



Stepping it up: next generation songlines

We know it's important to get news out about Land Rights in NSW and what it means in 2014. More than half of our mob is under 25 years of age and the primary way of getting news and stories and keeping in touch is through the internet and social media.

In this edition we hear and see different ways people, young and old, are making sure that information about Land Rights carries on through the generations.

Sometimes we hear people say, "well the Land Rights fight is over, that was in the 80s" but the battle is far from over! We need to make Land Rights active and relevant, to build on its successes and to share the knowledge to empower upcoming generations.

We hear about how mob are already doing this through stories from around the network – this month from Moree, Walgett, Queanbeyan, Wagga Wagga, Nowra and Leeton.

We all must keep building on Land Rights and it's up to all of us to keep it alive and continuing and making sure that information gets passed on.

Across NSW, it doesn't matter what your experience is as an Aboriginal person, whether you grew up in city or country, remote or high rise - our connection is to land.

Remember to get your mob to sign up to Our Land Council Our Mob Our Future newsletter at ourmob.org.au. Anyone who signs up between now and the end of

More than half of our mob in NSW is under 25 and the primary way of getting their news and stories is through the internet and social media.

November goes in to the running to win an iPhone 6 Plus.

Congratulations to Cat Kutay who won the JB-HiFi voucher from our first competition.

This long weekend, make sure

you come and checkout the NSWALC tent near field 2 at the Knockout. We have loads of new gear available, including deadly 'Our Mob' sunnies for those who sign up to ourmob.org.au.

See you at the Knockout!



OUR LAND **OUR MOB** **COUNCIL** **OUR FUTURE**

Our Land Council, Our Mob, Our Future is the new website and e-news from the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council on Land Rights and community. Sign up to the e-news at **ourmob.org.au**, or email us at **subscribe@alc.org.au**

You will then go into a draw to win an iPhone 6 Plus.

Keep up to date at **facebook.com/nswalc**
twitter.com/nswalc
#OurMobOurFuture

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Stepping up through Land Rights



North West Cr Anne Dennis

Anne Dennis is a Gamilaraay woman, Councillor for North West Region and a member of the Walgett Local Aboriginal Land Council.

I was born on Namoi Reserve and used to walk from there to go to Walgett Primary School. I wasn't really aware of conditions and differences and living in a tin shack, it didn't bother me it was just a normal part of growing up. But sitting around with the Aunties, they would talk about how important education was and how we can improve living conditions.

The experience that any person can get through Land Councils is equal value to being involved in local government and it puts people in good stead to handle different types of meetings and debate and to really fight for change.

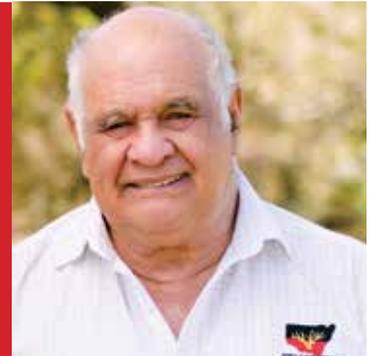
I get excited when young people come along and want to join the LALC, they are joining more and more. If they could learn about the Land Rights legislation in school, as they do with local and state government, then our young people would have a better understanding of what the Land Council is about.

I know a lot of young people who are stepping up within the network and they are taking on more significant roles and responsibilities.

Land Rights helps people with cultural identity as well as building confidence and self esteem.

[View the full story and video at ourmob.org.au](http://ourmob.org.au)

Carrying Land Rights into the future



South Coast Cr Jack Hampton

South Coast Region Councillor, Jack Hampton is a Yuin man and long time member of the Nowra Local Aboriginal Land Council.

I look after thirteen land councils on the south coast from the Illawarra down to Eden and across to Queanbeyan.

I'm a Yuin man and my mob's from down the coast but I grew up in La Perouse, which I love. It's a great place.

Growing up, my role models were Uncle Chicka Dixon, my Uncle Guboo Ted Thomas and Uncle Merv Penrith from down at Wallaga Lake. Uncle Chicka was inspiring because he was well into the Land Rights movement, going overseas to China spreading our Land Rights message and sharing the way we looked at Land Rights here in Australia.

