



Welcome to our newsletter

Dear Members,

It seems like only a few weeks ago I was saying happy new year, and here we are in May already. At this rate, it will be Christmas before we know it.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge and extend our deepest condolences to the family and community in Mparntwe, Alice Springs and in communities across this nation where families and communities are grieving the loss of loved ones. Every day, we mourn for those we have lost, often in tragic and heartbreaking circumstances. We send our love, strength and care to everyone who is hurting at this time.

These tragedies remind us why we continue this work, to push for real change and to ensure policies, systems and services genuinely protect women and children, while supporting prevention, safety, healing and long-term wellbeing.

Please reach out for support when you need it. Talk to someone you trust, share how you are feeling, and remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. No one should have to carry grief or pain alone.



The year has been really busy with lots of events.

We saw the launch of **Our Ways, Strong Together**, the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence peak. It was a huge privilege to be part of the steering committee to set up this new peak.



The many years of advocating for our own standalone DFSV peak finally came to fruition. We look forward to working alongside Olga and the team to end violence against women and children.

Find out more:

<https://www.ourwaysstrongtogether.org.au/>

We welcomed a new staff member at the end of March. Melissa has been a welcome addition to our small team.

On behalf of myself, Wendy, Olivia, Melissa, and our amazing board, we thank you for your continued support.

Introduction to our Western Australian Director, Dr Hannah McGlade

Hannah joined our board last November.

Hannah is an experienced legal academic and practitioner with a special interest in Indigenous human rights. Her career has focused on justice for Aboriginal people, race discrimination law and practice, Aboriginal women and children, family violence and sexual assault.

Hannah's PhD thesis received the Stanner Award for Excellence in Aboriginal research and was published by Aboriginal Studies Press in 2012: 'Our Greatest Challenge, Aboriginal Children and Human Rights.' Hannah works at Curtin Law School as an Associate Professor.



In 2016, she was appointed the Senior Indigenous Fellow at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, and in 2020-2026, she was appointed to the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues.

Dr McGlade has led the establishment of Aboriginal family legal services in Perth, WA and advocated successfully before UN treaty bodies for a separate national action plan on violence against Aboriginal women before being appointed to the Aboriginal advisory committee overseeing the plan launched in 2026.



From our Tasmanian Director, Delia Summers

I had the honour of conducting a Welcome to Country to our friends from Torres Strait Islands at the opening of their community member, Billy Missi. The City of Launceston and Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery opened an exhibition to the public in March, Billy Missi'n Wakain Tharmai. They honoured the late Torres Strait Islander artist Billy Missi.



Many members of the Aboriginal and broader community came together to celebrate the exhibition opening.



Marking 225 years of survival and memory. The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre facilitated an important event at Piyura Kitina, Aboriginal Land, bringing together community members, Elders and the broader community to reflect on the painful milestone marking 225 years since the invasion and massacre at Risdon Cove (now Piyura Kitina), where Aboriginal men, women and children lost their lives, and to acknowledge the past atrocities committed against my people.

Also, at the event, a panel of Aboriginal people discussed the proposed Aboriginal Heritage Bill 2026. The Aboriginal community is saying that this Bill does not protect Aboriginal Heritage.



Copyright the Mercury newspaper image of Elders.

Aboriginal Heritage Bill 2026

The Tasmanian Government released the Draft Aboriginal Heritage Bill 2026. The Tasmanian Aboriginal community are holding discussions with the Community and government. The proposed Bill keeps decisions and power with the government, does not recognise Aboriginal ownership, allows destruction through permits, offers consultation instead of control and fails to guarantee free, prior and informed consent. This is not Aboriginal heritage reform.

Wybalenna: Honouring Our History and Future, and truth telling.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal families gathered at Wybalenna on Flinders Island to attend the truth-telling exhibition and to see the first stage of the restoration of the buildings on the site.

Wybalenna remains a site of immense sorrow, marking the place where our people were forcibly removed from their land with a promise that they would be returned. It is a place of great importance with memories of our people. The Chapel was prepared with Aboriginal truth-telling of past and present journeys of our people. A highlight of the event was the acknowledgment of Aunty Ida West's autobiography, third edition, *Pride Against Prejudice*. As the first published autobiography by a respected Palawa Elder, the book ensures stories of our ancestors and the resilience of our community are never forgotten.



