



## Welcome to our newsletter #4

Dear Members,

I hope you are all keeping well with the flu season and a resurgence of Covid in some places. We all need to take precautions to care for each other.

May and June have been incredibly busy, we held our First Nations Women in Leadership Summit on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of May in Meanjin (Brisbane). It was incredible to see over 210 people in the room and 15 online. We also signed up 68 new members.

There are no words to express how much we appreciate the amazing women who shared their leadership journey both as speakers or participants in the room. The shared journeys were often insightful and at times sad, but from all the speakers came the message that as strong black women we can achieve anything we want to.



I am forever in awe of the amazing women from the Hatchery who nurtured the idea of NATSWA hosting a Leadership Summit. To see it come to fruition and be so successful speaks to their expertise, understanding and commitment to make sure our first summit was so incredible.



Joslyn and myself with women from the Hatchery.



I thank our Chairperson Joslyn and the NATSIWA board for their support. We hope that this will be the first of many such events.

We will be looking into hosting a mentor program in the near future to support women who have started or will be starting their leadership journey.

So, keep an eye out as you might step up to become a mentor or receive support from a mentor.

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**Sign up your family and friends, the more members we have the louder our voice.**



### **Message from our Chairperson Joslyn.**

Our board and executive continue to move forward in a culturally safe and connected way. The amazing connections and relationships established on our NATSIWA board with our executive and staffing of NATSIWA is a demonstration of the collaboration and partnerships needed across our nation to represent and promote our respective states and territories in national advisory, promotions and leadership.

We are hoping to reach further into our communities across the nation to ensure there are established and maintained genuine connections to elevating the voices of our women and girls' rights.

Exciting times ahead as we continue to build on partnerships and collaborative activities with government and services providers for our women and girls for culturally safe spaces. We need to come together to strategise and work towards progressive reform. The Hatchery and NATSIWA's recent summit has opened the doors to endless opportunities. Please reach out to us if you have some great ideas to consider in your state or territory.

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## NATSIWA's Recent Sponsorship of the Empowerment of the Year Award for the NAIDOC Perth Awards Event 2024

NATSIWA's Board of Directors recently approved the support of Naming Rights for the Perth based NAIDOC Perth Awards Event 2024. The winning finalists is Noongar man Mr Murray Riley:



Murray Riley, a proud Noongar man with deep cultural ties to the Ballardong and Yued people, was born and raised on Wadjuk Boodja. The guidance, love, and support of my grandparents, Ronald Riley and Myrtle Riley Nee Bennell, profoundly shaped my upbringing, instilling in me the values and strength that define who I am today. Becoming a father at a young age transformed my perspective, compelling me to make decisions that would positively impact my family. Determined to be a positive role model and change the trajectory of my son's life, I embarked on a path of growth and responsibility. My journey reflects my dedication to creating positive change, fostering opportunities, and building a brighter future for Indigenous communities. I am currently Service Lead Cultural Advice and Employment, working for Ruah Community Services.

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A recent community meeting Joslyn attended in Boorloo (Perth) on Whadjuk Noongar Boodja, connected her with the founding CEO Lorraine Pryor. Voice of Hope's aim is to help our vulnerable women who are impact by family and domestic violence, drugs and alcohol, imprisonment, removal of children and many other mental health and wellness issues.

Anyone wanting support are encouraged to come and be part of this warm culturally safe space to connect and gain support from those others in attendance.





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### **NATSIWA Advisory Groups**

We are looking for expressions of interest from our members who would like to be part of our advisory groups.

#### **Youth 18 to 30.**

This group will provide advice and lived experience on issues affecting Aboriginal girls.

#### **General advisory group 31 to 50**

This group will provide advice and lived experience on issues impacting on Aboriginal women.

#### **Elders and respected persons 51+**

This group will provide advice, information on issues impacting older Aboriginal women.

We strongly encourage LGBTIQ+, Women with disabilities to apply.

Each group will have 10 members and be supported by our staff. You do not need “professional” experience, as you already have understanding of the issues impacting our people from the lived experience of being part of your community.

If you are interested or would like more information, please email [ceo@natsiwa.org.au](mailto:ceo@natsiwa.org.au).

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### **Tasmania Trip**

Joslyn (Chairperson) and I will be visiting Tassie for a week from the 17/18<sup>th</sup> of June in Launceston and the 19/20<sup>th</sup> of June in Hobart. As you are aware we do not have a Director representing Tasmania and we would really like to be able to fill this position. We are hoping to catch up with as many members as possible as well as visit services and organisations that may be able to assist us. If you know of any service that we should be visiting, we are more than happy to hear from you.

We will also be holding a member’s dinner in both cities. Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> in Launceston and Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> in Hobart. If you would like to attend, please rsvp to [ceo@natsiwa.org.au](mailto:ceo@natsiwa.org.au). Once we have numbers we can then book and let you know where it will be.

