



CITY OF
Port Adelaide Enfield

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards 2022

Wednesday 7 December 2022

Niina Marni

Niina Marni. Puki Puki tampi`dlu, nartangka wapi`dlu, marnintyaria tarrkarri tai`dlu.

Welcome. Let us recognise the past, act in the present and build a better future.

We would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Owners of the land on which we stand, the Kurna People of the Adelaide Plains.

It is upon their ancestral lands that the Port Adelaide Enfield Council meets. It is also The Place of the Kardi, the Emu, whose story travels from the coast inland.

We pay respect to Elders past and present. We respect their spiritual beliefs and connections to land which are of continuing importance to the living Kurna People of today.

We further acknowledge the contributions and important role that Aboriginal people continue to play within our shared community.

WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are warned that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards publication may contain images of deceased persons.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



The City of PAE and the Aboriginal Advisory Panel are once again proud presenters of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards.

These awards are an important opportunity for us to acknowledge and reflect on the achievements of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our Awards Presentation Night is always a very special evening where we recognise the great contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents, visitors, students and workers make to all of our lives every day. Their impact on the lives of individuals and groups within the community cannot be overemphasised.

As role models and Community Leaders, this year's award winners of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards demonstrate a true sense of pride and respect for traditional cultural values. Furthermore, they have a true sense of vision and reconciliation. Their pride and respect in culture can be reflected across the whole of community, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.

I congratulate each and every person and group who has been nominated and thank you for being heroes in our community and demonstrating Aboriginal excellence. I also thank those who have taken the time to nominate, and those who support people who have been nominated. This includes families, friends, teachers, employers, fellow workers, carers and so many others.

As the Mayor of the City of PAE, I am honoured to acknowledge you all, and thank you for your contribution to the good will and recognition that these awards bring.

I wish you all the very best for the future.

Mayor Claire Boan



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards Background

In 1998, members of the Aboriginal Advisory Board, the late Aunty Josie Agius, Aunty Pat Waria-Read and Susan Dixon, approached the City of Port Adelaide Enfield to highlight and promote the great contribution and outstanding achievements by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within PAE.

A sub-committee was formed by Aunty Josie, Aunty Pat and Susan with support of the previous Mayor, Johanna McCluskey, and Cr Carol Martin, in consultation with the Aboriginal Advisory Panel.

A proposal was then put forward for an annual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards night, which was endorsed by the City of PAE Elected Members.

In 1999, the first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards were held at the Parks Community Centre.

This annual awards night is now a highly anticipated event that is celebrated by both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community as we walk together as one, in the spirit of goodwill and reconciliation.

Program

Performance - Nathan May Music

Awards Opening – MC Garry Goldsmith

Welcome to Country – Alex Agius-Bersee

Minute silence

Opening Speech – City of PAE Mayor Claire Boan

Award Presentation

- Educational Achievement
- Contribution to the Arts
- Sports Person of the Year

Performance – Nathan May Music

Award Presentation

- Recognition of a non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person, group or organisation for their contribution to the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community
- Recognition of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island group or organisation for their contribution to the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community
- Aunty Josie Agius Youth Achievement Award

Short break

Award Presentation

- Person of the Year
- Elder of the Year

Performance – Nathan May Music

Close

*The artwork used throughout this booklet
is called 'Land of Relationships'
by Vernon Sultan*

Educational Achievement Award

Hannah Hughes



Hannah has shown determination and effort in her educational achievements. She started a Bachelor of Oral Health at The University of Adelaide, initially deferring her studies to complete a Certificate 3 in Dental Assisting alongside a Dental Assistant Traineeship. She then returned with confidence to complete her university studies.

Hannah also faced trying times studying during the COVID pandemic, which created further barriers and life learning.

She is committed to conveying her experiences to other young women to motivate them to continue to work towards their dreams.

Hannah has followed her heart and is focusing on supporting younger people with special needs. She is also becoming more aware of the many complex issues for community and helping where she can while maintaining a focus in the area of Aboriginal Oral Health. She is passionate about continuing to engage and work with vulnerable youth.

Contribution to the Arts

Thomas Joel Readett



Thomas is a proud Ngarrindjeri/ Arrernte man. At the Art Gallery of South Australia, he was employed as a Tarnanthi Education Officer, delivering quality education about Aboriginal art to those that then go on to educate others.

Subsequently, at the Adelaide Central School of Art, Thomas was given the task of rewriting the School's curriculum around Aboriginal art, as well as being charged with the task of attracting and growing their intake of First Nation students.

But it is in his own practice where Thomas is truly able to express himself and share his culture. As an Artist, Thomas is undeniably skilled and talented in whatever medium he chooses to work in.