Visual for community gathering at Royal Park in Launceston for Kumanjayi little baby

The local Launceston community came together to show support for the family and the community in Alice Springs during such a difficult time. Everyone was welcome, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. A small crowd turned up for the occasion.



Mutton Bird season has finished, and the Mutton Ball is coming up

Every year mutton bird season starts around 27 March – 30 April. This is a Tasmanian Aboriginal cultural practice that has been handed down through the generations. After each season, the Shed bosses, workers, and Community come together to celebrate at the Birders Ball. Awards are given to a Young Birder and an Older Birder. This is a great night for the community to gather, share stories and catch up.

A message from our NT Director

Rashida Khan:

Closing the Gap Conference, Canberra. In late April, I had the honour of delivering a keynote at the Closing the Gap Conference in Canberra, held in partnership with The Hatchery. The theme was Strengthening Partnerships to Close the Gap, and I spoke about the central role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in making that happen.

My message was simple: our women already lead in family, community, culture, and governance.

Real progress on Closing the Gap means recognising that leadership and building systems around it, not asking women to fit into structures that were not built for them.

I spoke about five things we need to see more of: women leading alongside Elders across generations; women in real decision-making roles, not just as consultants; partnerships that honour cultural authority; supports that make it possible for women to participate; and communities owning and telling their own stories through their own data.

One of the most important conversations of the day was about how we frame the gap itself. Much of our data is collected through a deficit lens, focusing on what is wrong rather than what is strong. I came away more committed than ever to a strengths-based approach, one that starts with what communities are already doing well and builds from there.

The work around governance and data sovereignty was also a highlight. Hearing from communities who have taken control of their own data and seen real change as a result was both affirming and inspiring. That is the direction our sector needs to move.

NT Flooding: Communities beginning to return home.

Many of you will be aware of the significant flooding that has affected communities across the Northern Territory in recent months. Our hearts have been with everyone impacted throughout this time.

We are relieved to share that communities including Nauiyu (Daly River) and Nganmariyanga (Palumpa) have begun the process of returning home. This is a first step, and an important one, but we know the road ahead is not easy. People are going back to assess the damage and begin the long work of rebuilding.

I also want to acknowledge that the time in evacuation centres has not been easy for mob. The restrictions, the constant intrusions, being watched and managed and away from Country, it takes a real toll. That is not how anyone should have to live, and we see that. We hope that as people return home, things can settle and communities can get back to life on Country.

NATSIWA stands with these communities. We will keep following their lead, amplifying their voices and pushing for the resources and support they need to recover on their own terms. If you are connected to communities in affected areas and want to share what is needed, please reach out to me directly.

Holding Grief: Kumanjayi Little Baby, Alice Springs

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the terrible loss of Kumanjayi Little Baby in Alice Springs.

There are no words adequate to the loss of a precious little one. To the family, to the community, to all who loved and held this child, we are so deeply sorry. NATSIWA holds you in our hearts.

This loss sits within a broader context that we cannot ignore. The safety and well-being of our littlest ones is something we carry in everything we do. We will continue to advocate loudly and clearly for the conditions, the services, and the community-led supports that every child deserves. Please take care of yourselves and each other.

Out and About: Arnhem Land.

On a personal note, I wanted to let you all know that I am spending some time working in Arnhem Land through to the middle of the year. I will be moving between Ramingining, Bulman and Gapuwiyak over the coming months.

If you see me out and about, please come and say hello. I would love to connect.

Closing

Thank you for everything you do every day for our communities, our women and our children. It is a privilege to walk this path alongside you.

As always, please feel free to reach out if you have questions, ideas, or anything you would like to raise.

