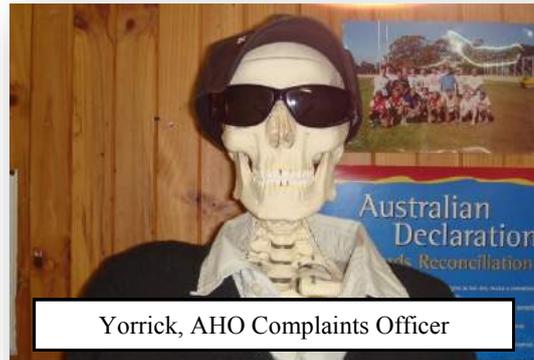
# Dissin' the Homies

By Phil Hunt



Have you ever heard of some new discovery and been surprised at what ancient humans could do in the past? The pyramids of Egypt and Central America, the temples of Angkor Wat and Chavín de Huántar, the hydrological engineering of the Inca and the Assyrians, the sprawling settlements of Great Zimbabwe and Çatalhöyük, the Gunditjmarra weirs of Lake Condah, the silk road of Asia, the songlines of Australia, the herders of the Mongolian steppe, the hunters and farmers of American plains and prairies. Have you been amazed when hearing new information about some other society? You wouldn't be alone. It seems despite being the same species, *Homo sapiens* have been underestimating each other's cultures and innovations for a long time.

Archaeology and history are great telescopes for peering at the lives of others in wonderment. The unearthing and mapping of intricate irrigation systems that allowed people to flourish in large numbers, or the deep ancestral knowledge memorised and passed on between generations ensuring survival in otherwise inhospitable environments, or the ability to navigate over vast landless oceans using the stars and the whispered directions offered by wind and sea and animals, or the artistry and devotion harnessed to bring stone or metal or wood through elaborate processes culminating in tools and objects suitable to offer the gods and the most revered leaders.



Yorrick, AHO Complaints Officer

These things and many more were done by modern humans. *Homo sapiens sapiens*. Our species. Us. How is it that we can be so surprised at the innovations and inventions, the forethought and the planning, the strategic and clinical thinking that was required to carry out these ventures? Is it a lack of imagination on our part, or a type of conceit that denies that other groups could have the intellectual capacity to match that which we reserve for ourselves? One reason may simply be, most of us aren't that clever! In any given profession it takes a lot of mental RAM to be able to see the big picture and also the minutest detail and their relatedness under different and varying conditions. Those who we give the title *genius* or *maestro* or *Great* are recognised for having superior intellectual or creative capacity that we more ordinary folk can't match. It is this level of intellectual vision, as well as self-confidence, courage and drive, which are probably keys to the success of human societies over such lengthy periods of this planet's history.

Yet we are still the same species.

It is said that if you want to be an effective advocate for a cause, you need to be able to speak well the language of your audience and wear similar and conservative attire. For our human ancestors, long deceased, whose languages are lost or veiled by time, and whose cultural dress-code and practices seem alien to ours, the message of kinship and camaraderie are especially challenged. If we consider how little most Australians know about the innovations and intellectual genius of Indigenous Australia, and how poorly the new arrivals looked upon those being driven out of their homelands across a continent, how much more difficult is it for us then to be fair to humans long gone?



"I am a Bear of Very Little Brain, and long words Bother me."

Winnie the Pooh



Very few people today could build an aeroplane, a smart phone or a computer even with a full set of instructions. But thanks to the clever ones in our society, and the complex network of relationships through which we

Continued on Page 7



are able to organise and bring to reality the ideas of others, we can do things that are almost inconceivable. When we work together.

We seem now to find ourselves in a period of great tension. Our political views seem polarised. How can we forge ahead when others are dragging us back? How can we maintain traditions when others are forcing us to abandon them? How can we hold on to the familiar and embrace the new? How can we come to a thoughtful understanding when disagreement or dissent is considered a form of extremism? Why is this era so challenging?

If we step back and look to our ancestors, both near and far, we find things aren't so different. There have always been great rifts in societies, great pressures from within and without. Yet great initiatives were still carried out. The equivalent of the Sydney Harbour Bridge could still be built today if our more courageous leaders had a supportive and loyal populace to carry it through. Is the largest lithium-ion battery in the world, built in South Australia, a sign of things to come? Can a network of zero-emission pumped-hydro storage facilities across Australia be realised? Can solar powered desalination plants be used to green the Sahara? Weren't people on the moon in 1969?

