

MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed 7.30pm 25.9.2012

DEADLY WINNERS

25 SEPTEMBER 2012

There were no surprises that NRL Bulldogs fullback Ben Barba who won the 2012 Dally M Medal scored the Deadly for NRL Player of the Year, or that Sydney Swans goal master Lewis Jetta won the AFL Player of the Year in front of a capacity crowd at the 18th Deadlys tonight at the Opera House.

In a night of honouring the achievers across music, sport, the arts, entertainment and the community, the Deadlys® show was must see, with plenty of high notes and some special tributes.

League legend, the late Arthur (Artie) Beetson was posthumously awarded The Ella Award for Lifetime Achievement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sport, while the original Sapphires, Beverly Briggs, Naomi Mayers, Lois Peeler, Laurel Robinson and Tony Briggs, who wrote the Sapphires play on which the hit film of the same name was based, were honoured through the Jimmy Little Award for Lifetime Achievement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander music.

In the music categories, the talent and current wave of popularity of Jess Mauboy and Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu ensured they took home Deadlys® for Single of the Year (Galaxy), Female Artist of the Year and Male Artist of the Year.

The boxer who donned an Aboriginal T-shirt in the London Olympic ring, Damien Duncan Hooper was awarded Most Promising New Talent in Sport, while international basketball star and Olympian Patrick Mills, not surprisingly, took home Male Sportsperson of the Year.

The Arts' categories acknowledged the important issues that have marked contemporary Indigenous history, with the Film of the Year going to ABC's Mabo and both Jimi Bani who played Eddie Koiki Mabo in that film winning Male Actor of the Year. Deborah Mailman who played his wife Bonita was awarded Female Actor of the Year.

A high point of the night was the announcement of the inaugural Marcia Langton Award for Lifetime Achievement in Leadership – presented by Professor Langton herself – which recognised the work of Yarrabah and Palm Island activist Percy Neal.

The Lifetime Contribution Award for Healing the Stolen Generations went to Marumali Healing founder and member of the Stolen Generations, Aunty Lorraine Darcy Peeters who works with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander inmates, health workers and members of the Stolen Generations to heal the terrible legacies of the past.

The community awards acknowledged the grassroots efforts of those across Australia working in Education, Health, Employment, Indigenous Broadcasting and Cultural Advancement.

The Tjanpi Desert Weavers travelled all the way from central Australia to be at the Deadlys® and were honoured with the Outstanding Achievement in Cultural Advancement. Tjanpi (meaning grass) supports the production and marketing of baskets, sculptures and seed jewellery made by over 400 women from 28 women, across three states, NT, WA, SA.



THE
2012
NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER, MUSIC, SPORT, ENTERTAINMENT & COMMUNITY AWARDS
Deadlys®

MEDIA RELEASE

The Deadlys® show had all the thrills and spills of a major award night and Executive Producer and founder Gavin Jones said the 18th Deadlys® fulfilled its vision in 2012.

“The Deadlys® has always had a vision to recognise, celebrate and showcase the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to our community and to Australian society,” he said.

“Over the years, the Deadlys® has played a role in supporting and advancing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander music, sport, the arts and entertainment, community and leadership – that is why the Deadlys® is such an important event on the national calendar for everyone – the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, and wider Australia.”

Mr Jones acknowledged the support of the Australian Government through the Department of Health and Ageing, who had been supporting the Deadlys® since the first awards’ night in 1995.

The Deadlys® will be broadcast on SBS One SBS1 on Sunday, 30 September 2012 and repeated on Thursday, 4 October 4 at 9.30pm on SBS Two and Wednesday, 3 October at 9.30pm on NITV.

Vibe Australia produces the Deadlys®, Vibe Alive, Vibe 3on3®, InVibe, Deadly Vibe®, Deadly Sounds and Deadly TV. For more information about products: www.vibe.com.au or find us on facebook [vibe australia](https://www.facebook.com/vibeaustralia) and follow us on twitter [@vibeaus](https://twitter.com/vibeaus)

For media enquiries, contact Maryann Weston on 02 4822 8230 or maryann@gjcvibe.com.au

The Deadlys® pays particular tribute to the Australian Government and the Department of Health and Ageing (DOHA), the Australian Government - Closing the Gap, Healing Foundation, Department of Families, Housing and Community Services (FaHCSIA), the Department of Broadband Communications and the Digital Economy, Vibe Australia, the Department Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), Attorney-General’s Department, QANTAS, Sydney Opera House, NITV, and Gavin Jones Communications. The Deadlys® also celebrates 10 years of broadcasting with SBS.



THE
2012
NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER, MUSIC, SPORT, ENTERTAINMENT & COMMUNITY AWARDS
DEADLYS[®]

Embargoed until 7.30pm, 25.9.2012

Music

Most Promising New Talent in Music*

Marcus Corowa

Male Artist of the Year

Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu

Female Artist of the Year

Jessica Mauboy

Hip Hop Artist of the Year

Yung Warriors

Single of the Year

Jessica Mauboy - Galaxy

Album of the Year

Troy Cassar-Daley - Home

Band of the Year

The Last Kinection

Arts

Male Actor of the Year

Jimi Bani - Mabo

Female Actor of the Year

Deborah Mailman - Mabo

Dancer of the Year*

Janet Munyarryun

Visual Artist of the Year*

Vernon Ah Kee

Film of the Year

Mabo

Television Show of the Year

The Straits (ABC)

Outstanding Achievement in Literature*

Ali Cobby Eckermann - Ruby Moonlight

Sport

Most Promising New Talent in Sport*

Damien Duncan Hooper - Boxing

Male Sportsperson of the Year

Patrick Mills - Basketball

Female Sportsperson of the Year

Bo de la Cruz - Rugby

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander AFL Player of the Year

Lewis Jetta - Sydney

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander NRL Player of the Year