My involvement with the LALC network started as a member of the Jerrinja Land Council and then I moved my membership over to the Nowra LALC where I became the Secretary before the new Land Rights amendments came in, in 2007.

One of our proudest achievements was buying the land at UAM Homes at Bomaderry, which is one of our heritage listed places.

As a LALC network we are reaching out to the younger generation, to get them involved and give them a legacy to carry on as we all get older.

[View the full story and video at ourmob.org.au](http://ourmob.org.au)

Wagga Wagga LALC:



Strong history, strong future

The faces of history greet you at the front door of the renovated Wagga Wagga LALC building. A wall of photos shows mob at meetings, in groups, at events, holding guitars, accordions, and fists in the air.

CEO Lorraine Lyons says, "It is the history that's important at this location – we want to keep the old stories going so that our youth can see the importance of Land Rights, culture and heritage."

[View the full story and video at ourmob.org.au](http://ourmob.org.au)

Left: NSWALC CEO Les Turner, Wagga Wagga LALC CEO Lorraine Lyons, and NSWALC Chairman Craig Cromelin.

Our People:

Cassie Marshall

Cassie Marshall, a Gamilaraay woman from Moree works at the NSWALC head office in Parramatta.

I started at NSWALC on a two year traineeship (Assistant to the Chairperson) and within those two years I completed qualifications in Business Administration. I've been at NSWALC for almost three years now.

I work in the Corporate Governance Unit preparing for Council meetings and assisting with secretarial duties. For me the most important part of my work is preparing for the meetings, there are nine Councillors plus a number of staff to support.

Growing up in Moree, I was aware of Land Rights, as Moree is known for active elders within the Land Rights network. When the opportunity came up to work here, I did not hesitate to apply.

Working at NSWALC, I see the size of the network it's kind of overwhelming and I know there's a lot going on, but I am willing to learn as much I can to help our people.

I think there are a lot of young people interested in Land Rights and LALCs but their voices aren't always being heard.

Older people are sometimes quicker to dismiss rather than listen. We know Land Rights is important but we need to make sure that all the information gets passed on. Our involvement's got to be more than token.

I think it's very important for young people to get involved in Land Rights and LALCs, particularly for our future, otherwise who will be there to continue what the Land Right legends started?

[Read the full story at ourmob.org.au](http://ourmob.org.au)

Member Profile:

Tara Winters

Tara Winters is a Darkinjung and Wiradjuri woman and she is a member of the Board of the Ngambri Local Aboriginal Land Council.

I initially joined the Ngambri LALC for my grandparents, as they spoke so highly of the LALC and I wanted to spend more time with them, especially around something they felt strongly about.

I didn't understand what the LALC was prior to joining. However, after attending my first few members' meetings I got a greater understanding and appreciation of what they strive for and achieve. I wanted to learn more.

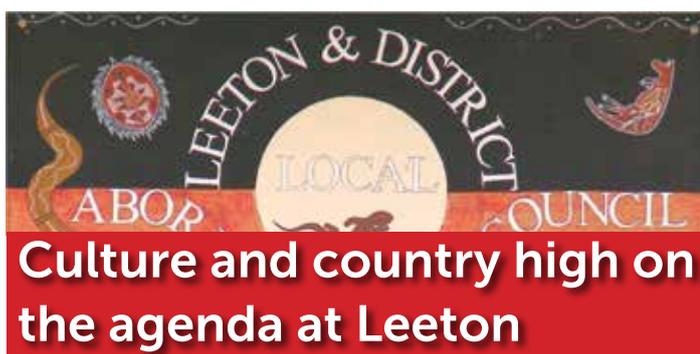
As part of my work with the Ministry for the Arts I have been lucky enough to be able to assist in the administration behind the repatriation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestral remains and secret sacred objects.

Being involved in this taught me about the history of the removal of remains and objects, over more than 150 years, from communities to be placed in museums, universities and private collections in Australia and overseas.