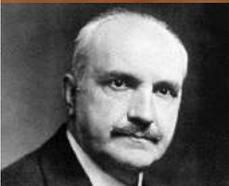
So, the next time you hear of a discovery about humans in the past and your instinct is to be surprised, remember that our individual limitations are not the measure of our human family. Similarly, the small activities that most of us do towards the greater good are essential ingredients for the successes of the best ideas. The greatness of humanity is its ability to work together to achieve the impossible and mutually beneficial. Perhaps it is this quality we should look to in order to meet the challenges our world now faces, locally and globally. Ingenuity is in the family genes. So is our ability to pull together despite the odds.

*So I'm saying now,  
earth is my mother or my father.  
I'll come to earth.  
I got to go same earth  
and I'm sitting on this dirt is mine  
and children they are playing.  
Tree is mine.  
In my body that tree.*

*Bill Neidjie, Story About Feeling*

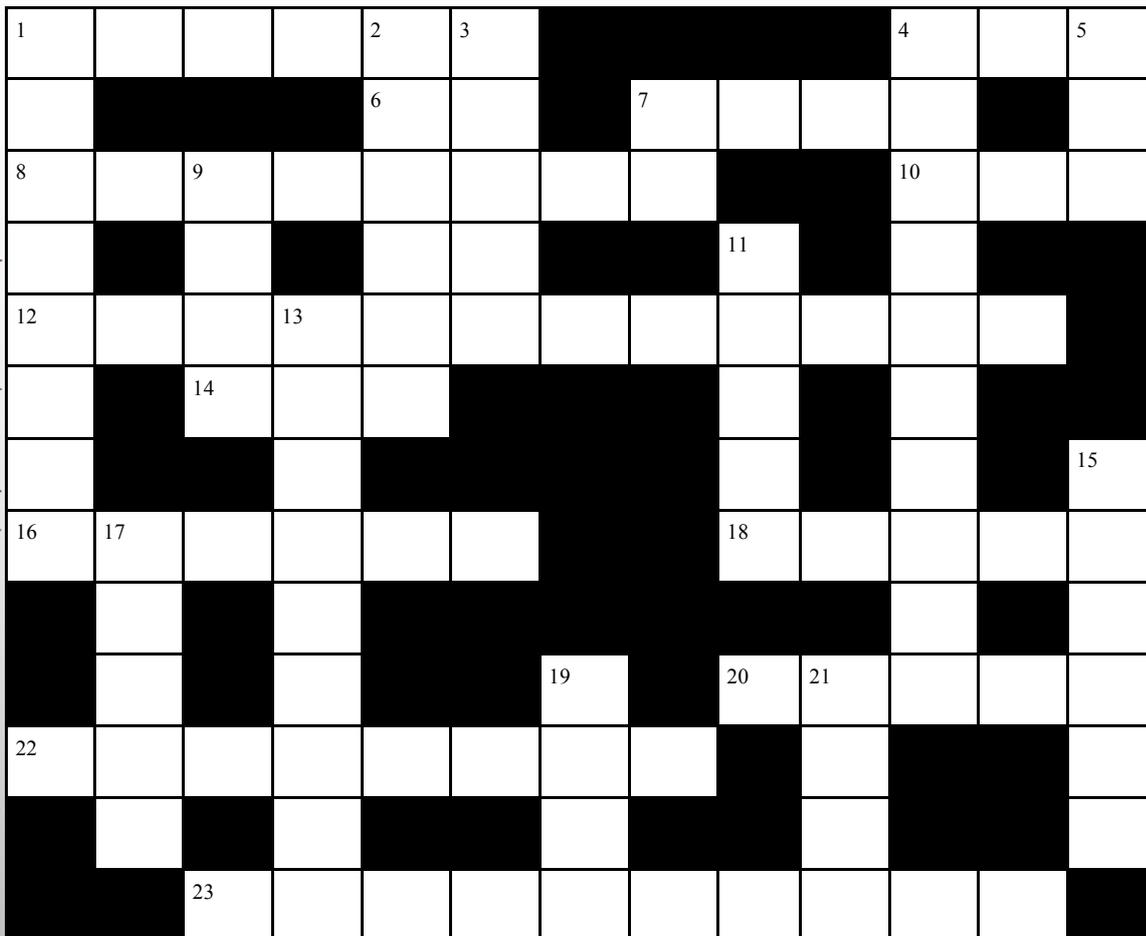


bEEb?