Ben Barba - Canterbury

Community

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Health Worker of the Year

John Corowa

Outstanding Achievement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health*

Boodjari Yorgas Family Care Program

Outstanding Achievement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education*

Napranum Parents and Learning Group (PAL)

Outstanding Achievement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment*

Gavin Lester - Boomerang Constructions

Community Broadcaster of the Year*

Natalie Ahmat - NITV News

Outstanding Achievement in Cultural Advancement*

Tjanpi Desert Weavers - NPY Women's Council

Outstanding Contribution to the Stolen Generations*

AbSec - NSW

Hall of Fame

The Lifetime Contribution Award for Healing the Stolen Generations

Aunty Lorraine Darcy Peeters

The Marcia Langton Award for Lifetime Achievement in Leadership

Percy Neal

The Ella Award for Lifetime Achievement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sport

Arthur Beetson

The Jimmy Little Award for Lifetime Achievement to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Music

Tony Briggs and the Original Sapphires - Beverly Briggs, Naomi Mayers, Lois Peeler, Laurel Robinson

**These awards are judged by the Deadly Executive Academy*

18th Deadly Awards Winner Profiles

Music



MOST PROMISING NEW TALENT IN MUSIC

Marcus Corowa

After moving to Sydney last year and recording his debut EP with Gadigal Music, singer/songwriter Marcus Corowa is building a strong following with his catchy melodies and smooth, soulful voice. Marcus blends with the sounds of RnB and gospel with jazz and blues to create a unique warm sound.

After refining his sound, Marcus became a finalist in Queensland's premier song writing competition - the Q Song Awards in 2010 and the APRA Professional Development Awards in 2011. This gave him the confidence to move to Sydney to continue his career. Since then he has performed at the 2012 Yabun Festival alongside Jessica Mauboy and Dan Sultan and recording his first EP - 'The Greater You'. It contains infectious melodies and smooth soulful sounds.

Marcus grew up in Bowen, Queensland, before moving to Brisbane with his family in his teens. His musical ability comes from his family, picking up a guitar at the age of six. He grew up listening to his uncles and auntie, as well as Al Green, George Benson and a lot of that old Mowtown music.

Marcus is excited about writing more material for a later album. His music has already allowed him to travel the world - having travelled

to Brazil in 2010 as part of an ACPA (Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts) exchange program.

MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Gurrumul Yunupingu

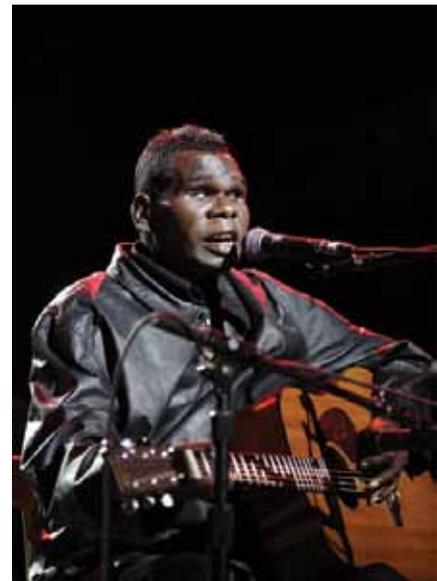
Gurrumul's star just keeps rising. This year his album 'Rrakala' went platinum and he even played for the Queen at her Diamond Jubilee in front of Buckingham Palace - watched by over 100 million people across the globe.

Fresh from this performance, Gurrumul appeared on Australian Story and has been getting unprecedented attention for his new single 'Bayini' - a duet with acclaimed singer/songwriter Sarah Blasko.

He released his double platinum debut self-titled album 'Gurrumul' in 2008, which led Rolling Stone magazine to call him, 'Australia's most important voice'. His highly anticipated second studio album 'Rrakala' was released in 2010 to massive critical acclaim and international success.

On 'Rrakala', Gurrumul diversified his musical prowess. He journeyed deeper into his Aboriginal identity. He plays drums, piano and nylon string acoustic and electric guitars on this album, but most of all it is his angelic voice that captures the listener.

Gurrumul was born on Elcho Island, off the coast of Arnhem Land. He is from the Gumatj clan of the Yolngu and his mother is from the Galpu nation. He sings in the Yolngu language and his extraordinary and captivating talent is truly unique. He was an integral member of Yothu Yindi and also plays with the hugely popular Saltwater Band. He won the Deadly Awards for Artist of the Year in 2011 as well as Album of the Year.



Music

FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Jessica Mauboy

Jessica Mauboy first graced Australian television as a shy 16 year old on Australian Idol in 2006. She was runner-up that season, but was subsequently signed to Sony Music Australia.

In February 2007 she released her debut LP, 'The Journey', cracking the Aussie Top Five – thanks in part to the album's lead single, a cover of the Christina Aguilera ballad 'Beautiful'.

Jessica, from Darwin, recorded her debut album, 'Been Waiting' in 2008. It achieved double platinum sales, garnered seven Australia Recording Industry Association (ARIA) award nominations and produced her first number-one single 'Burn', as well as the album's other top-10 hits, 'Because' and 'Running Back'.

In 2010 she released her second studio album, 'Get 'em Girls', which debuted at number six on the ARIA Album Chart. The album features the top-10 hit 'Saturday Night', with American rapper Ludacris.

With this album, Jessica Mauboy has found her true sound, working with the best in the business, as well as winning over new admirers to her talent and soaring vocals.

She won the Female Artist of the Year Deadly in 2011. Since then she has starred in the award-winning film - The Sapphires, which premiered on August 2 at the Melbourne International Film Festival and was released in cinemas on August 9. Her new single 'Gotcha' – from the film – was released on July 13.



HIP HOP ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Yung Warriors



Melbourne-based Hip Hop duo - The Yung Warriors have a new album out called Standing Strong, produced by Payback Records. They are touring the country to promote it. It has been a long road for the boys to get to this point, but they feel they are taking the next step up.

