

Local Aboriginal
Land Council

NEWSLETTER
Issue 05



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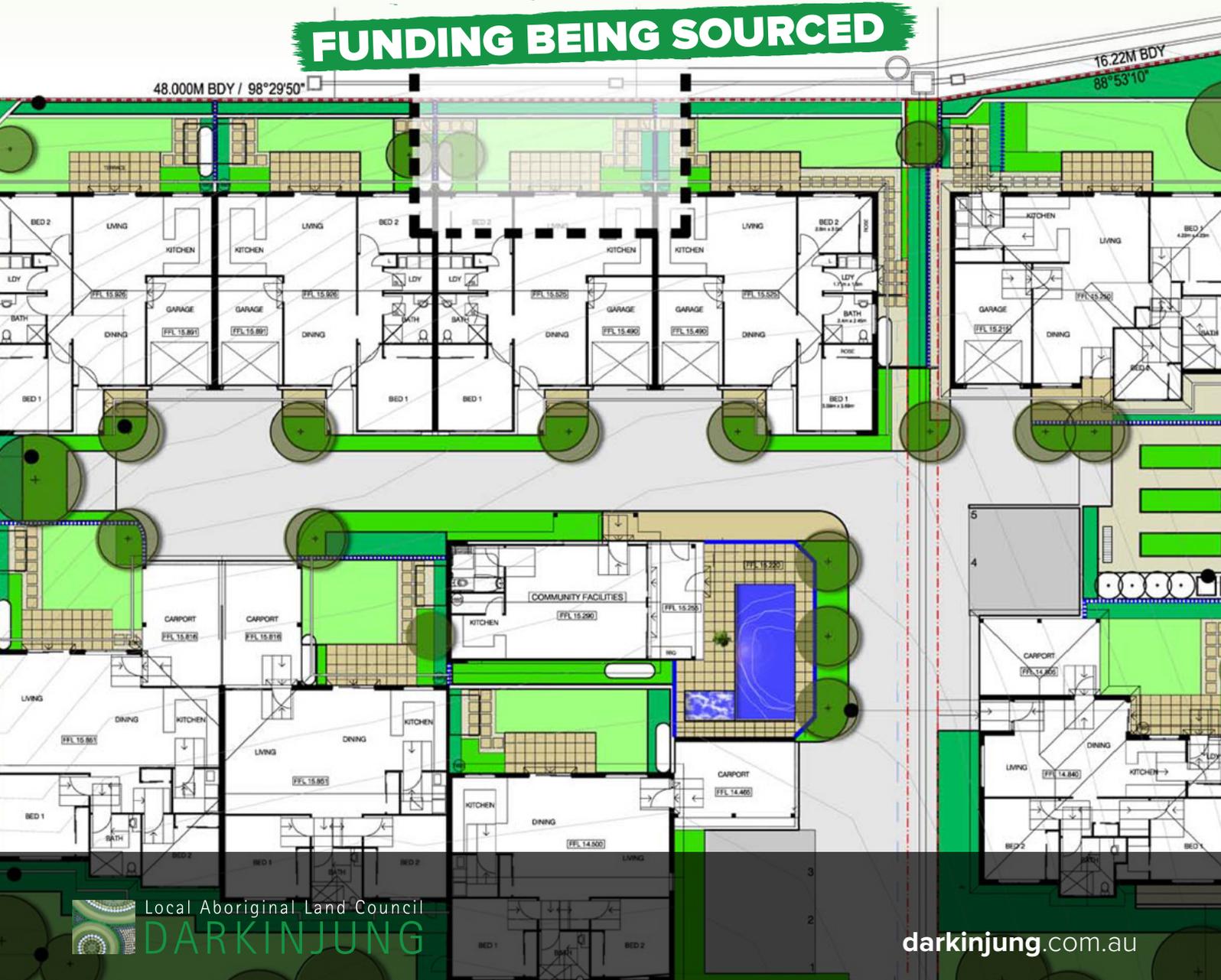
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Welcome

Finally, the wait is over. After 106 long days of lockdown, recent weeks have seen many of us encouraged to emerge from our cocoons and strict stay-at-home orders to enjoy a new range of freedoms.

The relaxing of these strict health orders has seen members sharing meals together at reopened cafes and restaurants, visiting gyms, libraries and pools and more importantly reuniting with family members, friends and loved ones from whom we have been separated.

Yet while the restrictions tested our patience at times, they did little to dull your board's resolve.