"We must welcome the future, remembering that soon it will be the past; and we must respect the past, remembering that it was once all that was humanly possible". George Santayana

# Crossword:



Answers in our next edition!

### Across

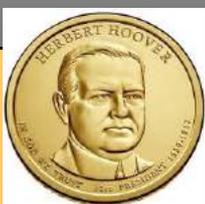
1. An agreement between two or more parties.
4. Edible root.
6. Sun god.
7. Fought for recognition of traditional land title.
8. Overly trusting.
10. The End where Arnhem Land is.
12. No treaty required because no one was there.
14. You might find one at Parramatta.
16. NSW Aboriginal heritage is going through this.
18. Australia's oldest cremation remains returned here.
20. \_\_\_\_\_ing Them Back Home Report (stolen generations).
22. NSW legislation protecting sites, \_\_\_PWS.
23. What your ancestors made you.

### Down

1. Opposite of apart.
2. Local organisation and boat, \_\_\_\_\_ Warrior.
3. Sydney survival festival on Jan 26th.
4. 'Treaty', sung by which group?
5. Distinguish landscape features in two dimensions.
7. The one to blame for my mistake.
9. Body of knowledge.
11. Aboriginal Land Councils were set up to do this.
13. Campaign to acknowledge Indigenous people in constitution.
15. The mob from which 4 Down come from.
17. The type of rights we would all hope to receive.
19. The hill synonymous with 'From Little things...'
21. League legend Artie Beetson was born here.

## Did You Know???

Over 370 treaties were made between the United States of America and Native American peoples between 1778 and 1868.



"Peace is not made at the council table or by treaties, but in the hearts of men."  
Herbert Hoover

# Quizerama #1:

Issue 2, 2017

Page 9



1. Who lit The Cauldron in the 2000 Olympics?
2. If you were having lunch in Dubbo, what country would you be on?  
A. Bundjalung B. Weilwan C. Wiradjuri D. Kamilaroi
3. What is the traditional name for Ayers Rock?
4. Which 2 animals are the dominant feature on our Coat of Arms?
5. Which AFL player received racial backlash after throwing an imaginary spear into the crowd?
6. If something was extremely good an Aboriginal person would describe it as?  
A. Outstanding B. Too Deadly C. Absolutely Fantastic D. Wonderful
7. In 2017 who walked almost 6000km (right across Australia) for Justice?
8. A name Aboriginal people use to describe a relative(s) and also a group of kangaroos?
9. Which Aboriginal Singer recorded the album Charcoal Lane?  
A. Troy Casser Daley B. Roger Knox C. Christine Anu D. Archie Roach
10. What are the names of the 3 sisters in The Blue Mountains?  
A. Meehni, Wimlah and Gunnedoo B. Rhonda, Barbara and Nelly  
C. Daringa, Barangaroo and Gooseberri
11. What is the floral emblem of New South Wales?
12. Which is the odd one out?  
A. Red Bellied Black Snake B. Curl Snake C. Common Krait D. Taipan



Answers in our next edition!

"When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country". Uluru Statement 2017