The Yung Warriors come from a great musical lineage. Tjimba Possum Burns and his brother Narjik Day Burns are the sons of Selwyn Burns of legendary Indigenous band Coloured Stone.

They have collaborated with International heavyweights - Outlawz (Tupac's group) and others followed, establishing the band firmly on the Hip Hop circuit. The Yung Warriors are playing with some other Hip Hop heavyweights on their current tour including Impossible Odds.

Tjimba says the Yung Warriors are "a branch on the tree of old great music including Warumpi Band, No Fixed Address and Coloured Stone." The duo completed a national tour last year with both of these bands and loved it. Tjimba particularly enjoyed doing a spate of re-mixes with Buna Lawrie (Coloured Stone) 'Black Boy' and also with Uncle Bart Willoughby (No Fixed Address). After the tour, they hope to make more albums, bring out more material, move around and bring new talent up.

Music

SINGLE OF THE YEAR

Galaxy - Jessica Mauboy

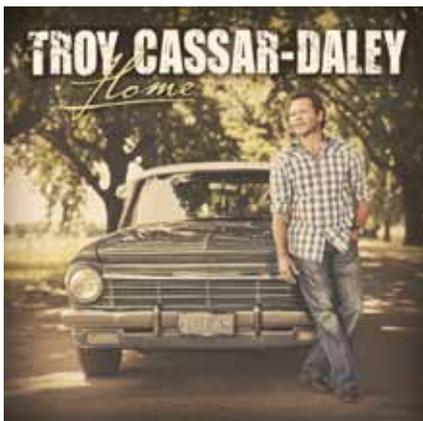
'Galaxy' is the fifth single from Jessica Mauboy's second studio album, 'Get 'Em Girls'. It also features Stan Walker on vocals. It was released digitally in October 2011 and peaked at number 13 on the ARIA Singles Chart and number seven on the ARIA Urban Singles Chart. 'Galaxy' also became Jess' first charting release outside of Australia, reaching number 36 on the New Zealand Singles Chart.

The music video for the song was shot in Clovelly, NSW and premiered online on 1 November 2011.

Jessica Mauboy, from Darwin, first graced Australian television as a shy 16-year-old on Australian Idol in 2006. She was runner-up that season, but was subsequently signed to Sony Music Australia. Her debut album 'Been Waiting' (2008) achieved double platinum sales, garnered seven ARIA award nominations and produced her first number-one single 'Burn', as well as the album's other top-10 hits, 'Because' and 'Running Back'.

Her second studio album, 'Get 'em Girls' debuted at number six on the ARIA Albums Chart and was certified gold by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA). With this album, Jessica Mauboy has found her true sound, working with the best in the business, as well as winning over new admirers to her talent and soaring vocals.

Jess won the Deadly for Female Artist of the Year in 2011.



ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Home – Troy Cassar-Daley

Country music legend Troy Cassar-Daley released his eighth album called 'Home' this year. Home, by definition, can mean many things, but for Troy Cassar-Daley it is a yearning - an ache in his heart for simpler times and life lessons learnt in backyard football games or helping his father fix his truck.

The more successful and accomplished as an artist Troy Cassar-Daley becomes, the more his subject matter and musical instinct turns to those small, universal things that constitute a meaningful life - love, children, family and 'keeping it real'. The result is 'Home' - an album that connects with the listener on a heart level and stays with them long after it has played - like childhood itself.

Troy grew up in Grafton, NSW. He did it tough after his parents separated when he was an infant. He writes and sings poignantly about his humble beginnings and the importance of holding onto your dreams. On 'Home', Troy is singing life, the cycle of it, the passing of time and generations and all the pleasure and heartbreak that it entails. 'Home' is a beautiful and poignant album.

Troy produced this album, with a bunch of extraordinary musicians in Nashville, USA. It can take a lifetime to make something appear extremely simple, and this is what Troy has achieved with 'Home'.

Music

BAND OF THE YEAR

The Last Kinection

The Last Kinection (TLK) is a Hip Hop trio from Newcastle, comprising Joel Wenitong (Weno), Naomi Wenitong and Jacob Turier (DJ Jaytee). They all had independent prior success, with Naomi (MC Nay) being one half of pop group Shakaya, while Joel and Jacob were part of the group Local Knowledge.

The Last Kinection's debut album, Nutches, was featured on triple j and community radio across Australia. They followed this up with The Next Of Kin in 2011. They have played at major festivals throughout Australia including The Peats Ridge Festival, The Dreaming, Groovin' The Moo, the Field Day Festival, the Sydney Festival and many more.

The Next of Kin was released last year and contains last year's Deadly Award winning Single of the Year - Happy People. TLK also won Most Outstanding Achievement in Hip Hop and R&B at the Deadly Awards in 2009 and 2010. Naomi Wenitong also won Best Female Artist at the 2010 Deadlys. This year Naomi has hosted Move It Mob Style® on ABC3.



The Arts

MALE ACTOR OF THE YEAR

Jimi Bani - Mabo

Jimi says being cast to play Uncle Eddie Mabo was a “great honour and privilege” but also a role that came with great responsibility. Mabo is the story about one of Australia’s national heroes – Eddie ‘Koiki’ Mabo - the man who spearheaded the High Court challenge that once and for all recognised Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first Australians.

The movie was also an epic love story spanning three decades.

It screened on ABC1 in June this year. “I remember hoping I was doing things right and telling the story right, but

also trusting and believing myself and the people that were around me like Deborah Mailman and director Rachel Perkins,” Jimi says.



Jimi’s other credits include the SBS series RAN (Remote Area Nurse) which was shot in northern Australia, and most recently the role of Marou Montebello in the ABC drama The Straits.