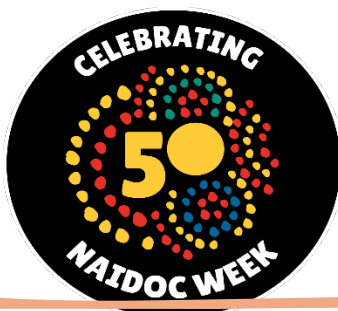
Strengthening Partnerships to Close the Gap Summit



Our NT Director, Rashida Khan, spoke at the Strengthening Partnerships to Close the Gap Summit held from 28–29 April 2026 at the Canberra Rex Hotel and online.

The summit centred on transformational collaboration grounded in respect and self-determination, bringing together Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), governments, and sector leaders to showcase effective partnerships driving systemic change and to explore practical strategies to accelerate progress towards Closing the Gap.

The event provided a national platform for meaningful dialogue, learning, and collaboration with key decision-makers across federal, state, and local government, alongside ACCOs and thought leaders. Through keynote presentations, panel discussions, and interactive sessions, delegates gained practical insights, strengthened cross-sector networks, and explored approaches to embedding shared decision-making, building sustainable partnerships, and delivering tangible outcomes for communities.



First Nations UNLIMITED Women in Leadership Summit

We are excited to be heading up to Meanjin (Brisbane) on Tuesday, 19th, for our third First Nations UNLIMITED Women in Leadership Summit on 20–21 May.

This two-day summit brings together First Nations women from across sectors to share lived experience, build confidence and strengthen leadership pathways grounded in culture, identity, and community.

Explore the program: <https://go.the-hatchery.co/8698NATSIWANewsletter>

There is still time to get your ticket. When booking, use the discount code NATSIWA.

I look forward to seeing many of our members. Make sure you come and say hello.

Federal Budget 2026 - 2027

The federal budget was released last Tuesday, and our chairperson attended the Budget lock-up and dinner at Parliament House in Canberra along with our sister alliances.



The Federal Budget included some important investments that may benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and communities, particularly in remote housing, Closing the Gap measures, healthcare, and family violence responses. Funding commitments included additional investment in culturally safe health initiatives, remote employment programs, First Nations housing, and a new community-led family violence response initiative.

Positive measures included funding for remote housing upgrades, additional investment in First Nations health programs, support for remote jobs and economic development, and funding directed toward Aboriginal community-controlled responses to domestic and family violence.

However, many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's organisations have noted significant missed opportunities. The Budget did not deliver the scale of long-term investment needed to address entrenched inequality, housing shortages, justice issues, digital exclusion, or culturally led healing and prevention programs. Concerns also remain regarding NDIS reforms and whether remote and regional communities will be adequately supported through major system changes.

There is also disappointment that the Budget stopped short of transformative investment in community-led solutions, women's safety infrastructure, justice reinvestment, and sustained funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's organisations that continue to deliver frontline support, advocacy, and healing programs across the country.

Our chairperson, Sarah, at Parliament House



WOMEN DELIVER 2026.

Women Deliver is one of the world's largest global conferences focused on gender equality.

Women Deliver 2026 brought together more than 6,500 delegates from over 170 countries in Narm (Melbourne). For the first time, the conference was hosted in the Oceanic Pacific region, creating an important opportunity to centre First Nations voices, women's leadership, climate justice, health equity, and community-led solutions.

The conference brought together advocates, governments, grassroots organisations, researchers and community leaders to share ideas, strengthen partnerships and discuss collective action to advance the rights, safety and wellbeing of women and girls globally.

We were fortunate to be part of the National Women's Alliance delegation, supported by the Office for Women.

NATSIWA, as one of the National Women's Alliances, hosted two side events (see more below) and ran a booth to highlight the work we do together and raise our profile as a National peak body.

It was a pleasure to attend alongside our Chairperson, Sarah Corrigan, and our new Senior Project Officer, Melissa.

It was an inspiring few days, with opportunities to hear from leaders, share experiences, and connect with others doing important work in their communities. There was a strong focus on collaboration, learning, and recognising the importance of diverse perspectives, including the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

The week started with a heartfelt Welcome to Country by Wurundjeri Elder Aunty Di Kerr, and the exchanging of gifts from the many nations attending



On Sunday, 26th, before the official opening of Women Deliver 2026, delegates gathered for a range of pre-conference events, including a significant First Nations Indigenous Women's gathering. Hosted in partnership with First Nations leaders and organisations from across the Oceanic Pacific region, the gathering centred on Indigenous women's leadership, self-determination, culture and collective action.