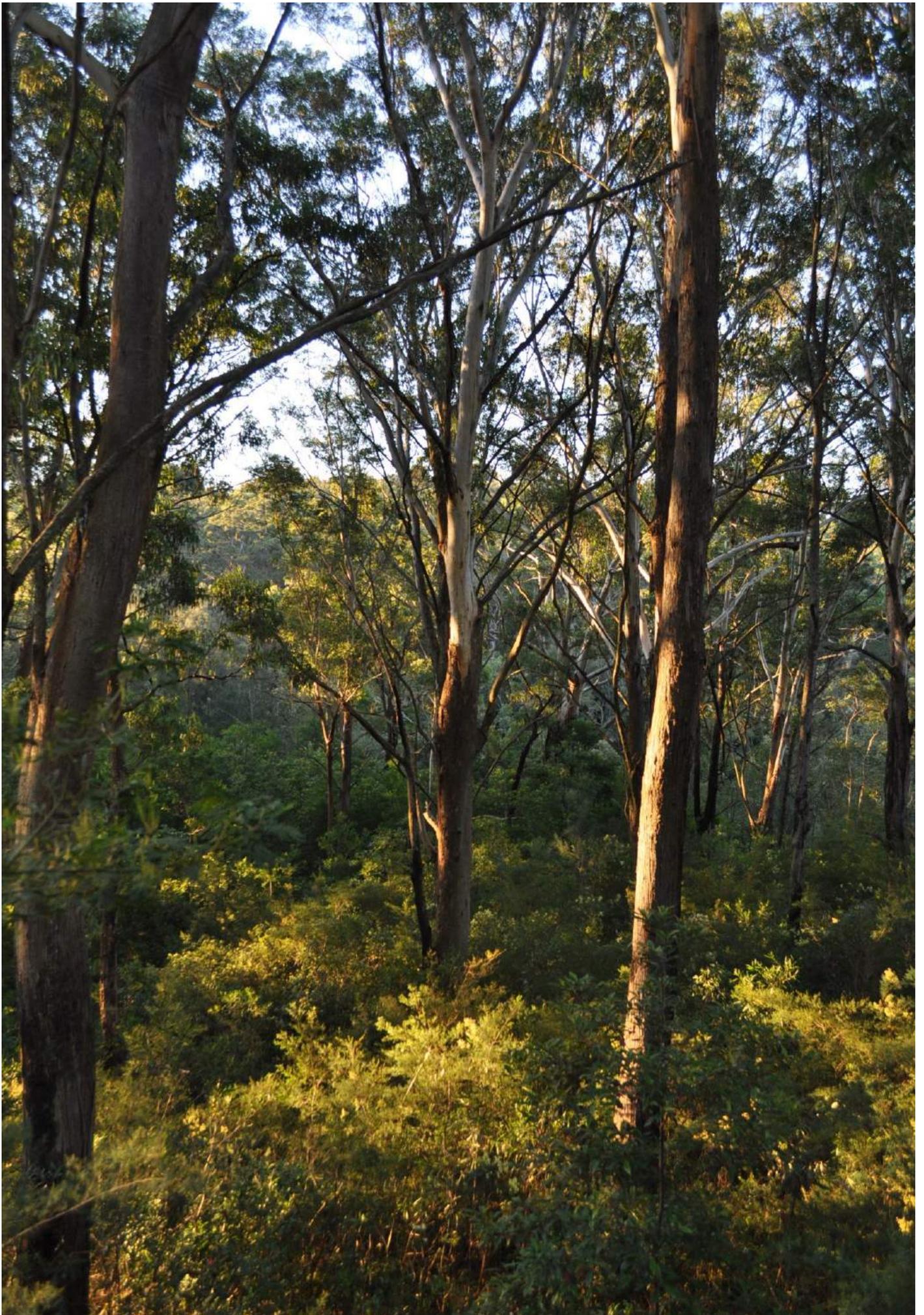
AHO Christmas Shutdown  
The AHO will be closed for business  
from  
22nd December 2017  
to  
9th January 2018



"For many, Christmas is also a time for coming together. But for others, service will come first."

**Shhhh.** The next page is for listening. We invite you to set aside at least 28 seconds and give the land a chance to speak





# Yarn Up with Justice Pepper

It was a cold and windy evening in Manly when people were buffeted into the Old Manly Town Hall for the September Yarn Up. Things soon warmed up with friendly conversations over food. More than one may have wondered what the Mayors of Manly-past might think looking down from their still frames. No more Manly Council (amalgamated into the new Northern Beaches Council), and the historic chambers now the forum for a Yarn Up featuring a Land and Environment Court judge discussing the latest Aboriginal heritage reforms for NSW and an independent review of fracking in the Northern Territory.



Jo Selfe & David Watts with the Mayors

Yes, it was an interesting evening on all accounts, and guest speaker Justice Rachel Pepper provided a most informative talk and helped clarify quite a few things for the audience. Former Yarn Up guest speaker Jo Selfe, from the Ngarra Yura Program with the NSW Judicial Commission, was in attendance. Jo had introduced AHO Manager David Watts to Rachel Pepper a few years ago as it was Rachel who had presided over the first prosecution under updated NSW Aboriginal heritage legislation for a company harming an Aboriginal site.