Jimi is a graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), and he performed in many plays before heading into film and television. He played the lead role in Jandamarra for Black Swan Theatre Company in WA, Romeo and Juliet for the Sydney Theatre Company, Yibiyung for Company B Belvoir in association with the Malthouse Theatre Company in Melbourne, and Krakouer! for the Deckchair Theatre in Perth. He has also performed in The Sapphires, for both the Black Swan Theatre Company and Company B, touring to both London and Korea.

Jimi has received acclaim for his performances, including a Helpmann Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor for Yibiyung and a WA Equity Foundation Award nomination for Best Actor for his performance in Jandamarra.

FEMALE ACTOR OF THE YEAR

Deborah Mailman - Mabo



Deborah Mailman is one of Australia’s most popular and successful actors.

Earlier this year she was called upon to play the historic role of Bonita Mabo in the movie Mabo. The story about one of Australia’s national heroes – Eddie ‘Koiki’ Mabo – and the strong woman behind him, Deborah’s was a remarkable performance. The new movie was also an epic love story spanning three decades. It screened on ABC1 in June this year.

Prior to this, Deborah has received national acclaim, winning both the AFI and Film Critics’ Circle Awards. Since then she has worked extensively in film, television and theatre and is most recognised for her

role as ‘Kelly’ in the television series The Secret Life of Us, and more recently as ‘Cherie’ in Offspring.

Deborah is a well-known face in Australian film, theatre and television, from leading role and guest appearances to presenter roles across a broad range of programs and genres. Deborah recently made her directorial debut with the short film Ralph. Deborah’s outstanding performances have been acknowledged with two Silver Logies for Most Outstanding Actress, a Matilda Award, a Helpmann Award for Best Supporting Actress, a Helpmann Award nomination for Best Actress, a 2007 Deadly Award for Best Female Actor and in 2003 she was named NAIDOC Person of the Year.

Deborah won the 2011 Deadly for Female Actor of the Year.

The Arts

DANCER OF THE YEAR

Janet Munyarryun

Janet Munyarryun is a founding member of Bangarra Dance Company and has given so much knowledge and culture to the company over the past 22 years. She has told stories throughout Bangarra's new show Infinity and has been selected to represent Australian Indigenous people in London to dance for the Queen.

She has inspired many through the arts for many years she taught people such as Christine Anu, Sean Choolburra and Stephen Page.

VISUAL ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Vernon Ah Kee

Screen-printer, drawer, photographer, video and text-based artist, Vernon Ah Kee was born in Innisfail in far north Queensland. He is of the Kuku Yalandji, Yidindji and Gugu Yimithirr peoples of Innisfail. Ah Kee completed a screen-printing course at Cairns TAFE. He then completed a Bachelor of Visual Arts at Griffith University. He continued with his academic studies and in 2000 graduated from the same university with a Bachelor of Visual Art with Honours – Fine Art. At the time of writing, Ah Kee is a candidate in Doctor of Visual Art (DVA) program at Griffith University. He has drawn oversized portraits of family members both past and present.

He is largely self-taught and although having always been a keen drawer, it was not until the final year of his Bachelor of Visual Arts (Contemporary Indigenous Australian Art) at Queensland College of Art at Griffith University that Ah Kee began to seriously view himself as an artist. Ah Kee's first solo exhibition was 'If I was White' in 1999 and in 2003 he was invited to participate in Queensland Art Gallery's exhibition 'Storyplace, Indigenous Art of Cape York and the Rainforest'. In 2004 he showed 'fantasies of the good', his first solo exhibition at Bellas Malani's new Woollongabba gallery space.

In 2004, he produced his first video work for 'ArtTV/2004', which was a joint project between SBS and the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI). It was shown at the ACMI in Melbourne that year. In 2007, Ah Kee participated in 'Sunshine State, Smart State' at Campbelltown Arts Centre. Ah Kee's work, including portraits and text work, was also included in 'Culture Warriors', for the National Gallery of Australia. His work is now held in prestigious collections such as the National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria and the Queensland Art Gallery.



The Arts

FILM OF THE YEAR

Mabo

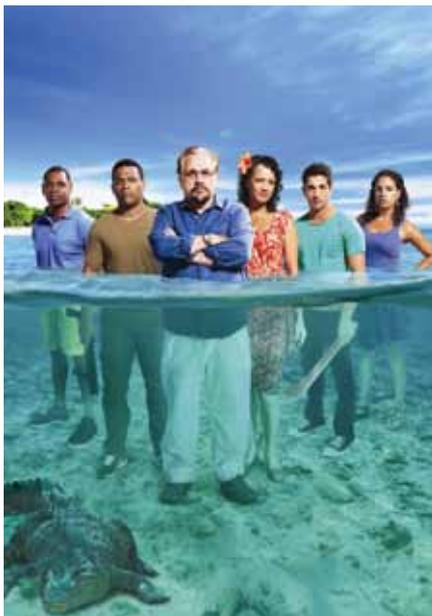
Marking the 20th anniversary of the historic High Court decision, the film *Mabo*, which aired on the ABC in June 2012, retold the story of one of Australia's national heroes: Eddie 'Koiki' Mabo - the Torres Strait Islander who spearheaded the High Court challenge that once and for all overthrew the fiction of terra nullius.

Mabo is also the tender love story of Eddie and Bonita - the woman he met as a teenager, and loved over three decades and the raising of ten children. It tells of the deep love and partnership that fuelled their unflagging fight to change the face of Australia forever.

Written by Sue Smith (*Bastard Boys*, *RAN*, *Brides of Christ*), and directed by Rachel Perkins (*Bran Nue Dae*, *First Australians*, *One Night The Moon*), the film traces Eddie's life, through his early exile from his beloved Murray Island, to his years of working on the trochus trawlers and the outback railways as a blackfella in a whitefella world - to his eventual decision to embrace activism.