Thomas is an amazing role model, as he has taken what he loves — his art — and made a successful career from it, all while helping to uplift, assist and shape those around him. He is always willing to talk and listen to anyone who has questions, without being judgmental or difficult to approach.

His willingness to share about the dark times and chat openly about issues around suicide awareness and mental health is but another layer to this admirable man.

Thomas's contribution to the community comes through the enjoyment that you get from viewing one of his amazing murals, exhibitions or gigs.

Contribution to the Arts

Vicki Hartman



Vicki began her relationship with the City of PAE over a decade ago when she began co-delivering weaving workshops in the courtyard of PAE's Visitor Information Centre.

In 2016 she worked with Tarnanthi and again in 2021 on the Tainga Marine and Land Debris Art Project, with the result that the Emu sculptures that were produced ended up being put on display in the Art Gallery of South Australia.

Vicki delivers workshops involving traditional weaving techniques, but she also offers up her personal family history to teach others about the traditional owners of the land we live on.

Vicki is a woman that everyone should know. She offers so much knowledge, guidance and support to so many, and she goes above and beyond. She doesn't ever bring judgment or ridicule and has such an open and welcoming presence that draws people in. Whenever her name is mentioned, it is always followed with praise and adoration. She is integral to keeping the traditional culture alive and thriving.

Vicki has helped to develop people's interest in Aboriginal history and traditional practices. She has created a safe and open space for curiosity from Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to ask questions and be guided.

Contribution to the Arts

Ingrid O'Loughlin



Ingrid O'Loughlin demonstrates excellence in the category of Contribution to the Arts. With a lifelong passion for keeping Aboriginal culture alive through visual arts projects, she has woven creativity with community engagement in and around the Port Adelaide Enfield area, where she has worked and lived for many years.

Ingrid is a Narrunga woman. She was born and raised as a child in Port Pearce, Yorke Peninsula before she moved to Adelaide and brought up her own family. Having learned traditional forms of Aboriginal art through Elders, she now passes these important learnings on to younger generations through personal and work-related artistic endeavors. She can 'make art out of anything', often incorporating natural materials and transforming them into pieces with rich cultural significance and stories.

Ingrid inspires fellow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members to learn about and engage with their culture. Aboriginal art is centered on storytelling, and through her many collaborative projects, Ingrid has been able to share culturally significant stories in a way that is accessible for all. Passing down these stories and traditional Aboriginal art techniques to the younger generations is imperative to keeping culture alive — not just in PAE, but across Australia. Ingrid's incredible efforts show her ongoing passion and dedication towards this ultimate goal.

The artworks and murals on public display play an important role in sharing stories about people, memories, events and traditions as well as about landscapes and places that are of significance to our local community.

Sports Person of the Year

Terrence Wilson



Terrence Wilson is the first Aboriginal President of the Rosewater Football Club (RFC), a position he has now held for three years.

He has made various other contributions as well, including coaching the under 16s. He has also occupied roles on the junior football committee, including contributing to the governance of the Juniors, volunteering on game days, cooking the BBQ, undertaking goal umpiring, setting up ovals and other activities that support the children to play football on a Sunday.

Terrence has shown great leadership through his contribution as leader of the football club, as one of the first community-based football clubs at the time to host and convene an Indigenous round. RFC's Indigenous Rounds have always engaged with local Elders, community and volunteers and the Aboriginal community more broadly.

He is a strong advocate for Reconciliation and leads by example.

Recognition of a non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person, group or organisation for their contribution to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community

Tadashi Nakamura



Tadashi has worked at Tauondi Aboriginal College for approximately 19 years. He began his relationship with Tauondi as a volunteer while researching adult literacy and numeracy as part of his studies. Throughout the last 19 years, Tadashi's dedication and commitment to the Aboriginal community at Tauondi have seen him in various roles, with his most current being Acting CEO and Operations Director since November of 2021.

Tadashi has seen many changes since the reduction of funding, but he is working with both the Tauondi Board and employees to ensure that the College continues to operate into the future.

Tadashi works tirelessly to ensure that current employees have a voice in programs they are involved in. He also ensures that employees are comfortable to voice their opinions while working in an environment in which they feel culturally safe. He is a committed Acting CEO who works long hours over and above his job description to ensure that employees remain in sustainable and meaningful employment. He has stepped up and taken over all duties as required, and Tauondi employees appreciate all he does — not only for themselves but also for the community.

