

It's a

RAP

Edition 2

Art in Action

Telling stories through art

Shared History

A woman's cyclonic bravery

Skills for Life

Transition for Success
with SLSQ



SLSQ @ National RAP Conference

Delivering actions - now more than ever!

RAP update

What's been happening and what's to come.

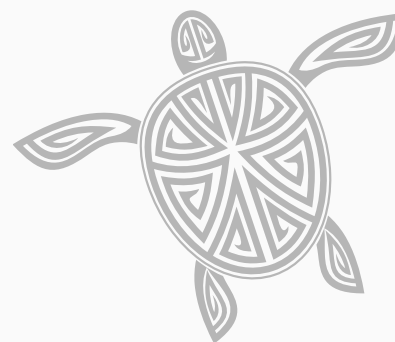


Queensland



As One.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this update may contain names and/or images of deceased persons



Acknowledgement

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands, beaches, skies, and waterways where we deliver our lifesaving services. We honour their enduring connection to Country, which has sustained and inspired their culture, stories, and practices for millennia. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, recognising their strength, resilience, and contributions to our shared future.



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Welcome...

Welcome to our 2nd edition of 'It's a RAP', Surf Life Saving Queensland's (SLSQ) quarterly update dedicated to keeping our members, stakeholders, and interested parties informed on our journey towards reconciliation.

Designed to provide information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement across the organisation, It's a RAP celebrates our progress, recognises history, while highlighting upcoming opportunities for involvement and growth within ourselves, our clubs and our organisation. In this edition we look at our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) journey and how we are progressing toward our first SLSQ RAP and the principles that have guided us to this point.

Driving the deliverables of this action plan with the support of the SLSQ team will be our newly formed RAP Working Group (RWG). Meet this incredible group of inspirational and dedicated individuals who are driven to enable positive growth, share a little of their motivations and the groups priorities for 2025.

SLSQ was represented for the first time at the 2024 National Reconciliation Conference which provided a chance to connect with other RAP organisations as well as heed the call to action as we work toward a reconciled Australia. We unpack one of the key take outs of how our organisation will carry the torch.



In this issue we also celebrate how clubs and branches are fostering a sense of belonging and cultural understanding by working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to create significant works that share a story of custodianship and the importance of the land and seas to all. You also get to meet Chris and Darius of Forrest Beach SLSC- the successful artists commissioned by SLSQ to create a representative piece for use on SLSQ assets and our RAP document. There's even a sneak peek into what you might expect!

The celebrations continue as we look at how a partnership with Queensland Youth Justice , Transition to Success (T2S) is extending our reach beyond the beach.

And in a nod to SLSQ's increasingly important work in emergency response, particularly in adverse weather events, be inspired by the heroism Muara Lifu Wacando, a Torres Strait Island woman of Erub Island who was the first Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person to receive a Royal Humane Society gold medal.



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A Rising Tide Lifts **all** Boats

Now More than Ever - National RAP Conference 2024

In a proud milestone for Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ), our organisation was represented for the first time at the National Reconciliation Conference, held in Meanjin/Brisbane on November 6th and 7th. The theme, "Now More Than Ever," resonated strongly as we explored how organisations and RAP Partners can champion reconciliation and support the invaluable contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The conference brought together diverse voices, offering powerful insights into the role of reconciliation in creating meaningful change. The keynote speakers, panels, and discussions, all centred on driving progress and amplifying Indigenous voices.

Building Capabilities to Strengthen Communities

Key takeaways for SLSQ focused on what we do so well - changing lives and saving lives; building capabilities to support community uplift, aligning with our ongoing commitment to reconciliation.



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Pictured at the Conference were Shannon Thorne - Mission Australia, Adele Daly - Royal Flying Doctor Service, Emma Hyde - A Growing Understanding and Rachael Wynberg representing SLSQ.

SLSQ recognises the importance of supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities by fostering engagement, creating a sense of belonging, and addressing barriers to participation. By valuing the unique perspectives and significant contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples within our membership and workforce, we can enrich our organisation, strengthen its foundations, and build a culture of inclusion and unity. Our presence in communities across Queensland provides a platform to actively contribute to social and cultural understanding and development.