In researching the film, writer Sue Smith spent extended periods of time with Eddie's family, and specifically Bonita - hearing the many stories of what went on at home and behind the scenes of Eddie's epic fight.

The project attracted the who's who of the Australian acting fraternity - all wanting to participate in what many believe is one of Australia's greatest stories. As a result *MABO* features an outstanding ensemble cast including Jimi Bani (*The Straits*, *RAN*) as Eddie 'Koiki' Mabo and Deborah Mailman (*Offspring*, *Rush*, *The Secret Life of Us*) as his wife Bonita.



TELEVISION SHOW OF THE YEAR

The Straits - ABC

The Straits is an Australian television drama series for ABC1 filmed in Cairns, the Torres Strait Islands and other Far North Queensland locations.

The series was based on an idea by Torres Strait Island actor Aaron Fa'aoso and produced by Penny Chapman and Helen Panckhurst from Matchbox Pictures. It is directed by Peter Andrikidis, Rachel Ward and Rowan Woods. It was written by Louis Nowra, Blake Ayshford, Nick Parsons, Kristen Dunphy and Jaime Browne.

The series follows the Montebello family, whose business involves smuggling drugs into Australia as well as guns and exotic wildlife out, making use of ties of blood and loyalty in the Torres Strait Islands.

When Harry Montebello, the head of the family, starts to plan his succession, he sparks a vicious family power struggle. While under attack from ambitious bikies and mercurial Papua New Guinea Raskol gangs, the family must hold together through torture, assassination and imprisonment.

The Arts

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN LITERATURE

Ali Cobby Eckermann - Ruby Moonlight

Ali Cobby Eckermann is a fresh new voice in Australian poetry. Her collections of poetry include the books *Ruby Moonlight*, *Little Bit Long Time*, *His Father's Eyes* and *Kami*. She is a Yankunytjatjara / Kokatha kungka (woman) from South Australia.

Ruby Moonlight is a verse novel set in 1880's South Australia and it is the powerful and moving story of Ruby, a young Aboriginal woman who survives the massacre of her family and - after a time alone in the bush - connects with a reclusive white trapper, named Jack.

It is a story of forbidden love, on both sides. The poems convey how the fear of discovery is overcome by the need for human contact by Ruby and Jack and the retribution that comes as their love affair is discovered is both tragic and poignant. Ali says 'the fear of difference' comes through in the story and is a theme that she often writes about.

Ali first started writing and publishing poems from an early age, but it was not until her mid 30s that she began to write and publish regularly. She studied Creative Writing at the Batchelor Institute of Tertiary Education (BIITE).

She has been a finalist in the 2005, 2006 and 2007 NT Literary Awards and won First Prize in the Red Earth NT Literary Award in 2008. In 2006, she won the NSW Writer's Centre 'Survival' competition for Indigenous writers and was selected to participate in the Australian Society of Authors' national mentorship program. In 2007, Ali was granted two Poetry Mentorships, through NT Writers Centre and Varuna. She was Highly Commended for the Marion Eldridge Award in 2009.

She is establishing an Aboriginal Writer's Retreat at Koolunga, on Ngadjuri land, in the SA's mid north.



Sport

MOST PROMISING NEW TALENT IN SPORT

Damien Duncan Hooper - Boxing

Damien Hooper began boxing at the age of 11.

In 2010, he became the first Indigenous Australian to win a junior world title when he won the 75kg category at the Youth Olympics in Singapore. The same year he won a silver medal at the Youth World Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan and was selected in the Australian team for the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi. He was an Australian Institute of Sport boxing scholarship holder.

In 2011, Damien stepped up a weight division and into open competition. He returned to Baku for the AIBA World Boxing Championships where he made the quarter finals and earned direct qualification for the London Olympics.



MALE SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR

Patrick Mills - Basketball



Patrick is a star graduate of the AIS who first played for the Australian Boomers at the 2007 FIBA Oceania Men's Championships.

In April of 2009, Patrick was selected with the 25th pick in the second round (55th pick overall) by the Portland Trailblazers, becoming the second Indigenous player to be drafted into the NBA.

The start of Patrick's NBA career was interrupted by injury when he broke his foot during in the 2009/10 pre-season. In the 2010/11 season, Patrick enjoyed more minutes on the court, seeing his averages rise in all major stat categories, and he also became the first Indigenous Australian to play in the NBA play-offs.

During the NBA lockout in 2011– Patrick returned home and enjoyed a short stint playing for the Melbourne Tigers in the NBL. He was then signed by Chinese club Xinjiang Flying Tigers, before rejoining the NBA in March 2012, this time with the San Antonio Spurs where he produced an NBA career high, 34 point game against the Golden State Warriors in April - the highest single game tally achieved by an Australian in the NBA.

In July 2012, Patrick was named captain of the Australian Boomers ahead of the 2012 Olympics' – becoming the first Aboriginal person to captain an Olympic team.

Sport

FEMALE SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR

Bo de la Cruz - Touch Football

Bo was born in Darwin in 1981 and began playing touch football for her school at the age of 12. She went on to represent the Northern Territory U18s touch side and in 1998 was selected in Australia's U18 side to play against New Zealand. In 2000, Bo won Most Valuable Player at the national titles and was later named Northern Territory Achiever at the Eighth National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sports Awards.

By the time Bo turned 22 she had already vice-captained two triumphant Australian touch football teams.

After selection in the open Australian team later in 2001, Bo secured herself a position within the senior Australia women's touch football team. In that same year, she won the NAIDOC Sportsperson of the Year award and the Deadly Award for Female Sportsperson of the Year.

At the Touch Football World Cup, held in Japan in 2003 and won by Australia, Bo was named Overall Female Player of the Series and Most Valuable Player for Australia. In 2004, Bo was named the Northern Territory Sportsperson of the Year and was part of the victorious NSW Women's Touch Football team in the State of Origin series.