The latest information about the NSW Aboriginal heritage reform was only released that week and the AHO only found out that day. Passing on the link to Rachel, she managed to review and absorb the new reform package in time for her talk, and having her great legal mind and insights from across different jurisdictions was a tremendous opportunity for us all. In terms of the reforms, she said it was a good step forward, from a very low base, but there were a number of complications and challenges.



David Watts introduces Rachel Pepper

She welcomed the intent to increase the involvement of Aboriginal people in decision making roles but flagged the issue of funding that would still lie with the relevant Minister. Another concern she had, due to the lack of detail in the current documents and which would not be clarified until much later in the reform process, was with the creation of Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage consultation panels and how they would be selected. She made the point that if the work is done up front in identifying the correct people, then it is a much more efficient process down the track and you avoid disputes.

Rachel concluded that the proposed draft bill would be a vast improvement on what currently exists, a vast step forward, but three issues still stand out that would require much greater detail when the new Authority is set up: improving the mapping of heritage places, identifying the proper people to be on local panels, and addressing the over-emphasis on development rather than site preservation.

Rachel's official duties in the Northern Territory continue as the Chair of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing of Unconventional Reservoirs and Associated Activities in the Northern Territory. We wish her luck with this and future endeavours.



"No law or ordinance is mightier than understanding". Plato

# NSW Reform Process

The NSW Government is continuing its [reform on the way Aboriginal cultural heritage](#) is conserved and managed in New South Wales. The public consultation period opened in September and the original ending in December has been pushed out to early 2018. The draft Bill is based on the understanding that Aboriginal cultural heritage belongs to Aboriginal people, and will give effect to this through:



- new statutory objects that affirm Aboriginal people's relationship to, and authority over, their own cultural heritage
- a new definition of Aboriginal cultural heritage that captures the full scope of Aboriginal cultural expression and practice
- new governance arrangements, including a new Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Authority, that give Aboriginal people the legal authority to make decisions about the conservation and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage
- provisions that transfer ownership of those 'certain Aboriginal objects' described above from the Crown to the new Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Authority (on behalf of all Aboriginal people of New South Wales).

As Justice Pepper noted, there is much detail missing and there are some key issues that will need to be resolved to make this reform the great improvement that it should be.

## Curiouser & Curiouser

**ABC NEWS** LOCATION: Sydney, NSW Change

Just In Politics Australia World Business Sport Science Arts Analysis

Curious Sydney

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**Archaeological dig reveals mystery death in picturesque Sydney Harbour park**

By Sue Daniel  
Updated 2 Nov 2017, 12:13pm

**WATCH**

VIDEO: Karen Smith said Balls Head Reserve was a special place for Indigenous people (ABC News)

Not far from Sydney Cove is a little-known harbourside parkland called Balls Head, a place

RELATED STORY: Inside Sydney's secret bomb shelters

RELATED STORY: Six-year-old unearthed after 4,500 years

**Sydney ABC Radio station 702** is running a program called 'Curious Sydney', looking at lesser known stories of this place. A question from a listener about Balls Head led to the wider world learning more about a place that has always been dear to the local Aboriginal community, and to the Aboriginal Heritage Office. Follow the link to find out the full story.

[<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-11-02/mystery-burial-aboriginal-woman-balls-head-sydney-curious-sydney/9069892>]