Recognition of a non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person, group or organisation for their contribution to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community

Sue Castledine



Sue has devoted her professional career to supporting and creating space for First Nations community members to participate fully in community life. Her commitment and passion to the First Nations community is evident through her work not only in her current role as Program Facilitator for the Karrarendi Program, but also in her many roles across Kura Yerlo during her 27 years of employment.

Sue goes above and beyond to support group and individual participants.

Even when she is on annual leave, she remains contactable just in case one of her participants needs extra support or knowledge from her.

Sue is an unsung hero and advocate for everyone in the First Nations community whom she has supported, but more specifically for those living with disability. She devotes countless hours to providing the most loving, welcoming, creative and community environment for group members, employees and the wider community.

Recognition of a non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person, group or organisation for their contribution to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community

Abbie Patterson



Abbie is involved in working with community members of Port Adelaide to help develop a framework around justice reinvestment, which is known as Tiraapendi Wodli. Her excellence in submission writing ensures better access to funding to improve the lifestyles of Aboriginal people in and around Port Adelaide.

She is also recognised for her hard work behind the scenes at Tiraapendi Wodli, ensuring that Aboriginal employees have the right support to help the many community members who come to Tiraapendi Wodli for assistance.

Abbie has genuinely advocated on behalf of others to increase funding/ resources from services and agencies through educating community to prepare grant writing so that Aboriginal people can be empowered to achieve outcomes themselves.

Tiraapendi Wodli helps many people and has grown since it first started. Much of this growth is attributed to Abbie, who lives and works in Port Adelaide and is always looking for ways to empower others.

Recognition of a non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person, group or organisation for their contribution to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community

Tapa Warapulay-ita



Tapa-Warapulay-ita (Tapa) is a community-based program built on a partnership that formed in 2019 between Tauondi Aboriginal Community College and Maxima to support local Aboriginal people to participate in training and secure sustainable employment in the Port Adelaide region.

Part of Tapa's success and point of difference from other employment services providers is that the team is made up of 50% Aboriginal employees and a 100% Aboriginal caseload. This provides non-Aboriginal employees with an opportunity to learn from their Aboriginal peers via their own first-hand accounts and perspectives of living and identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

In return, this supports those same employees to provide culturally appropriate support to Tapa participants.

Tapa feels that getting to know participants' goals and career aspirations is the most important way to assist them to find meaningful employment. Tapa's approach is to take the time to listen. As such, thorough career mapping and counselling sessions are undertaken in the enrolment phase to empower participants with direction and confidence in their job searching.

Recognition of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander group or organisation for their contribution to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community

Kura Yerlo Inc



Since 1983, Kura Yerlo has been a wholly owned and operated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander not-for-profit organisation. They provide excellent culturally appropriate services to the Aboriginal community, running a successful Children's Centre, acting as an NDIS provider, offering several effective cultural and disability programs and groups for Elders, men, women and youth, and providing other alternative holistic programs across the region.

Kura Yerlo provide a welcoming and comfortable space, ensuring that all participants are supported and linked into appropriate programs and services. Kura Yerlo also run specific one-of-a-kind programs like their Aboriginal Youth Art Program, which is called Kurruru. Today, Kura Yerlo continue to provide exceptional services by placing culture at the heart of everything they do.

Recognition of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander group or organisation for their contribution to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community

Tauondi Aboriginal Community College Staff



The Aboriginal employees of Tauondi College work in a culturally heightened role, and they do their jobs well with a high level of consistency. They extend themselves beyond their roles by offering to jump in and help with the day-to-day running of Tauondi when needed, from reception to delivering catering and assisting with training needs.

All Aboriginal employees actively provide cultural direction to other organisations when needed, including volunteering on Boards. They go over and above their job descriptions in other ways, too, supporting each other to improve the students' learning as well as participating in and supporting all of Tauondi's events, such as Reconciliation in the West, Tauondi Open Days and NAIDOC Family Fun Day.

They work tirelessly to ensure that the College's community events run smoothly for the local community as well as for current students and trainees. Their aim is to see Tauondi through the hard times and to strive for its continued operation into the future.

It is a challenge to maintain Tauondi as a key provider for Aboriginal students and as a link and place to be proud of within the broader community while at the same time managing changes in government along with the impact of COVID on all educational programs. It has been a long, hard haul over the last two years, yet despite this Tauondi Aboriginal employees continue to rock up every day with a smile and do their jobs well.

Shakaya Butler



Shakaya is a self-taught artist who practises a fusion of contemporary storytelling, digital media and animation. Over her art journey from 11 to 17 years of age, she has often worked on projects for great causes relating to Aboriginal people and the teaching of their culture and history. For Shakaya, using her Aboriginal identity in her art is a passion.