In 2007, Bo competed at her second touch football World Cup, this time held in South Africa, where the Australian team successfully defended their crown. A year later, she made a code switch from touch football to seven a side rugby union and played her first competitive rugby seven's games in November of 2008,

In March of 2009, Bo was a member of the World Cup winning Australian Women's Rugby Sevens team in Dubai, setting up the winning try in the final match against New Zealand.

In 2011, Bo was a member of the triumphant Australian Women's Rugby 7's team that competed at the IRB Challenge Cup in Dubai, and in March 2012, again played for the winning Australian side at the same tournament – this time held in Hong Kong.



Sport

ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Lewis Jetta - Sydney Swans

Lewis played his junior football with Carey Park Junior Football Club in SWFL before playing for WAFL club Swan Districts, and was a member of the Colts premiership winning team in 2007. After playing senior football with Swan Districts in 2009, Lewis was drafted by Sydney with the 14th selection in the 2009 AFL Draft.

Lewis was impressive on his AFL debut against Carlton in the opening round of the 2010 NAB Cup, and created nationwide interest in his debut season as he scored 19 consecutive behinds before finally kicking his first AFL goal.

2011 was a relatively disappointing year for Lewis, as he struggled to have an impact playing off the bench. The 2012 season has seen him emerge as one of the Sydney Swans leading players, and by the end of Round 13 he had kicked 28 goals, the most of any Swans player and seventh in the league overall.



ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER NRL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Ben Barba - Bulldogs

After playing a handful of games in 2009, Ben well and truly burst onto the NRL scene in 2010, having already broken several point-scoring records while playing for the Bulldogs Toyota Cup team.

Playing at fullback, his pace and try-scoring instincts were a revelation for the Bulldogs, and Ben quickly established a reputation for his lethal attacking prowess and speed.

He finished the 2010 season with 15 tries, and backed that up in 2011 by ending the season as the joint leading try scorer on 22.

2012 has been Ben's best season in the NRL to date, and he has flourished under the coaching of Des Hasler, scoring some of the most memorable tries in recent memory, including several lengths of the field efforts, and proving himself a far safer option under the high ball. As of round 19, Ben has scored 11 tries this season, and has won the 2012 Dally M Medal.

Community

ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH WORKER OF THE YEAR

John Corowa

John Corowa is the Regional Manager for the Indigenous Health Tackling Smoking & Healthy Lifestyles Program, Closing the Gap Program, and is based at GP Links in the Wide Bay Region of Queensland. His work in the community has been outstanding in the 14 months he has been in the role.

Prior to joining the Indigenous Health Tackling Smoking & Healthy Lifestyles Program, John worked in Queensland Health for the past 10 years beginning his career as a Hospital Liaison Officer at Logan Hospital.

Through his role, John and his staff have organised innovative community health promotions and activities to tackle smoking and promote healthy lifestyle, including Cultural Healing Days across region, the Deadly Choices Touch Carnival, Women's Health Information Nights and the Murri Factor to showcase new talent in music.

His passion and energy in Aboriginal Health has been evident through his hard work in his personal career and his commitment to providing health services to the community.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH

Boodjari Yorgas Family Care Program

Boodjari Yorgas Family Care Program has provided care to around 350 women having Aboriginal babies since its launch in 2007. The service is known and respected throughout Western Australia as providing quality care with integrity and respect. The majority of referrals come from families who have heard about or used the service or have had care through it.

In 2011, Boodjari Yorgas Antenatal Clinic were runners up in the Public Sector Commission, Premiers Awards 2011 for Improving Indigenous Outcomes.

Boodjari Yorgas, which is a Noongar name meaning Pregnant Women, strives to improve the quality of pregnancy care for Aboriginal families using local maternity services. The service was established as an Antenatal Clinic in 2007, and more recently expanded to include a Family Care Program. In its first four years, the Clinic has assisted many Aboriginal babies to a safe arrival. Some families have had as many as five pregnancies cared for through the clinic.

The Clinic's primary goal is to empower Aboriginal women through their pregnancy and birth, and support them in making healthy choices. Once the child is born, help and support continues through supporting and advising the new mother in a culturally appropriate manner. Support might also include practical help such as finding transport to and from the Clinic, or linking into other local services and agencies.

An extremely important part of the Boodjari Yorgas ethos is to deliver assistance from a cultural perspective of pregnancy and antenatal care, approaching it as a natural process rather than a medical programme. Prior to the Clinic's establishment, there was no other service of its kind in the Perth metropolitan area. Since its inception, there has been an improvement in birth outcomes, as well as a positive change in the relationship between health care providers and Aboriginal families choosing to have their babies at Perth's Armadale Hospital.

The Clinic is delivered from Armadale Hospital Antenatal Clinic.



Community

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EDUCATION

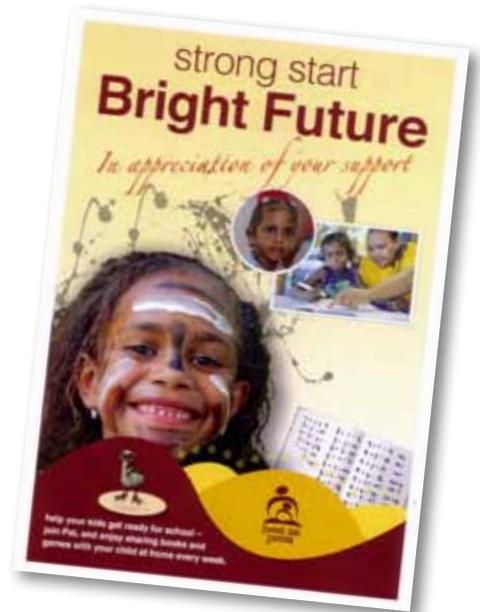
Napranum Parents and Learning Group (PAL)

The Napranum Parents and Learning (PAL) Group from Queensland has been operating since 2004. The PAL Group helps parents prepare their children for school.