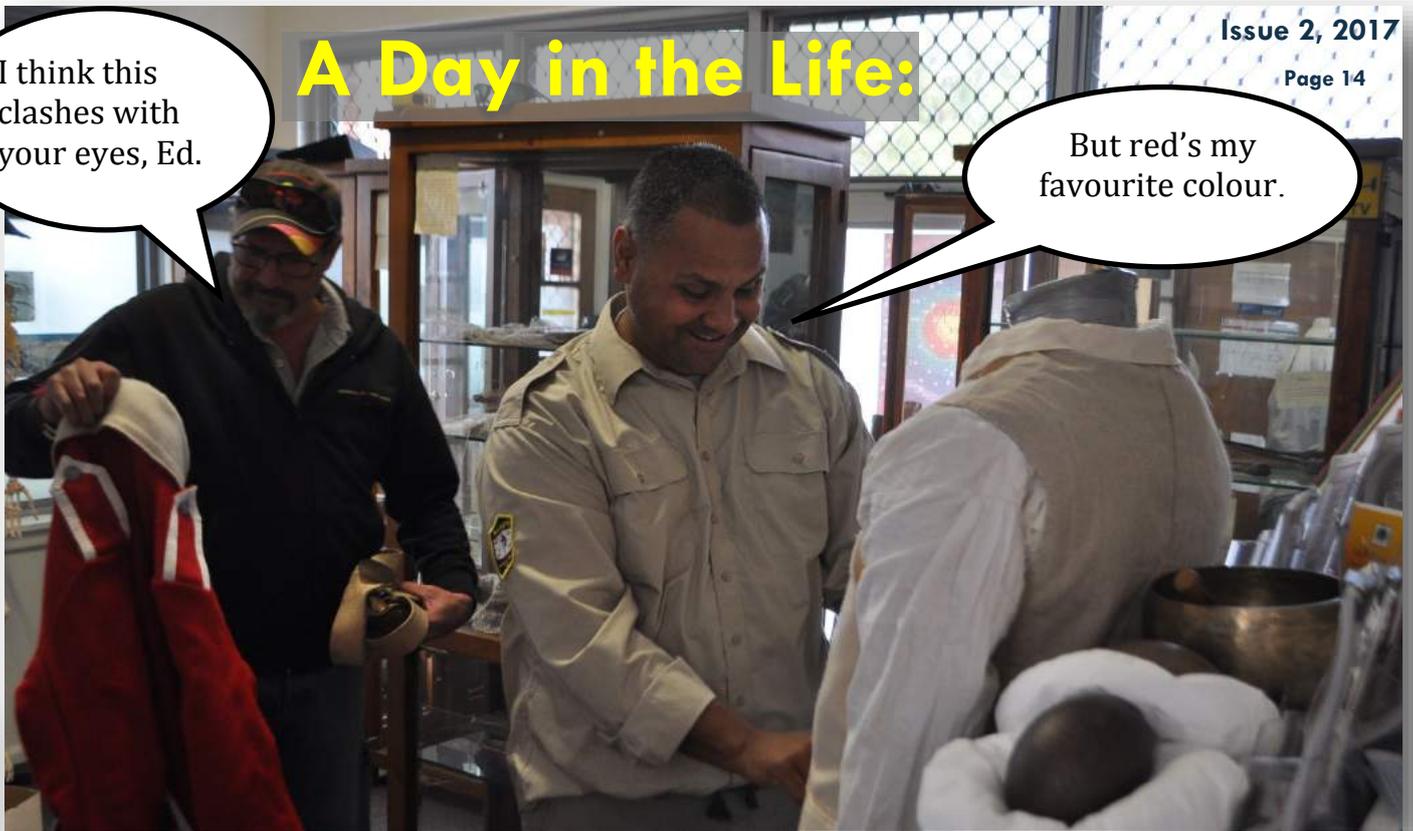
"If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading". Lao Tzu



# A Day in the Life:

I think this clashes with your eyes, Ed.

But red's my favourite colour.



Hmm, Dave said it's tradition to keep your hands in pockets.