The pre-conference included ceremony, intergenerational dialogue and discussions focused on advancing gender equality through Indigenous-led solutions and community knowledge systems. It also contributed to the development of a First Nations Indigenous Women's Statement, ensuring First Nations voices were embedded throughout the broader Women Deliver agenda.

Attending Women Deliver 2026 provided an important opportunity for NATSIWA to strengthen relationships, share the voices and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in international discussions, and learn from innovative approaches being led by Indigenous women and organisations globally. The conference created valuable opportunities to build partnerships, exchange ideas and bring back knowledge that can help strengthen our advocacy, policy work, and community-led approaches across areas such as women's safety, health, leadership, climate justice and economic equality.



The National Women's Alliances hosted two official side events during Women Deliver 2026. The sessions focused on issues including First Nations leadership, women's safety, economic equality, climate justice and community-led advocacy. We thank Minister Katy Gallagher for coming along and opening our side event.



Side event 1 – This is what Leadership looks like – Diverse communities driving change.

THIS IS WHAT LEADERSHIP LOOKS LIKE - DIVERSE COMMUNITIES DRIVING CHANGE

WOMEN DELIVER CONFERENCE 2026

Sarah Corrigan - Facilitator | Isabella Fantasia | Nicole Brown

TUESDAY 28TH APRIL 7:30- 9:00AM

Khayshie Tilak Ramesh | Ashley Taylor

Facilitated by First Nations Women, this interactive panel explores how diverse communities across Australia are addressing social issues through women's leadership and innovation. The panel will explore diverse models of leadership, and the critical, yet undervalued, role women play in holding up the social fabric of Australia - a colonised and multicultural land.

We heard from four incredible speakers, and our wonderful chair, Sarah, was the MC for this session.

Representing the Multicultural Women's Alliance (AMWA) we had: **Khayshie Tilak Ramesh (Kay-shee Ti-luck Ra-mesh)**, a lawyer by trade, but a storyteller, strategist and educator by heart with over a decade of cross-sector experience guiding leaders in advancing equality within workplaces.

Representing NATSIWA, we had our amazing **Nicole Brown**, a proud Larrakia woman and strategic leader driving systems change across business, policy and community. As founder of Following In Their Footsteps, she advances First Nations leadership, economic empowerment and governance reform, working at the intersection of culture and strategy to influence outcomes and create lasting impact for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Representing the Rural Women's Coalition (NRWC), we had **Ashley Taylor**, a young rural station overseer from Central Western Queensland, who brings lived experience of climate variability from growing up and working across remote Australia.

Isabella Fantasia, as a delegate of Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA), the national organisation led by women, girls and gender diverse people with disabilities. In her day-to-day role, she works as a youth, gender and disability expert with Women with Disabilities Victoria (known as WDV).



Side Event 2. – We belong at the table – Getting young voices into policy.

WE BELONG AT THE TABLE - GETTING YOUNG VOICES INTO POLICY

WOMEN DELIVER CONFERENCE 2026

Molly Jeffery - Facilitator | Jane Chen | Claire Bertholl

THURSDAY 30TH APRIL 7:30- 9:00AM

Khayshie Tilak Ramesh | Ella Raciti | Jamieson Lowe

The National Women's Alliances will bring together a diverse group of young women to discuss the persistent absence of young women's voices in policymaking, and what there is to gain by inviting them into the spaces where decisions are made. The cost-of-living crisis, the AI revolution, climate change, gender-based violence, the rise of extremism - Australia's emerging policy problems cannot be solved without young voices at the table.

This event was MC by a wonderful young woman from our sister alliance, Working for Women (WwWA), Molly Jeffery.

On the panel, we had 5 very inspiring young leaders.

Representing NATSIWA, we had Ella Riciti.