Under often trying circumstances where we were forced to juggle

our commitment to our members with competing responsibilities, we still managed to cross off several of our strategic objectives. This included staging our 2021 elections, overseeing the appointment of our new CEO and working hard to ensure the wellbeing of our members remained at the forefront of all operations.

While none of us knows what lays ahead nor whether we have endured the last of the state-wide lockdowns, members can be assured that we will continue to monitor the evolving pandemic situation while taking appropriate measures as and when required to ensure the continued safety and health of our community.

ON OUR COVER



Construction will soon begin on a new independent living facility for Aboriginal seniors at the northern end of the Central Coast.

The development will see nine two-bedroom units built in Blue Haven, the first of its kind to be owned and operated entirely by Aboriginal people.

NEW CEO APPOINTMENT

The board is proud to announce the appointment of Brendan Moyle as our new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Brendan replaces interim CEO Jack Beeton who was appointed in August after former CEO Geoffrey Scott announced he was stepping down from the role.

A proud Kamilaroi/Gomeroi man with cultural connections through Murrawarri, Kooma and Wiradjuri people, Brendan has lived in Canberra for the past 26 years but is well known across NSW for his ongoing commitment to our grassroots communities.

During his extensive professional career, Brendan has worked across both the NSW Government and within the Federal Government, with a range of top level appointments.

His experience covers a wide range of areas including Aboriginal corporate and community governance, leadership development, housing, business administration; cultural heritage protection; economic development and capability. These are in addition to a raft of other key business management, policy and program functions.

However, Brendan has continued to dedicate his time in our communities for decades,

leading work to improve outcomes on the ground for our mob, a cause of which he is extremely passionate.

He is a former chair and deputy chair of the South East Aboriginal Rental Management Service (SEARMS) and a former chair, deputy chair and Councillor of the Ngambri Local Aboriginal Land Council. He is also one of the founders of economic development in the land rights movement and a former member of the NSWALC Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC).

He is also a former vice president of Burringiri Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre in the ACT; a former chair and director of the NSW/ACT Aboriginal Legal Service; a former chair and board member of Munjuwa Aboriginal Health and Housing Corporation; and has sat on many other boards and Ministerial advisory committees.

Despite Brendan's professional achievements, it is the opportunity to give back to the community which continues to drive him. He has already demonstrated this commitment by relocating to the Central Coast to live on Darkinjung land as a demonstration of his commitment to being part of Darkinjung LALC and our community.

NAIDOC WEEK 2021 TO GO AHEAD

Preparations are being made for one of the biggest events on the Darkinjung LALC calendar with NAIDOC Week 2021 activities now set to be staged on consecutive weekends in December. The events were originally due to take place in early July but had to be rescheduled as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

The rescheduled events will see the Darkinjung Ball take place on Saturday 11th December in Mingara.

The Darkinjung Golf Day is set down for Friday 17th December, kicking off at 8am at Kooindah Water. The much-anticipated Darkinjung members Christmas party will take place on Saturday 18th December at the Wyong Pool.

Please note all members will be required to be fully vaccinated to enter each venue.

The NAIDOC 2021 theme – Heal Country! – calls for all first nations people to continue to seek greater protections for its lands, its waters, its sacred sites and its cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration, and destruction.

Each year NAIDOC week grows in stature and depth of celebrations at community, state and national level and Darkinjung members make a vital contribution.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

COMMUNITY PROFILE

ADAM McEWEN

Acting Manager of the Aboriginal Environmental Health Unit (AEHU) with the NSW Ministry of Health

Rarely does Adam McEwen back down from a challenge. Whether fighting to ensure Aboriginal people had access to sufficient hygiene resources during the recent pandemic or tackling the heavy hitters as coach of a junior rugby league side, Adam is clearly a man that can be relied upon when times get tough.

A proud Bundjalung man, whose mob is from the Baryulgil, Wehlabul clan, Adam and the team at the AEHU have been working tirelessly throughout the pandemic, helping to support Aboriginal people and communities throughout NSW to try and limit the impact that COVID-19 has and continues to have.

Projects he has been involved with have included housing work to facilitate home isolation, hygiene resources so families can maintain home hygiene and food relief. Adam has also worked within Public Health performing case interviews, contact tracing and venue risk assessment.

“When we’re talking about people’s lives they’re not just stats on a piece of paper, we’re actually in and working for the people of that community,” he says.

While admitting that Environmental Health is a challenging profession, he says it is also a “wonderfully rewarding” one, so much so that he has now enjoyed over 20 years’ experience working in the field.

Outside of work, Adam is equally as busy. A father of six - five daughters and one son - he has also enjoyed a decades long involvement with the sport of rugby league, firstly as a player and latterly as a coach.