Shakaya is a role model in the way that she selflessly shares her time with community and her school peers to enhance others' understanding of both the self and of culture.

Shakaya's art has promoted Reconciliation and won several awards. She has completed art pieces with the Aboriginal Health Council SA, Adelaide City Library and Le Fevre High School as well as in support of the school's Reconciliation Action Plan. Shakaya hopes to become a publisher/illustrator or create her own graphic novel.

Aunty Josie Agius Youth Achievement Award

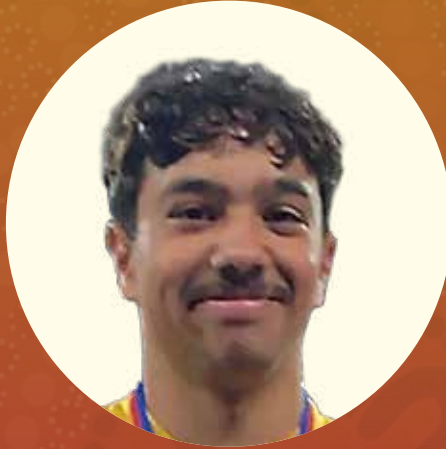
Waniki Maluwapi



Waniki Maluwapi is actively engaged with community and proud of her Torres Strait Islander/Zenadh Kes heritage. She started out at Kalaya Children's Centre, moved on to Kurruru Youth Performing Arts and has continued to grow across several platforms involving dance and theatre. An inspiring and instrumental youth leader, Waniki grew up in Port Adelaide and has travelled widely across Australia and the Torres Strait islands, sharing her talents through dance, storytelling and poetry. She has now returned to Port Adelaide.

Waniki is a role model and a strong speaker with a respect for her peers, and she has dedicated her time to culture, community and family. She has demonstrated many achievements while actively and passionately participating, and she embraces every opportunity that is available to her.

Ray Sumner



Ray is an integral part of the Clontarf Academy at Ocean View College. He has maintained excellent school grades while juggling various sporting academy activities and being part of the under 16 football team at Woodville–West Torrens. He has also been accepted as an initial member of the AFL's Inaugural Indigenous Academy, focusing on sports and culture.

Ray has shown leadership among his siblings and his school peers as a senior at the Clontarf Academy and across all educational programs.

Aunty Josie Agius Youth Achievement Award

Alex Agius-Bersee



Alex is a new and emerging leader in the cultural space, acting as a role model for young people as well as providing cultural sessions, Welcome to Country and cultural movements for corporate bodies.

His presence, hard work and determination as a young male bring recognition to other young Aboriginal men and show his sense of honour and pride in his heritage and culture. Under his father's guidance, Alex continues to demonstrate his passion and connection to his family name and his Aboriginal culture.

He is recognised as a well-respected and active participant in the local Port Adelaide Aboriginal and youth community.

Alex currently helps facilitate the Culture Hub and co-facilitates the Culture Days in the Kura Yerlo holiday programs. He also represented Kura Yerlo during SA Youth Week, contributing to youth affairs discussions.

Saraiya White



Saraiya is an outstanding and inspirational role model to all Aboriginal students and all young Aboriginal people within the community. She has faced many challenges during her early secondary schooling, changing from three different schools due to social bullying and racism.

Although Saraiya originally had no desire to complete year 12 or study at university level, she is now one of the highest achieving year 12 students at Ocean View College.

As the first elected Aboriginal school captain on the Lefevre Peninsula, she is an outstanding young woman who works hard to stay focused and be a positive leader and role model to all Aboriginal people who struggle with confidence and self-doubt. The school acknowledges Saraiya as having core values that represent its community: resilience, respect and responsibility.

Person of the Year

Schania Czygan



Schania is a tireless contributor as Closing the Gap Indigenous Health Project Officer at Sonder over many years and an instigator and connector for community — Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal alike.

Schania never seeks glory — instead, she is the person behind the scenes who turns up and gets people together. She is a contributor to community and supports and runs regular programs out of Tiraapendi Wodli, helping others to connect and educate, including GPs and the broader community.

Schania successfully works across multiple organisations and has built connections across many networks, one being Weaving the Nets.

These networks have contributed to successfully connecting clients to other services to achieve outcomes.

Schania always goes above and beyond in her job in the way of time, effort and overall contribution.

Person of the Year

Jasmine Tonkin



Jasmine has been on the Kura Yerlo Board for 15 years. Her commitment to Kura Yerlo and the Aboriginal community is outstanding. Knowledge, strength, compassion and resilience are just a few of Jasmine's many qualities. Her positive attitude and awareness of the Aboriginal community is an asset and blessing in supporting Kura Yerlo.