Ella is a passionate advocate and emerging leader in healthcare reform, youth representation, and community engagement in Queensland. She is a Youth Advocate with the Queensland Family and Child Commission, Child Rights Queensland Ambassador, Consumer Representative for Townsville Hospital and Health Service, and a member of the Australian Association for Adolescent Health. A three-time 7NEWS Young Achiever Awards semifinalist, Ella is dedicated to amplifying young, regional, and lived-experience voices to drive systemic change.



Representing the Multicultural Women's Alliance was **Jane Chen**, the daughter of Hokkien-Chinese immigrants and a social policy thinker, researcher and activist. She is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne, where she is exploring how the concept of 'intersectionality' is being understood, applied and embedded by public policymakers in Victoria.

Representing the Rural Women's Coalition was **Jamieson Lowe**. Jamieson grew up on a fourth-generation livestock and cropping farm in Culcairn, New South Wales, where her passion for agriculture and regional communities first took shape. She completed a Bachelor of Agriculture, specialising in plant and soil

science. Jamieson now works at the Bureau of Meteorology, translating complex information into practical insights for farmers, industry groups and decision-makers.

Representing Multicultural Women's Alliance (AMWA), Khayshie **Tilak Ramesh** is a lawyer by trade. Khayshie serves as Deputy Chair of Gender Equity Victoria, a Board Director of YWCA Australia, an advisor to the Australian Multicultural Women's Alliance and Equality Institute, and previously served as Multicultural Youth Commissioner of Victoria.

Representing Women with Disability Australia (WWDA), **Claire Bertholli**, who lives and works on Awabakal land. She is currently the Youth Development officer at Women with Disabilities Australia she leads WWDA's Youth Advisory Group. She is passionate about getting young people to participate in leadership, policy, and advocacy. Claire loves reading, art making and live music.



It was an incredible experience witnessing such remarkable young women taking their place at the table.



Have you experienced pre-pregnancy

health care? Or experienced difficulty becoming pregnant?

We want to hear from you.

NATSIWA is partnering with UQ Poche and Monash University to better understand pre-pregnancy health, pre-pregnancy care and infertility among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in Queensland. Pre-pregnancy health relates to the health of people (of all genders) in the months before a pregnancy.

We are seeking expressions of interest to join a research yarn from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (18+ years, living in Queensland) and their partners, family or support persons:

- Who experienced pre-pregnancy health care and/or
- Who experienced difficulty or could not become pregnant.

Yarns will be online or in person (where possible) and last for approximately 45 minutes.

Yarn participants will receive a \$100 gift card.

For more information or to express your interest in an interview contact: e.pegler@uq.edu.au.

Ethics ID: 2025/HE001510

Are you a health professional providing primary care or reproductive health care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in Queensland? We want to hear from you.

NATSIWA is partnering with UQ Poche and Monash University to better understand preconception health, preconception care and infertility among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in Queensland.

We are seeking expressions of interest to participate in an interview.

- Health professionals and service providers located in Queensland
- Working in primary care or reproductive health.

We would like to speak to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous health professionals/service providers.

Interviews will be online or in person (where possible) and last for approximately 45 minutes.

Interview participants will receive a \$100 gift card.

For more information or to express your interest in an interview contact: e.pegler@uq.edu.au.

Ethics ID: 2025/HE001510

Parliamentary Inquiry into Racism, Violence and Hate Against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

We have submitted a submission to the inquiry and would like to thank the members who took the time to attend our workshops, and those who sent in case studies. Your input and lived experience give voice to our submissions, and without the contributions of our members, we cannot do the work we do.

Health Milestone – Trachoma Eliminated as a Public Health Issue in Australia

Minum Barreng (Indigenous Eye Health Unit) is pleased to share the World Health Organization (WHO) announcement on 29 April 2026 that trachoma has been eliminated as a public health problem in Australia.

This milestone sees Australia become the 30th country globally to achieve elimination of trachoma, the world's leading infectious cause of blindness, which remains endemic in 29 countries and affects an estimated 1.9 million people worldwide.

Minum Barreng recognises this achievement as a powerful example of sustained commitment, strong community leadership, and genuine partnership over many years.