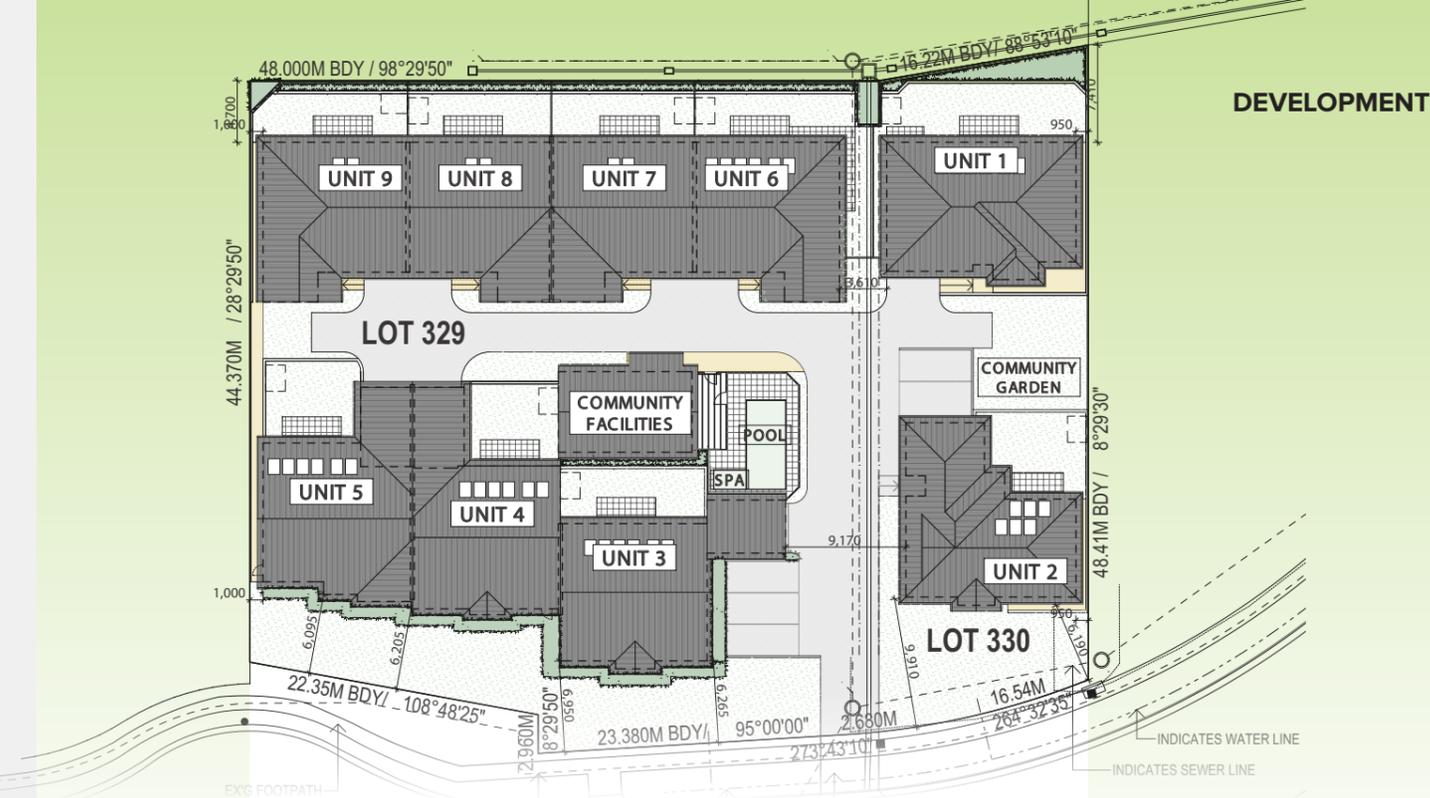


The highlights of his playing career include playing first grade for the South Sydney Rabbitohs, winning local competitions with The Entrance and Ourimbah, as well as many years playing in the Koori Knockout, where he says he was fortunate enough to win two knockouts.

With his playing boots now on permanent hiatus, Adam can usually be found in the coaching box where he leads the Manly Sea Eagles Jersey Flegg team, while also assisting his daughters on their rugby league journey.

Having grown up and lived most of his life on Darkinjung country, Adam says he is extremely proud to be a part of the Aboriginal Community on the Central Coast.

“I see a future where Aboriginal culture is well respected and admired and where Aboriginal people lead conversations and actions that allow us to live the lives we deserve.”