It supports and empowers parents and family members to engage in their children's learning and assists the development of their children's early literacy and numeracy skills. Community ownership was, and still is, a key element to the success of the program.

When the Napranum PAL Group was created in 2004 as a not for profit company, it formalised the group of people committed to effecting change for Indigenous parents and children through the Parents and Learning Program. It also provided the means to enable the program to be shared with other Indigenous communities.

PAL Programs are now successfully established in 16 Indigenous communities across Australia. The PAL Program is continuing to expand its reach to other remote communities in North Queensland (Seisia, Coen, Injinoo, Aurukun) and Western Australia (Mt Magnet) by the end of 2012.



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EMPLOYMENT

Gavin Lester - Boomerang Constructions

Founder of Boomerang Constructions, Gavin Lester is passionate about the importance of promoting health, education and employment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. He established Boomerang Constructions as an Aboriginal owned and run building company with over 22 years building experience and employing a 90% Aboriginal workforce.

He employs and mentors Aboriginal apprentices through their carpentry training and, over the years, has helped many young Koori kids succeed in establishing rewarding careers.

Boomerang Construction provides building services to Government, industry and private sector clients and endeavours to give back to local communities through employment opportunities and mentoring.

Boomerang Constructions is currently working on various projects throughout NSW.

Community

COMMUNITY BROADCASTER OF THE YEAR

Natalie Ahmat - NITV News

Natalie Ahmat is an Executive Producer at NITV News. Natalie has 10 years broadcast media experience, as a news presenter, reporter, documentary filmmaker, producer, and radio broadcaster.

She was born and bred in Canberra and graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Sports Studies, specialising in Sports Media, from the University of Canberra in 1999. She began her media career that same year, as a Sports Broadcasting Trainee at ABC Darwin, working as a presenter and producer for the Territory Grandstand radio program, a sports reporter for radio news, and a boundary rider for the station's radio coverage of Northern Territory Football League matches.

After cutting her teeth in radio, she was offered the opportunity to move into television, initially as a boundary reporter for the ABC's football coverage, and later as the co-presenter and reporter for the ABC's Saturday afternoon sports panel program, Territory Sport. A year later, Natalie joined Darwin's Eight National News as the Sports Presenter and Reporter.

In 2003, Natalie moved to Alice Springs to work as an on-the-road reporter for Imparja National News, travelling throughout Central Australia filing reports on both Indigenous and regional issues. She then joined the media team at the then-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), presenting, co-producing and reporting for the ATSIC Radio program, a half-hour Indigenous current affairs program which was broadcast nationally to over 80 Indigenous and community radio stations.

Natalie returned to the ABC in 2005, this time behind the camera, as a researcher and associate producer at ABC's Message Stick program. During her time at Message Stick, Natalie was given the opportunity to hone her skills in longer-form projects, producing, directing and writing three short documentaries for the program.

Natalie is proud of her diverse family heritage – on her paternal grandmother's side, she is descended from the Mudburra people, from near Wave Hill in the Northern Territory, as well as having some German ancestry, while on her grandfather's side, she is Torres Strait Islander (Mabuiag Island) and Malayan.



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN CULTURAL ADVANCEMENT

Tjanpi Desert Weavers - NPY Women's Council

Tjanpi Desert Weavers is a not-for-profit social enterprise of Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council; an Aboriginal governed and directed Corporation. The Tjanpi Desert Weavers' purpose is to contribute to improving the lives of NPY women and their families by supporting cultural activity and employment through the creation of fibre art.

The Tjanpi Desert Weavers evolved from a need for meaningful and appropriate employment,

and to enable NPY women on their Lands to earn a regular income from selling their fibre art.

Tjanpi (meaning grass) supports the production and marketing of baskets, sculptures and seed jewellery made by over 400 women from 28 remote communities across three states, NT, WA, SA. Tjanpi provides one of the few opportunities for self-initiated income on the Lands and brings Aboriginal women together on country to collect grass, sculpt and weave, sing and dance and keep culture strong whilst creating beautiful, intricate, whimsical fibre art. Supporting this opportunity is at the core of Tjanpi's many achievements.

Tjanpi is represented in national and international public and private collections, has an extensive exhibition programme and is featured in many publications, including Tjanpi Desert Weavers, published by Macmillan in 2012.

Community

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE STOLEN GENERATIONS

AbSec - NSW

The Aboriginal Child, Family & Community Care State Secretariat (NSW) is an incorporated not-for-profit community organisation.

The organisation is primarily funded by NSW Family and Community Services, and is recognised as the peak NSW Aboriginal body providing child protection and out-of-home care (OOHC) policy advice to the government and non government sector on issues affecting Aboriginal families involved in child protection and OOHC system.

In 2012, AbSec is auspicing the role for Stolen Generations to support the girls from Cootamundra Girls Home. AbSec is also developing a DVD recording the stories of the girls and also organising the 100 year celebration in August 2012.

The Cootamundra Aboriginal Girls Training Home 100th year commemoration was held on Saturday August 11 in Cootamundra. There were two formal events held on the Saturday, and the home was open all weekend. There was an arts exhibition open all day Saturday and half day Sunday. Former residents of the home, their family, descendants and community members were invited to attend the reunion.

According to the Cootamundra Herald, between 1912 and 1968, around 1200 Aboriginal girls were removed from their families and placed in this institution under the NSW Aborigines Protection and Welfare Boards.

Many of the surviving girls who were placed in this home and up to four or five generations of their descendents are now widely dispersed across NSW and elsewhere. It is hoped the planned activities will help members of the Stolen Generations, placed at the home, and their families in the process of healing and working through unresolved issues.