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Jingi Wallah from Mia (NATSIWA communications officer)

Recently, I went back up to Bundjalung Country, and last Sunday I was lucky enough to attend a Weaving Waterways workshop run by Bundjalung non-for-profit Country as Teacher.

Weaving Waterways is a project run by First Nations women which aims to make our rivers and creeks healthy again through the planting of our traditional weaving fibres such as lomandra and buckie rush. These plants help stabilise our riverbanks and filter our water, but also give back to us. Through gathering and collecting their fibres we can continue our weaving practices and keep our culture strong and healthy.

Our deadly team of First Nations women pictured below; photo taken by Pearl Truswell.



After getting muddy in Picabeen park in Bangalow, Arakwal Country, through planting buckie rush along the banks, we sat on our yapa mats, yarned and weaved together. It was a powerful day of remembering our connections to our rivers, plants and each other.



Country as Teacher has been running these planting and weaving events twice a month on Bundjalung Country, we always welcome more support, for more info see here: <https://www.countryasteacher.org/projects-1>

**If you have anything you would like us to share or an event in your community, or want to highlight your organisation, send through the information and we would be happy to add to our next newsletter.**

## NATIONAL NAIDOC Week



National NAIDOC Week is rapidly approaching, and we celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Wherever you live, you can take part in NAIDOC Week celebrations. To find out about NAIDOC Week activities in your area, contact your nearest [Regional Office](#). Or your local community service.

### Artist

Deb Belyea – SAMUAWGADHALGAL, TORRES STRAIT

‘Urapun Muy’, from the Kalaw Kawaw Ya dialect of the Top Western Islands of the Torres Strait, means ‘One Fire’. The title of this work pays homage to Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people everywhere, as we all have that one fire: our passion for our culture.

“In this work, I have depicted the hands of our ancestors that have carefully dropped a burning ember on to a fire. This ember burns hot with intensity, stoking the flames, as it combines with the new fire. The linear detail shows the energy and power as cultural knowledge is transferred from our ancestors to us today. Culture is the fire that gives us knowledge, wisdom and purpose.

It is our responsibility to maintain, practice, and pass on our fire to our future generations. Afterall, Culture keeps us Blak, Loud and Proud”.

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## Items of interest

The South Australian Commissioner for Aboriginal children and young people has released,

[Holding on to Our Future, the Final Report of the independent Inquiry into the removal and placement of Aboriginal children in South Australia.](#)

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Sex Discrimination Commissioner Dr Anna Cody wrote an opinion piece in Women's Agenda about the epidemic of gendered violence in Australia and the need for the right solutions.

[https://womensagenda.com.au/latest/our-response-to-domestic-violence-cannot-be-a-one-size-fits-all-approach/?mc\\_cid=bef33fdb59&mc\\_eid=d24c4b7b3d](https://womensagenda.com.au/latest/our-response-to-domestic-violence-cannot-be-a-one-size-fits-all-approach/?mc_cid=bef33fdb59&mc_eid=d24c4b7b3d)

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## MEASURING FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Westpac will be holding a financial workshop measuring Financial Performance.

It can be a real challenge to find the time to improve the financial performance of your business. Without the right tools and systems in place, driving cash and profits through your business can be a struggle and, ultimately, even prevent you from realising your full potential

### Event Details

**Date** Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024

**Time** 12:00pm - Sydney,  
Melbourne, Brisbane,  
Canberra & Hobart  
11:30pm - Adelaide,  
Darwin  
10:00am – Perth

**Location** Virtual via Microsoft  
Teams

## Registration

[Use this link to secure your place today!](#)

Westpac's Indigenous Business Banking team specialise in helping Indigenous businesses to get the best value from their business banking partner. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

## Indigenous Business Team Westpac Indigenous Banking

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[indigenousbusiness@westpac.com.au](mailto:indigenousbusiness@westpac.com.au)

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## Changes to Family Law System

Significant changes to Australia's family law system including the legal framework a court will apply when making parenting orders under the *Family Law Amendment Act 2023* commenced on **6 May 2024**.

With these changes, it is now clear that when a court is deciding who is to have responsibility for making major long-term decisions about the child, it should do so with an unequivocal focus on the child's best interests. The changes also send a message to those agreeing to arrangements outside of court that there is no expectation at law to agree to equal time or shared decision-making where this is not what is best for the child.

### Other elements of the reforms include:

- Power for the courts to prevent further proceedings where they are harmful and without merit, to stop litigants who may be misusing the court system to cause harm to another party or a child
- Simplified compliance and enforcement provisions for child-related orders, and a statutory requirement for Independent Children's Lawyers to meet with and seek the views of children.

The Attorney-General's Department has published a number of resources to assist parents and families in understanding the changes, including a [factsheet for parents and parties](#)

# KEEP THE FIRE BURNING! BLAK, LOUD AND PROUD

7-14 JULY 2024



A few more pics of our Leadership summit.