Opportunities –

Gudjuda Indigenous Ranger Traineeship (Townsville)

Gudjuda Group Aboriginal Corporation is inviting Expressions of Interest for the [Gudjuda Indigenous Ranger Training and Employment Traineeship Program for First Nations young people aged 18–21 years.](#)

This is a six-month, paid traineeship based in Townsville, offering participants hands-on experience and pathways into ranger work and environmental land management.

The program is designed to support young First Nations people to build skills, confidence, and long-term employment opportunities within the Indigenous ranger sector.

Applications close: Friday 05 June 2026
Submit EOI: project-admin@gudjuda.com.au

A Place for Culture – Free Professional Learning Opportunity for ECEC Educators

SNAICC – National Voice for our Children is inviting Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) educators and leaders working in non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services to enrol in the upcoming A Place for Culture workshops taking place in South Australia during June and July 2026.

A Place for Culture is a fully funded program helping educators build culturally responsive and inclusive environments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families through online learning and an in-person workshop.

Workshop Locations:

- Tarntanya/Adelaide - Tuesday, 30 June 2026. KWK Aboriginal Corporation Office
- Yartapuulti/Port Adelaide - Wednesday, 1 July 2026 - Yitpi Yartapuultiku Aboriginal Cultural Centre

Workshops will be delivered in additional major metropolitan locations across Australia throughout 2026.

To stay up to date as enrolments open, [submit an Expression of Interest here: \[Link\]](#)

For any questions, please contact training@snaicc.org.au.



Empower Her Journey – Business Fundamentals Workshop

Did you miss out on attending one of the face-to-face Empower Her Journey sessions? There is still an opportunity to get involved.

Join the upcoming *Empower Her Journey – Business Fundamentals Workshop*, facilitated by First Nations businesswoman Kat Henaway.

This online workshop is designed to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women interested in starting or growing a business in a culturally safe and empowering environment. It is a great opportunity to connect with other women, build confidence, and strengthen your business knowledge.

Workshop Details

- Tuesday 21 & Thursday 23 June
- 6:00pm – 9:00pm
- Online via MS Teams

Topics Include

- Business foundations and planning
- Goal setting and business growth
- Marketing and branding
- Funding and grant opportunities
- Building confidence in business

To register, please complete the registration form: [Register Here](#)



Below is a listing of some financial support services in Australia:

National Debt Helpline or call 1800 007 007 – provides information about the key rights you have in some common debt situations. This includes fines, personal credit cards and loans, debt collection, bills and payday loans.

Moneysmart – Urgent help with money – help for if you're feeling overwhelmed, in crisis or struggling to make ends meet.

Small Business Debt Helpline or call 1800 413 828 – a free service for small businesses in financial difficulty that provides free, independent and non-judgemental advice.

ATO – Financial difficulties and disasters – provides information about managing tax and super if you experience financial difficulties or disasters

The Leaving Violence program is now available across Australia, creating access to relevant services for people experiencing intimate partner violence. [Click here for more.](#)

The National Redress Scheme can help people who have experienced child sexual abuse to access redress and free, confidential support. They also have resources for people with disability and their supporters, including Easy Read guides and videos. [Find out more here](#)

HELPLINES:

Disability Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 1800 880 052 A free, independent and confidential service for reporting abuse and neglect of people with disabilities.

13 YARN: 13 92 7624/7 support for First Nations people

1800 RESPECT: 1800737732 The national domestic, family and sexual violence counselling, information and support service.

QLife 1800184527: Qlife provides anonymous and free LGBTQI+ peer support and referral for people in Australia wanting to talk about sexuality, gender, bodies, feelings or relationships.

Rainbow Sexual, Domestic & Family Violence Helpline: 1800 497212

Professional trauma counselling for anyone in Australia who are from LGBTQ+ communities who have recently or in the past experienced sexual, domestic or family violence.

Do you have a business or a community event you would like to promote? We are more than happy to share in our newsletter, our next one will be coming out in August.

Make sure you check your emails as we send out opportunities and requests to support us with the work we do. You are our Voice.

PHOTO DUMP



It's always great to catch up with friends