AUNTY BETTY'S PLACE

Anticipation is building around plans to build a new independent living facility for Aboriginal seniors at the northern end of the Central Coast.

Named in honour of Elizabeth Betty Hammond, the development will be known as Aunty Betty's Place and will be positioned as an affordable alternative to living alone or more traditional aged care facilities.

The project will feature nine two-bedroom units alongside a broader range of common area facilities including a BBQ area, swimming pool, community gardens and a common room.

To be constructed on Colorado Drive in Blue Haven it is hoped Aunty Betty's Place will be a leading example of Aboriginal seniors living in Australia that is wholly owned and managed by Aboriginal people.

Development spokesperson Brendan Moyle says Darkinjung anticipates that tenants will also have access to on-site management to assist them in identifying and managing their home-care needs.

Aunty Betty's Place has been designed with sensitivity towards the surrounding environment

and outdoor living. Residences have also been carefully designed around access requirements for tenants with variable mobility and disability needs, he says.

“Aunty Betty's Place presents an opportunity for our elderly and our elders to have access to a high quality standard of communal living for an affordable price. Rather than our seniors potentially living alone in isolated dwellings with limited community contact, our expectation is that through the construction of facilities like Aunty Betty's Place, we will bring our elders together, providing a communal living environment that better meets their social, emotional, cultural and economic needs.”

The project has been earmarked as high priority and funding options are now being progressed to help deliver the project for our elders, he says. One of a number of developments in the Darkinjung development pipeline, the new facility fits in line with DLALC's Community, Land and Business Plan which seeks to ensure that access to safe, secure and affordable housing remains one of Darkinjung's highest priorities.



SOMETHING IN THE WATER?

An opportunity to celebrate a new arrival is always greatly anticipated so with this in mind your board wishes to extend a hearty congratulations and best wishes to the following board members who recently extended their family by welcoming new grandchildren:

- Tina West
- Jeff Delaney
- Robyn Sutherland
- Deb Swan

AWARD WINNING DESIGN

We all know that Kevin ‘Uncle Gavi’ Duncan is something of a national treasure. Now his fame is spreading much further afield, with his story telling efforts now being recognised on the national stage.

Uncle Gavi, alongside local organisation Turf Design Studio, have jointly been named the Good Design Awards Indigenous 2021 Designers of the Year, for their work on the Gosford Leagues Club Park development.

Held to recognise those who demonstrate a steadfast commitment to designing a better and brighter future, the award judges said the Gosford project was “fundamentally about connection”

“Connection to environment, to country and to community – making a place for all.”

The annual awards event, which ran from October 11 to 15, focuses on those that design for positive social and environmental impact, as well as commercial success.

The Indigenous Designer Award recognised and celebrates the contribution that Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People make to Australian design across the spectrum of design principles and practice.

OUR NEW CHAIR

In late September Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council staged its board elections with Barry BJ Duncan appointed chairperson and Danielle Captain Webb named deputy chairperson.

BJ Duncan is a familiar face to many members, having been a strong vocal advocate for DLALC for the past 30-plus years.

Inheriting from his parents a deep love of Darkinjung Country, BJ completed all of his schooling on the Central Coast. Over the years he has held many executive positions with DLALC and during that time has been front and centre as DLALC has evolved from a fledging new organisation to one of the most dynamic and progressive land councils in the state. Alongside other members, BJ was instrumental in what was then regarded as the richest land deal in Australia’s Land Rights movement, The North Entrance development now known as Magenta Shores. To this day members continue to enjoy benefits from that development, some 21 years after contracts were signed.

In noting his excitement at being appointed to the position, BJ said he wished to acknowledge the work completed by executive members who had occupied the role previously and spoke of the many opportunities that he believes lie ahead for the organisation.

BJ believes his wealth of networks in Land Rights and Aboriginal Communities throughout NSW is a great opportunity to re-invigorate members to return to give the Board of DLALC strategic direction for our community.

“We are an asset rich organisation who have yet to tap into the full qualities and potential of our membership....but we will. We have a Board that is community minded and driven by wanting to give back to community to improve the lives of all Aboriginal people on Darkinjung Country....and we will,” he says.



THAT’S ALL FOR THE MEANTIME

The Office of the Registrar and the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) have provided advice to Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) regarding the holding of Members’ Meetings and a range of LALC compliance requirements under the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (the ALRA) and the NSWALC Funding Agreements.