I've seen the incredible effect that bringing remains and sacred objects back home has on the people who are here now to receive them. I see Land Rights and Land Councils as the way we can protect and strengthen our cultural heritage and identity now, and to make sure this would never happen again.

Young people should become members of their local LALC, as it provides opportunities for involvement, learning, sharing, support, as well as enables you to be a part of the community and meet a range of lovely, passionate, knowledgeable and professional people.

[Read the full story at ourmob.org.au](http://ourmob.org.au)



At Leeton and District LALC, protecting culture and heritage is high on the agenda.

"We had a cultural day recently on the Murrumbidgee (River), and lots of community came along. We talked about identity and culture and told stories, did traditional cooking, dance. People were able to give their kids those kinds of opportunities and experiences they had as children," says CEO Karen Davy.

[View the full story and video at ourmob.org.au](http://ourmob.org.au)



Social media and songlines: Land Rights and identity

Some people say our mob have been using a form of social media for over 40,000 years, with songlines connecting, sharing, engaging and recording news and information across the land. Today, this practice continues through modern technology such as phones, television, video, the internet and more recently, social media.

The rise in the use and popularity of social media, along with its many challenges and opportunities, has been meteoric particularly among Aboriginal communities.

In fact, recent surveys show that Facebook usage among Aboriginal mob is 20 percent higher than the national average and that those living in isolated areas are increasingly accessing social media through tablets and smartphones.

Like. Comment. Share.

Marlesha Havea knows the positive outcomes first hand. As a Project Manager at the NSW Reconciliation Council and Marketing Assistant at Triple J, she has seen how effective social media can be in an Aboriginal health campaign.

"We used various online platforms and the response was surprising. We created a forum on the website for people to ask questions, engage with others from different communities and connect with health professionals. I strongly believe that creating this space for discussion contributed to the success of the campaign," she said.

"On an individual level, you can follow issues and organisations that are important to you, show your support and help raise awareness by sharing posts, liking pictures and commenting on updates. This is just one small example of how you can use your social media for social good."

Zoe Betar, a Community Catalyst at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence says that social media

can be a great tool for Aboriginal people to use when they are not on country, to research songs and language, connect professionally and seek support to achieve goals.

It is what inspires her involvement in the Community of Excellence, an online social network of and for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, that connects and empowers to achieve goals and reach potential with "no ads, no racism and a suite of resources that affect our community."

Report a problem

It's a fact that racism rears its ugly head online as in day-to-day life but its effects can be magnified. Zoe says it is the biggest challenge she has come across online.

"There's just a lot of it," she said. "But you have to learn how to overcome it in the same way you would face to face. Know who you are as a person, know that there will always be someone who has your back and rather than retaliate, walk away or don't respond.

"In essence, it is strengthening your identity offline that can help confront some of the issues online."

Although social media is often linked to these negative outcomes such as racism and lateral violence just about all social media users agree that it has the potential to deliver positive information such as suicide prevention activities.

Social media and the digital world do, with the right management, have the potential to positively influence social and emotional

outcomes, strengthen connection to country and preserve cultural heritage.

Social media reaches out

In the acclaimed cultural arts project Yijala Yala in Roebourne (WA) young people from the community make films, games, digital comics and online worlds, that explore the community's culture, history and future and how ancient and modern cultures are critical to living heritage.

One of the project mentors observed that for Aboriginal people in the Western Pilbara, heritage is reliant on intergenerational practice and that children and young people are just as critical to the process as senior people.

That potential of the digital landscape can also be positively explored within the Land Rights movement.

NSWALC Chair Craig Cromelin says that it can be used to get news out about Land Rights in NSW and what it means in today's context.

"There are lots of other issues, there's so much going on and young people don't 'grow up' with Land Rights knowledge the way many of us used to.

"On Facebook and Twitter, we can now get photos, links, information out instantly to hundreds of people, information that would have taken days or weeks to distribute. Our CEO spent the week as guest host of IndigenousX (account on Twitter) and our Facebook page reach is growing daily.

Read the full story at
ourmob.org.au