Jasmine is a great mentor within the Aboriginal community. Her focus, flexibility and adaptability within the organisation enable people to trust her and approach her for knowledge and advice.

As a leader at Kura Yerlo, Jasmine has monitored and achieved initiatives within the Children's Centre, Karrarendi, Kurruru and the Zebra Fich Aboriginal men's group. She has also worked to ensure that Kura Yerlo provides services to people with disability as well as to young and older people through funding from the NDIS and CHSP.

Jasmine's integrity, positive attitude and ability in assisting the Kura Yerlo Board, staff and community are outstanding.

Person of the Year

Marissa Williams



Marissa has been volunteering for Kura Yerlo for 15 years. She empowers the community, Board and employees, and her communication and understanding of the Aboriginal community have built up a rapport and trust within the community.

Marissa is the Vice-Chairperson of the Kura Yerlo Board of Management. In this role Marissa has engaged with the community, Board and employees to empower and focus them to achieve many positive outcomes.

In doing this, Marissa has been successful in developing strategies, expectations and a positive vision for the organisation.

Marissa's support to all staff and community is a positive influence. Her ability to provide her knowledge and adaptability makes her a trustworthy and positive member of Kura Yerlo.

Elder of the Year

Rosemary Wanganeen



Rosemary is a qualified educator and assessor, program designer and facilitator, loss and grief counsellor, public speaker and published author.

Rosemary is a proud South Australian Aboriginal woman with ancestry and ancestral links to Kaurna of the Adelaide Plains and Wirringu from the West Coast. After the Death of their beloved mother, Rosemary and six of her eight siblings became part of the Stolen Generation; however,

Rosemary has survived the many years of loss, grief and fear, and opened the Healing Centre for Griefology to assist others. She has been instrumental in furthering knowledge and research demonstrating that loss and intergenerational, unresolved grief is the basis of many challenges that beset Aboriginal people, families and communities.

Elder of the Year

Greg Hughes



Greg Hughes is a quietly spoken strong man with a good sense of humour. He is an educator, storyteller and cultural ambassador as well as an advocate for health promotion. He successfully quit smoking and drinking and lives a clean and healthy life.

When it comes to community and the people around Greg, he is always available. He offers up guidance, counselling and knowledge. This has helped many people who are tackling problems such as health issues, education difficulties, unemployment and racism. He makes significant steps in bringing together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in culture in our area.

He is a great example to young men on how to be a good man, a good father, community member, leader and educator. He gives up his time to help others, practising the life that he talks about, and demonstrates how this can be done. He is happy to support others to help them avoid making the same mistakes that he made. He does all this with a calm and gentle demeanor. He is a deadly role model!

Elder of the Year

Uncle Fred Agius



Uncle Fred devotes countless hours to community on a volunteer basis. He creates a safe space for young and old people to feel connected, and he opens his doors to anyone who needs a place to stay or wants to have a yarn.

He provides support and advocacy to people young and old, for example when they are encountering difficulties, lacking organisational/operational support, lacking basic needs or facing the justice system. He does this by connecting them to the assistance and guidance they need.

Uncle Fred is sought out for his cultural guidance and support, providing countless Kaurua Welcomes to Country, and doing smoking ceremonies for people in corporate settings as well as in community homes, providing cleansing, support, love and respect.

Uncle Fred Agius is a friend and advisor to everyone who crosses his path, First Nations or not. He is a loving, accepting and passionate man who walks, talks and breathes culture and Reconciliation.

Reconciliation Statement

Niina Marni. Puki Puki tampi`dlu nartangka wapi`dlu marnintyaria tarrkarri tai`dlu.

Welcome. Let us recognise the past, act in the present and build a better future.

The City of Port Adelaide Enfield is located on the lands of the Kaurna People. Council recognises Aboriginal people as the first Australians, with a unique culture and spiritual relationship to the land and sea that they have strived to retain through the period of non-indigenous settlement.

Council is strongly committed to improving the cultural, spiritual, health, emotional and economic wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people in this region.

In consultation and collaboration with the local Aboriginal community Council will:

- Be a region which exemplifies pride in and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture including language, arts, story telling, song and dance;
- Build on a partnership between the City of Port Adelaide Enfield and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community which is respectful and collaborative;
- Advocate for the allocation of resources and services based on a sound understanding of the demographic profile, the strengths and needs of the Port Adelaide Enfield Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community;
- Facilitate opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to benefit from economic growth within the region by supporting employment, education and training initiatives;
- Promote a community that is racism free, safe, welcoming and inclusive for all;
- Collaborate with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and agencies, and the wider community to implement measures to “Close the Gap” in relation to disadvantage within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.