

Local Aboriginal
Land Council

NEWSLETTER

Issue 04



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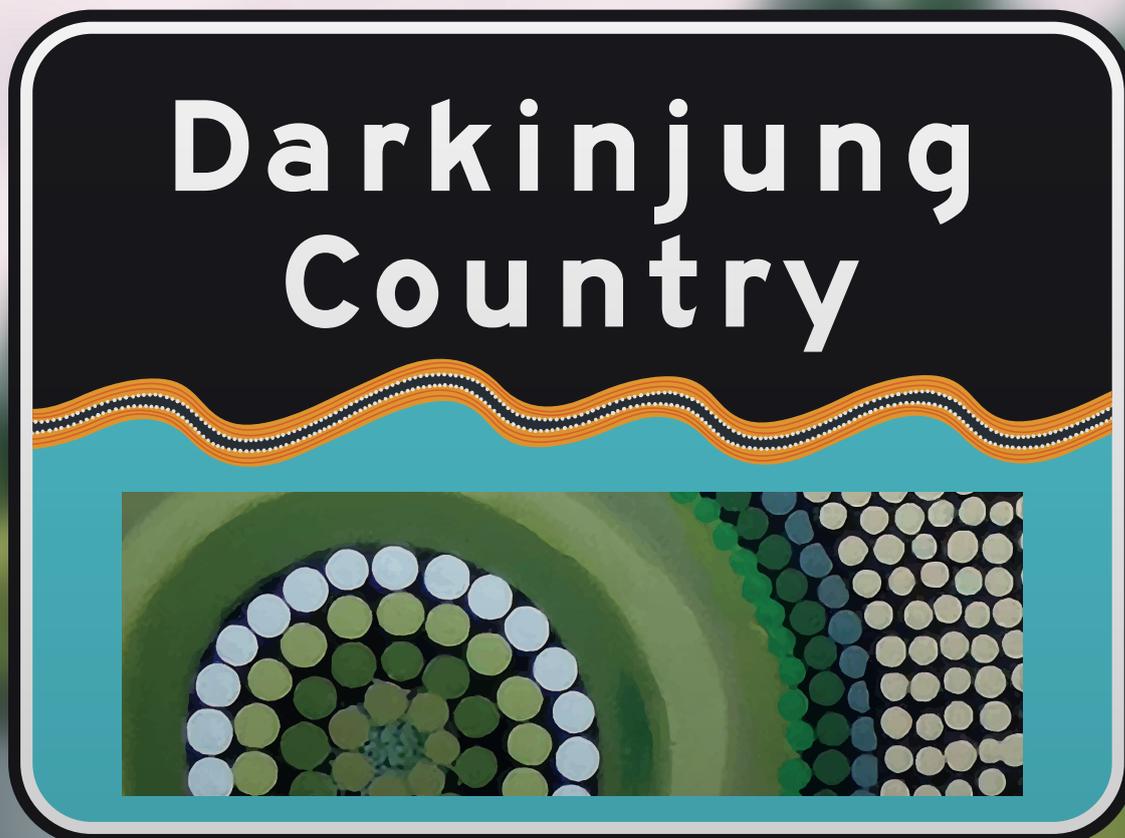
**SCHOOL CAPACITY
INCREASE**

AND MORE!

THE DARKINJUNG DISPATCH

NEW SIGNAGE

The unique and intrinsic connection the Darkinjung people have to Country here on the Central Coast has been highlighted by a unique new road signage program.





As we leap into summer and gleefully look towards 2021, it is important that we take stock of all the progress we have made under incredibly trying circumstances.

Like organisations both here and abroad, we have faced our fair share of adversity in recent months. This has resulted in our patience, and on occasion, our resolve being severely tested.

Yet as both a council and a community group we have proven ourselves to be resilient and resolute in our determination to lead from the front when it comes to strengthening and empowering our community for all generations.

And in this we have been nimble.

While we have been prevented from meeting in person, we have adopted new practices and adapted to new technologies so we could still get the job you require us to do, done.

Despite the fact we were physically separated we have come up with new and enterprising ways to connect be it physically, spiritually, culturally or emotionally.

And while it would be naïve to suggest that the gradual easing of COVID-related restrictions signal an end to all of our challenges, as a board we wish to acknowledge the part you each have played in helping us to get this far.

CHRISTMAS HOURS

Just a quick reminder that we will shortly be closing for Christmas. Our last day in the office will be Thursday 17 December. We will be back open on Monday 11 January.



DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

Work is continuing under the Darkinjung Delivery Framework, which involves a pipeline of sites that we have prioritised to help Darkinjung realise its economic, cultural and conservation aspirations.

In total there are four separate proposals, involving around 331.5ha of land, now at various stages of assessment.