Hall of Fame

THE LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD FOR HEALING THE STOLEN GENERATIONS

Aunty Lorraine Darcy Peeters

Aunty Lorraine Darcy Peeters is well known amongst the Stolen Generations as the creative and spiritual force behind the Marumali Journey of Healing – a program that trains Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander counsellors to support survivors to heal from the trauma they suffered from removal.

Her workshops are held across Australia and, in Victoria, her healing work has been taken into prisons allowing Aboriginal people to reconnect with their true identity.

The Marumali model of healing is founded upon Aunty Lorraine's own healing journey. She is a member of the Stolen Generations and a Wailwan-Bidgera woman who was removed from Brewarrina NSW to the Cootamundra Girls Home at age four.

For many years, Aunty Lorraine buried the trauma of being taken away from her family, culture, land and community, until a 'triggering' event unleashed a reaction which began her healing. That trigger was a reunion of the Cootamundra Girls Home in Blacktown, Sydney in the early 1980s.

After that reunion, Aunty Lorraine felt empowered to observe, study and seek to understand her own journey of healing in order to help others. From her healing journey, she developed Marumali to guide members of the Stolen Generations on a safe path to reclaim their own identities, families and communities. It became her life's work.

The Marumali Journey of Healing is now in its 11th year of successful operation. Since 2000, more than 140 workshops have been delivered to over 2000 participants. For Aunty Lorraine, the priorities for her work, and of Marumali, are quite simple and that is to give Elders peace, identity and strength.



THE MARCIA LANGTON AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN LEADERSHIP

Percy Neal

Yarrabah Mayor Percy Neal has been an activist for his people for more than 30 years, always walking the walk to achieve change for the better.

Whether it's housing, training and employment or fighting against racial discrimination and hardline government policies that impact on his Yarrabah QLD community, Percy Neal has been at the forefront of the fight for freedom, land rights and justice.

Described by High Court Justice Lionel Murphy as an 'agitator', Percy came to prominence in 1982 when he appealed his sentence of six months jail for an assault on the non-Indigenous manager of the then Yarrabah reserve.

When originally sentenced, the Queensland magistrate at the time had observed that Aborigines living on reserves were quite happy with their lot until the likes of Percy Neal came as political agitators and upset them. But Percy appealed to the High Court, with Justice Murphy observing:

"That Mr Neal was an agitator or stirrer in the magistrate's view obviously contributed to the severe penalty. If he is an agitator, he is in good company. Many of the great religious and political figures of history have been agitators....that is the reason why agitators are so absolutely necessary. Without them, in our incomplete state, there would be no advance towards civilisation. Mr Neal is entitled to be an agitator."

Since that time, Percy Neal has continued to 'agitate' for his community. As a leader he has fought for and helped secure land title, housing, training and employment, always believing that 'self determination and self management for the people of Yarrabah is the number one priority'.

Percy Neal Gungandji Traditional Owner, Mayor of Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council, long-time activist, achiever, and above all else 'agitator', is a true example of what it takes to be a leader in our community – always walking the walk, and fighting the good fight for a better future for his people.

Hall of Fame

THE ELLA AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SPORT

Arthur Beetson

Arthur Henry "Artie" Beetson OAM grew up in Roma, Queensland and took his first steps to greatness on the rugby league field on the hallowed turf of Dolphin Oval, Redcliffe where he arrived in 1964 as a confident 19-year-old to begin his first-grade career.

In 1965, he led Redcliffe to a premiership win and soon after he went to Sydney to play for the Balmain Tigers in the 1966 Grand Final against St George. This same year, Artie played his first game for Australia against England, scoring twice in his debut match.

Artie's sheer physical power, his speed and his superb ball skills won many games for all the teams he played in and his attacking game changed the way that forwards play rugby league.

He captained Australia for the 1973 Kangaroo tour, making him the first Indigenous person to captain a national sporting team. Artie joined the Eastern Suburbs Roosters – captaining the side to back-to-back Premierships in 1974 and 1975.

In 1979, Artie switched clubs to the Parramatta Eels for two seasons and in 1981 he returned to where it all began - to captain coach Redcliffe.

After retiring from the field, he went on to coach Australia, Eastern Suburbs, Cronulla-Sutherland and Queensland's first State of Origin squad. In 1987 he received the Medal of the Order of Australia "in recognition of service to the sport of Rugby League".

But Artie's achievements on the field were surpassed only by his larger-than-life personality. He was one of Australia's great sporting characters, a true larrikin and an important symbol of what it takes to be a winner in the lives of many people.



THE JIMMY LITTLE AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT MUSIC

Tony Briggs and the Original Sapphires - Beverly Briggs, Naomi Mayers, Lois Peeler and Laurel Robinson

In 1968, two young Aboriginal sisters, Lois Peeler (nee Robinson) and Laurel Robinson, went to Vietnam to sing for the troops. At the time it must have seemed to them like a great adventure, but it was also a dangerous and desperate situation.

These two young ladies, originally from the Cummeragunja Mission, travelled with a group of entertainers for three months across that war-torn country, and though they were guarded at all times, the horrible realities of that conflict must have been an ever present backdrop for them.

It was a time of great change in Australia too. In the late 1960s, Aboriginal activists were finding their voice and campaigning for civil rights and recognition.

Back home, the sisters teamed up with Naomi Myers and Beverley Briggs to sing soul in the clubs and pubs, cabarets, and parties in Melbourne forging a music pathway for other Indigenous musicians to follow. These ladies sang their hearts out in the late 60s before settling down to successful careers as advocates in various roles for their people.

Fast forward 30 odd years and Tony Briggs, the son of Laurel Robinson, overheard his mum speak briefly of that Vietnam adventure. And what a story!

Tony went on to write a successful stage show before it was made into a movie starring the beautiful divas that graced the Deadly's stage earlier tonight.

The film – The Sapphires – has gone on to enjoy major success in Australia and overseas - but the real life story at its heart is all about soul, love, family and dreaming of a better future – a story that connects with so many people.