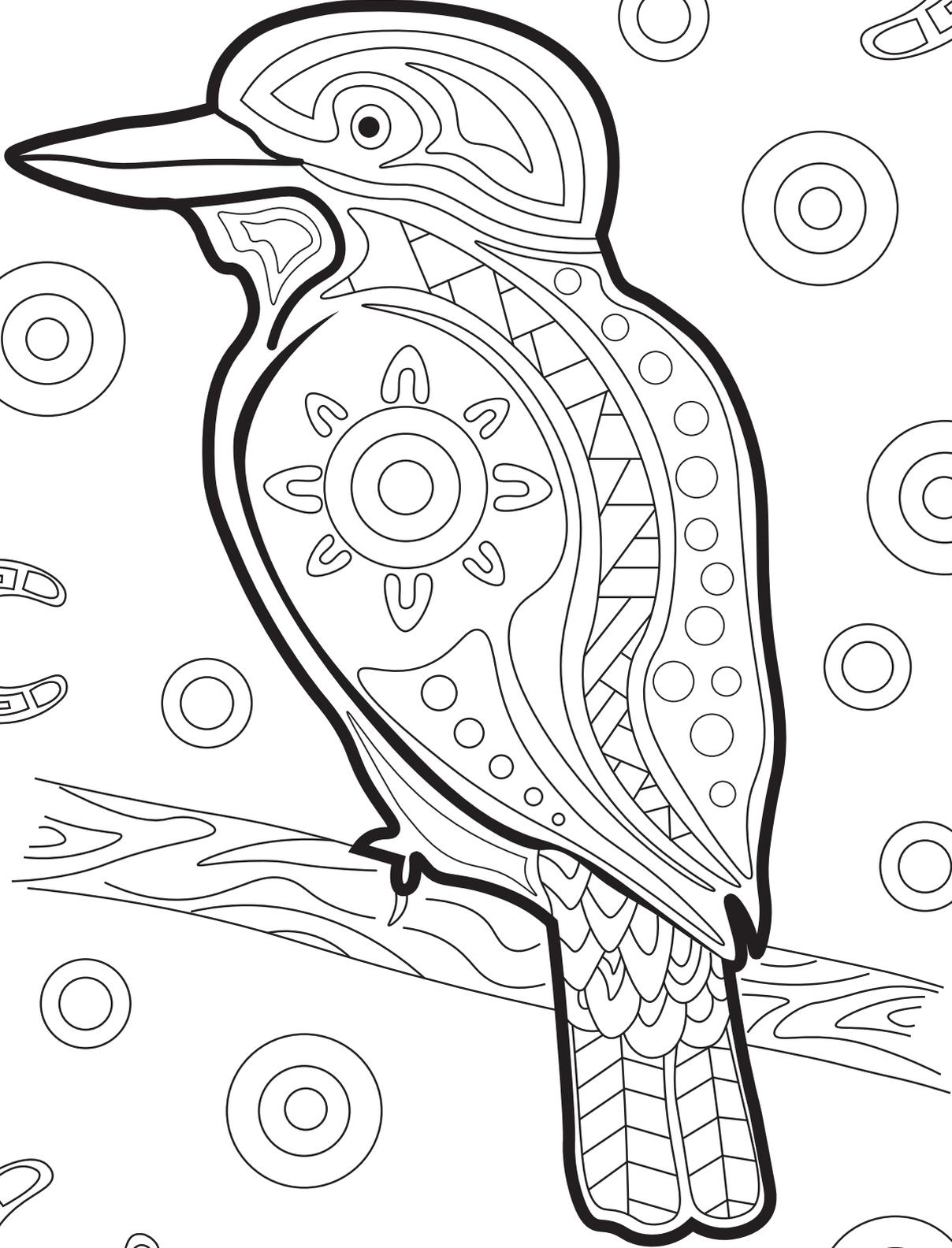
NSWALC and the Registrar encourage all LALCs to consider the new NSW Public Health Orders in detail, and to take appropriate actions in order to ensure the safety of their staff and community.

At this point in time, in light of the lower vaccination rates in some regional areas and across the Aboriginal community, the Registrar and NSWALC

caution against holding Members’ Meetings.

However, if your LALC has urgent business that requires a Members’ Meeting, LALC’s are encouraged to work with NSWALC Zone staff and the Office of the Registrar to ensure that all reasonable precautions are taken to mitigate risk to Staff, Members and Community.

Darkinjung will be proceeding with caution and have considered public health order requirements. Please ensure you have reviewed the COVID-19 requirements when given notice of proposed Members’ Meetings, including any and all requirements for the venue’s COVID-19 Safety Plan.



Colour me in!