► **Lake Munmorah** – A proposal to rezone land for residential development (approximately 75ha) and environmental conservation (approximately 88ha) with a yield of around 600 residential lots.

Lake Munmorah continues to progress through the assessment process with the Central Coast Council planning authorities. This planning proposal has been issued a gateway determination.

A gateway determination ensures there is sufficient justification early in the process to proceed with a planning proposal. Matters that are considered in the gateway process may include such things as:

Whether the proposal reflect the current strategic direction identified through local and State planning documents for the area

Existing LEP's the natural environment (including known significant environmental values, resources or hazards)

The existing uses, approved uses and likely future uses of land in the vicinity of the proposal

The services and infrastructure that are or will be available to meet the demands arising from the proposal and any proposed financial arrangement for infrastructure provision.

The Lake Munmorah proposal is expected to be placed on public exhibition early next year.

► **Kariong** – A proposal to rezone land for environmental management (approximately 22.4ha) and environmental conservation (approximately 101.6ha) The Regional Independent Planning Panel considered this planning proposal and decided in June that the application had both strategic and site merit. The proposal is currently with Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to consider issuing a gateway determination.

► **Wallarah** – A proposal to rezone RU6 land to INT1 for industrial development and the protection of environmentally sensitive lands.

The Wallarah proposal was placed on public exhibition with DLALC responding to all matters raised through the exhibition process. It is anticipated the proposal will be decided by the end of 2020.

► **Somersby** – A proposal to rezone a 13.2ha parcel of land for environmental conservation (approximately 7.1ha), with the remainder used for Low Density Residential (approximately 6.1ha).

Gateway has been issued with minor conditions which require some final reports and further consultation with State Government agencies. Issues around biodiversity offsetting is to be resolved prior to progressing this planning proposal through the final stages of rezoning.

NAIDOC WEEK

NAIDOC WEEK

It may have been

commemorated several months later than planned, but the 2020 instalment of NAIDOC Week was well worth waiting for.

Typically celebrated in July, NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia to celebrate the histories, cultures and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples however the event was pushed back to November as a result of COVID-19.

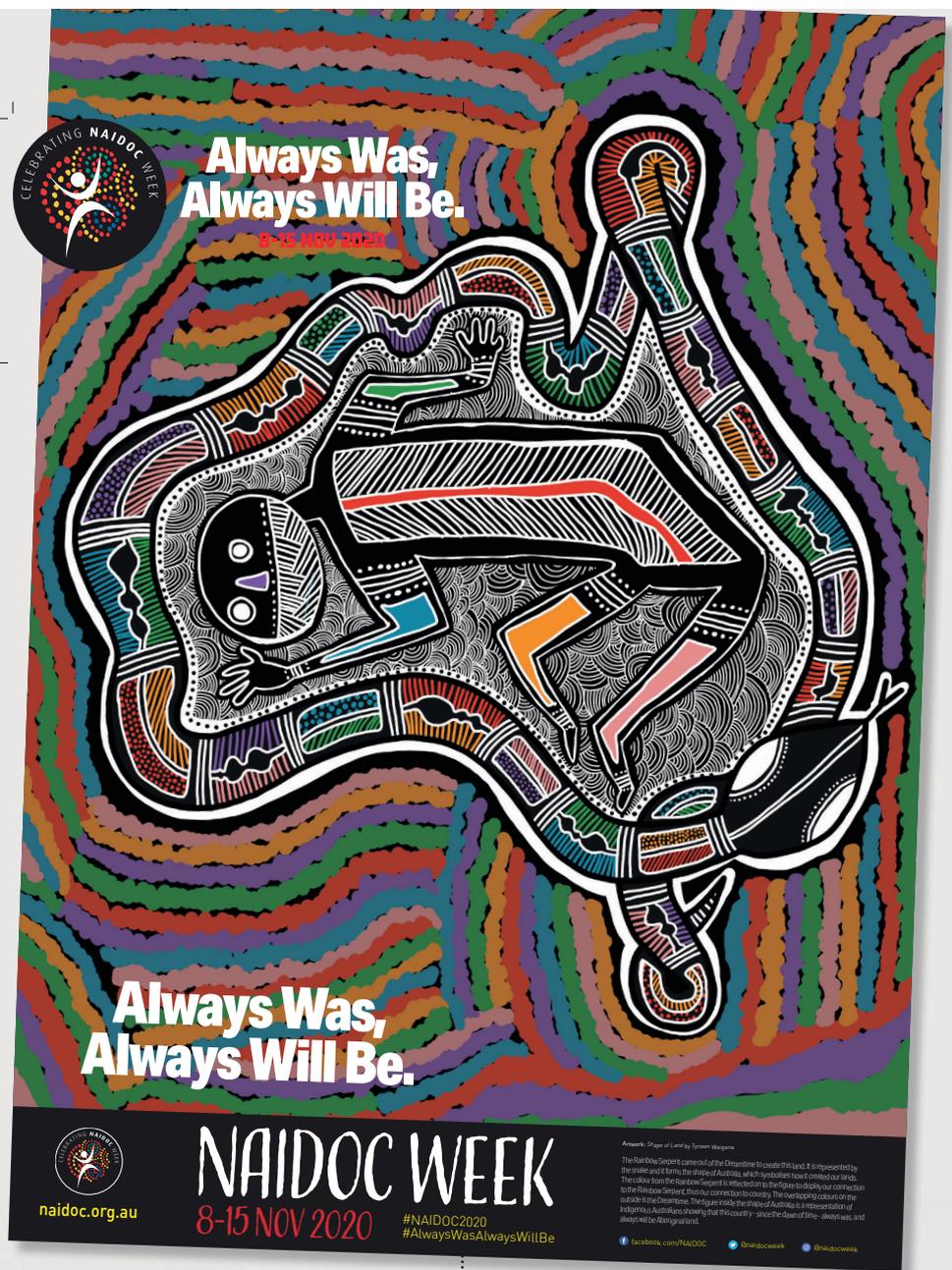
Irrespective of when it is celebrated, NAIDOC Week is an event of national significance for all Australians as it serves to emphasise our spiritual and cultural connection to this country.