The corner of Pittwater and Ragland *Creeks!*

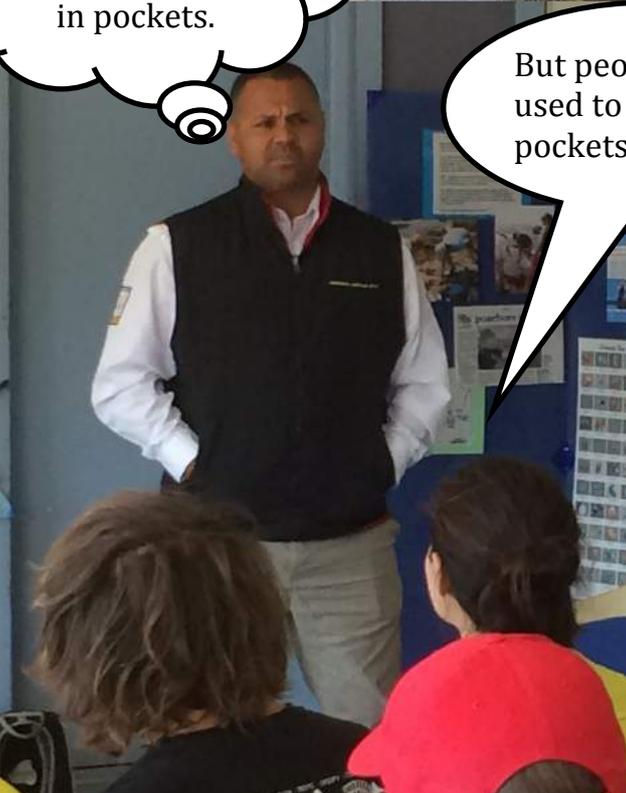


But people didn't used to have pockets, did they?

Yes, yes, the track is definitely back there. Not that we need one.

Did she say: "the track is infinitely black there?"

No, that it goes down a back stair.



I think I'd prefer a real museum to put our stuff in.



And then -  
ABRA CADABRA!



You know the tune: "It's just a step to the left..."

This ochre stuff is hard to wash off.



No, *Simon* says!



Siri! Look up: 'Black Mayors.'

Yes, definitely is something...  
oh, only five cents.



# Walk of the Month



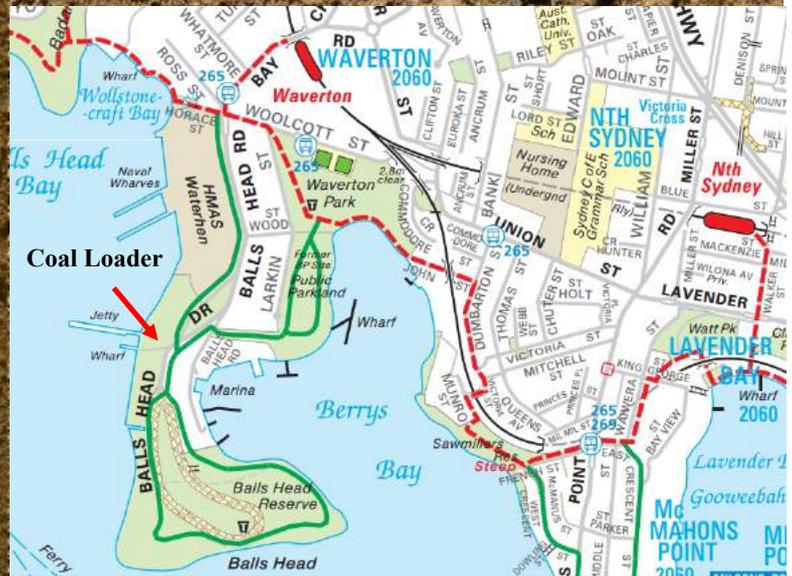
## Balls Head Reserve

Now that we've had some rain, the bush around Balls Head is bouncing back and many plants are still flowering.

There are many tracks within the reserve, or you can simply drive in and do a short loop walk around the toe. It's only about a 10min walk (800m) from Waverton Railway Station to the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability, then a short stroll to one of the many track options.

For more info:

[https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Recreation\\_Facilities/Parks\\_Reserves/Search\\_Parks/Balls\\_Head\\_Reserve](https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Recreation_Facilities/Parks_Reserves/Search_Parks/Balls_Head_Reserve)



*Walking  
is man's best  
medicine.*

*Hippocrates*

Hippo  Walking!



**Answers:** From our last edition (June 2017)! - see if you remember the clues!!

### Crossword

Across: 1 Rushmore. 7 Sanders. 8 Ghost. 11 Nay. 12 SEAL. 14 Republican. 17 Gore. 18 Navaho. 19 EPA. 20 Erie. 21 MPH. 22 Ass. 23 Obama. 24 Suet.

Down: 1 Reagan. 2 Snoopy. 3 Mattis. 4 Ross. 5 USDA. 6 Tornado. 9 Electoral. 10 Roosevelt. 13 Congress. 15 Panama. 16 Luau.

### Quizerama 1

1 Manly. 2 Gamarada. 3 eg shelter (with art, midden), rock engraving, grinding groove. 4 Sam Grant 5 Referendum. 6 A, Jessica Mauboy, C, Isaiah Firebrace. 7 False, mainly eastern Australia. 8 C, >1500 years. 9 A, Wiradjuri. 10 Uluru.