DARKINJUNG ART ON SHOW

Darkinjung artists are helping to tell the stories of the region’s past through the design of 14 totem poles, as the development of the Gosford Leagues Club Field continues to take shape.
We recently received the welcome news that the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Planning Panel has approved our proposal to rezone approximately 6.5ha of land in Kariong for urban expansion purposes.

The decision by the independent planning panel means Darkinjung can now prepare a Planning Proposal for the Kariong site that, if given a ‘Gateway determination’ by the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, will go out to community consultation before rezoning can occur.

The Planning Proposal would see 7.1ha of the 13.2ha site on Woy Woy Road, Kariong remains zoned E2 environmental conservation, making it an untouchable green space to protect the bush and resident animal populations.

The proposal will preserve more than half the site in its pristine ecological state for people to cherish and animals and plants to flourish for generations to come, while this protected part of the land will also act as a significant buffer between our development footprint and the Bambara Aboriginal Cultural landscape.

Despite public criticism from a small section of the community, an independent heritage investigation of the site via two groups of Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) found no culturally significant sites would be impacted by our plans.

Where significant cultural and heritage sites have been identified, a 20m buffer between them and our intended development footprint has been implemented.

The Kariong project is one of four priority sites Darkinjung has in a development pipeline to realise its economic, cultural and conservation goals. Our proposals in Somersby, Wallarah and Lake Munmorah are at various stages of assessment in the delivery channel.

More than half of the proposals’ combined land is earmarked to be zoned environmental conservation and kept as green corridors.

We wish to make it clear that at no time did Darkinjung authorise any internal or external party to begin land clearing at the site.

As the matter is now being investigated, we will not be making any further comment on this matter.

As usual, we welcome your feedback.

darkinjung.com.au
In recent weeks we have welcomed two additional staff members to bolster our administration team. Brent Ellis joined us in June as executive administration officer, where he will act as executive assistant to the CEO, chairperson and the board. Brent brings with him a host of experience, having worked in administration for the past decade, most recently as a project officer with NSW Health and the Department of Communities and Justice.

Tiana Lockwood has joined as project support officer. Tiana, who comes to Darkinjung from an administration role at the Muloobinba Aboriginal Corporation, will undertake reception duties and provide back up administration assistance to all staff.

A Confirmation of Aboriginality is an official letter that is approved by a local Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) in which you reside or Country area you come from. Some organisations require you to provide proof of your Indigenous heritage when applying for Aboriginal-specific services or programs for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander housing, business loans or university courses.

Typically, it is at the discretion of each individual ACCO whether to issue Letters of Confirmation of Aboriginality or Certificates of Aboriginality. In following the lead of the NSW Aboriginal Land Council, your board has made the decision not to issue these types of confirmations, it is however, happy to provide confirmation of Darkinjung LALC membership.

Contact our office to find out more.

NEW WEBSITE / CHILDREN’S DAY

Hearing children’s voices today plays a crucial role in them becoming influential elders and future leaders. This is why “We are the Elders of tomorrow, hear our voice” has been named the theme of the 2020 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Day. Taking place on August 4, the day has been set aside to honour all our elders as custodians of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditional knowledge, passed down to our children through stories and cultural practice. Be sure to encourage your children to check out the colouring in competition on the back page of this issue for their chance to contribute to the day’s unique celebrations.

NEW STAFF / ABORIGINALITY

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NEW STAFF / ABORIGINALITY

In our continued bid to remain as open and transparent as possible, you may also have noticed that we recently gave a much-needed facelift to our website. In addition to outlining who we are and what we represent, the new site also offers details about our cultural tours and outlines the registered Aboriginal sites within our boundaries. As part of the changes, you can now view all our current development delivery proposals, together with any recent statements we may have made on your behalf or to confirm contact details for staff or board members.

DARKINJUNG’S POSITION ON CONFIRMATION OF ABORIGINALITY

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The Darkinjung Dispatch – Issue 3
With the second wave of COVID-19 making itself keenly felt in parts of Melbourne, Sydney and beyond, we continue to urge members to maintain a calm yet cautious approach to staying healthy. We will endeavor to convene our next members meeting when restrictions allow and when we feel it is safe for our broader community.

In the meantime, we ask that you continue to keep an eye on the more vulnerable members of our community who may be struggling under such isolating conditions and practice patience when dealing with those who may be feeling out of sorts.

That’s all for the meantime.

Lots of Love
Darkinjung