NAIDOC 2020 invited all Australians to embrace the true history of this country – a history which dates back thousands of generations.

In recognising that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years, it also reminds us of the ongoing aspirations of our communities as we continue the movement towards justice and equality.

This year's theme 'Always Was, Always Will Be', acknowledges and celebrates that our nation's story didn't begin with documented European contact whether in 1770 or 1606 - with the arrival of the Dutch on the western coast of the Cape York Peninsula.

Instead, it serves to re-tell the story of how the very first footprints on this continent were



those belonging to First Nations peoples.

Our coastal Nations watched and interacted with at least 36 contacts made by Europeans prior to 1770. Many of them resulting in the charting of the northern, western and southern coastlines – of our lands and our waters.

For us, this nation's story began at the dawn of time.

This year, NAIDOC Week serves to reiterate to us all that generations of brilliant Nations covered this continent. All were managing the land - the biggest estate on earth - to sustainably provide for their future.

Through ingenious land management systems like

fire stick farming First Nations people transformed the harshest habitable continent into a land of bounty.

Our adaptation and intimate knowledge of Country enabled us to endure climate change, catastrophic droughts and rising sea levels.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were Australia's first explorers, first navigators, first engineers, first farmers, first botanists, first scientists, first diplomats, first astronomers and first artists.

We want all Australians to celebrate that we have the oldest continuing cultures on the planet and to recognise that our sovereignty was never ceded.



Darwinjung Barker School has an extra three spaces available for 2021.

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Expressions of interest are being sought for Darwinjung members living on the northern end of the Coast who wish to secure a place for their loved ones at Darwinjung Barker School for the 2021 academic year.

An additional three spots have been opened up for Year 3 students at the school in Yarralong on the Central Coast.

The school, which places Aboriginal culture and identity at the heart of the educational experience leads to strong academic and social outcomes, is an initiative of the Darwinjung Local Aboriginal Land

Council (DLALC) and the Council of Barker College (Barker) for Aboriginal children living in the DLALC area.

Just last week the school held its year six graduation event, with Danielle Captain-Webb and Jeff Delaney in attendance to represent your board.

The majority of the year six graduates will now head off to Barker in 2021 to continue their education.

The Darwinjung Barker Campus commenced as an offshoot of Barker College in January 2016, providing school education for up to 30 Aboriginal children in a culturally sensitive and affirming setting

It is located on the site of the former Yarralong Public School on a leasehold basis in cooperation with the Yarralong Community and the NSW Department of Lands.

By providing education to Aboriginal children, Darwinjung Barker is an example of practical reconciliation that lies deep in the heart of a local community group, which has strived to preserve and protect the integrity of the Yarralong Public School since its closure in 2009.



i An expression of interest form can be obtained by emailing: membership@dlalc.org.au

COVID RESTRICTIONS EASING

An easing of COVID restrictions put in place during the height of the pandemic means that all future members meetings can now be conducted face to face.

In recent months government restrictions have meant that all meetings were to be conducted observing tight social distancing rules, resulting in all DLALC meetings being moved online.

But with no new locally acquired COVID-19

case numbers in NSW for some time now, public health orders put in place to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 have now been lifted. The next DLALC members meeting will take place at The Entertainment Grounds in Gosford on Sunday January 17, 2021.

i To find out more, ring our office on: 02 4351 2930.



CONTRIBUTION APPLAUDED

The efforts Council members have gone to mentoring local and indigenous young people has been recognised at the 2020 NSW Youth Action Awards. Uncle Gavi Duncan, together with several DLALC elders and artists, have been publicly lauded by Regional Youth Support Services (RYSS) for helping the group win the “Outstanding work with Aboriginal Young People” Award for their work on the Bunnal and Ngaliya Group at Wyoming Youth Skills Centre initiatives.

Bunnal invites young people from different cultures and ages to explore the rich and vibrant Aboriginal

culture through storytelling, sacred site exploration and favoured rituals. Uncle Gavi is the cultural mentor of the program and teams with local artists to help participants put together a collection of artworks that reflect their learnings.

The collection of works from the Bunnal program, which included an eight-minute film of stunning cinematography, was taken on the road and showcased at Gosford Hospital, Nunyara Aboriginal Health Unit, Central Coast Council at Erina Fair, and The Art House in Wyong.

DARKINJUNG FIRST TO RECEIVE SIGNS

The unique and intrinsic connection the Darkinjung people have to Country here on the Central Coast has been highlighted by a new pilot program implemented by Transport New South Wales (TNSW).

Our Country has been chosen as the one of the first in the state to receive a series of six unique road signs connecting road users to Country.

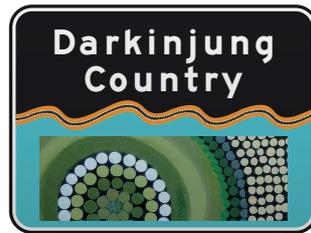
The signs were revealed during a special unveiling earlier this month attended by DLALC, with deputy chairperson Tina West speaking at the

event where she revealed the board had worked closely alongside TNSW to determine that Bushells Ridge, Catherine Hill Bay, Cheero Point, Doyalson, Empire Bay and Ourimbah were the best locations for the signage to appear.

Tina said the signs will help to foster a greater understanding of just how special this place among all people who live, work or are just visiting here and the shared responsibilities we all have to understand

Darkinjung Country and care for its environment, culture and heritage for all the generations to come.

Transport for NSW is continuing to develop this pilot program and will work closely with other Aboriginal Nations to roll out similar signs across the State.



THAT'S ALL FOR THE MEANTIME

Those Members active on social media may have noticed that in recent months we have begun uploading a series of presentations by Gavi Duncan.

Called Darkinjung Ngura, the aim of these short-form videos is to invite interested Members to join Uncle Gavi in exploring Darkinjung country and to learn more about our connection – physical, spiritual and cultural - to the lands on which we walk.

To date the series has covered Terrigal Skillion Ochre Quarry and Soldiers Beach however if there

are other areas of Country you would like to journey through or explore, please let us know by emailing darkinjung@dlalc.org.au and we'll try our best to meet your request.

In the meantime we would like to wish all members and your families all the very best for a happy, healthy and safe festive period and productive new year.

Darkinjung

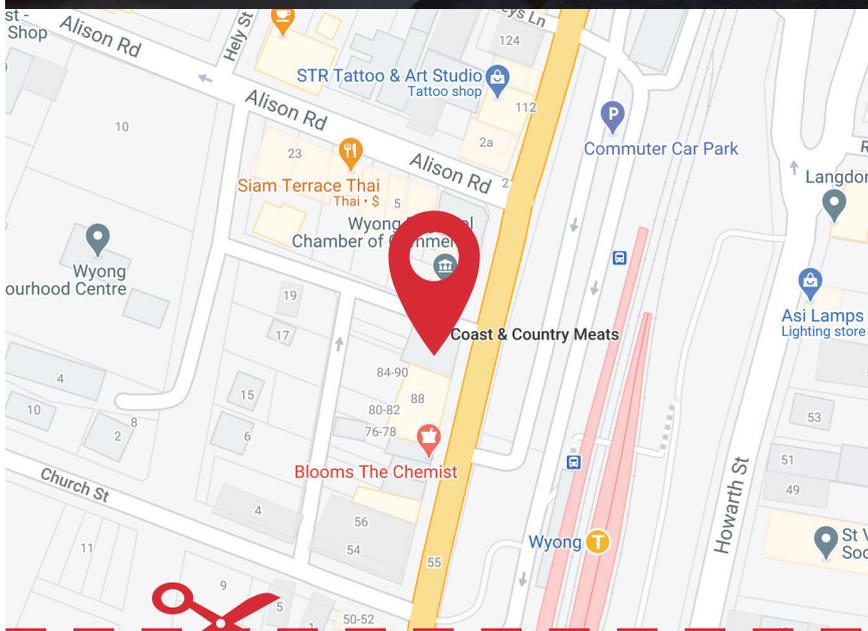


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