Attending the National RAP Conference 2024 was more than just a historic first for SLSQ—it was an inspiring call to action. Now, more than ever, we have an opportunity to strengthen our journey toward reconciliation and amplify the voices of First Nations Peoples in what we do.

Together, we will continue to create safer beaches and stronger communities, guided by respect, inclusion, and the shared vision of a reconciled Australia.



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NOW MORE THAN EVER



Working toward Reconciliation

The newly formed SLSQ Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group (RWG) has met for the first time on 4th December. It was inspiring to be part of a richly diverse group of professions and lived experience that brought such passion, excitement and commitment to the gathering.

With 13 members from across the state, all sharing a passion for lifesaving and about how we can continue to change lives, save lives and contribute to club and organisational growth through our reconciliation actions with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

Working group members have kindly shared a little of their motivation as well as a photo of themselves so you know who you can speak to in your branch or club about SLSQ's reconciliation journey.



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Introducing:

Bill Lansbury

Joined Eimeo SLSC in 2005 to get the family into the ocean and enjoying the tropical lifestyle. I've patrolled every year since and acquired my bronze in 2005, IRB silver and patrol captain silver also. I've been on the club executive for most of the 20 years with this year being my first off the management committee. Looking forward to continuing my involvement in useful admin type pursuits with SLSQ.



Kelly Shoecraft

We have so much to learn from Indigenous people about the land, the sea and the animals. I want to support the inclusion of Indigenous knowledges in all areas of lifesaving, I also want to see more diverse representation and inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in clubs across Queensland.. Lifesaving is such a great sport and community organisation. We can make it even better through these initiatives.



Laurie Tennant

I'm a late bloomer and did my bronze at 40 years old and now I'm a VPC at Mooloolaba. As an immigrant, I would like to contribute to the RAP to show my appreciation for being warmly welcomed by this country. I have experience in community consultation, communications and change management as part of my day job.



Sue Monteath

I am a patrolling member of Southport Surf Life Saving Club and a recently retired teacher. I am keen to support diversity and inclusion and hope that I can contribute effectively to this group.



Nicole Keir

Nicole Keir is passionate about promoting and furthering meaningful reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and the wider Australian community. As Associate Director of Marketing and Communications at the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, she works with Reef Traditional Owner communities to share stories about the vital impact Indigenous-led conservation has on the Reef and its catchments. Prior to her role at the Foundation, Nicole was an award-winning journalist in Australia, London and Tokyo.



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Kate Jeffrey

Kate Jeffrey, Anaiwan, Alexandra Headland SLSC. I grew up in small, rural communities inland, and came to North Curl Curl SLSC when my kids were Nippers. I've had many volunteer roles in surf. We've been at Alex since the beginning of 2024 and this season I've taken on the role of beach carnival team manager for the 13-15s. I've joined the RAP because while there's loads of great stuff happening there's so much scope for more, and the reconciliation journey is an opportunity for everyone to rise up together.



Brett Scott

From Black & White at Bribie as a nipper, to current day Black & White at Broadbeach as a Patrol Captain. A few gaps in between but over 1000 Patrol hours, an instructor, a committee member, a competitor, a Nipper Age Manager, a CPR Instructor in the Middle East, and a Patrol Development Officer. Off the beach, I am Qld Manager for an Indigenous Furniture company.



Rachael Wynberg

I am committed to fostering cultural understanding and inclusion, believing that true growth is achieved when every voice is embraced and uplifted. Joining Surf Life Saving Queensland's Reconciliation Action Working Group presents an opportunity to help shape the future of our organisation by building meaningful relationships, sharing knowledge, and creating opportunities that bring us together and strengthen our collective mission. By working collaboratively, I believe Surf Life Saving can become a space where all Australians can thrive and contribute to the success of our clubs and the communities we serve.



Our valued Committee Members not featured in this edition include:

Leah Jones	Coolangatta SLSC
Shaun Baker	Noosa Heads SLSC
Jemima Eveans	Ellis Beach SLSC
Shane White	Cairns SLSC



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The group has identified key priorities for the coming year – which are detailed in the SLSQ RAP. These include:

Education

Training and expansion of engagement programs to attract new members to Surf Life Saving from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities whilst addressing barriers to participation and overrepresentation in aquatic related drownings in regional and remote communities.

Importance of understanding cultural protocols including Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country as well as understanding whose Country we are on; how to recognise and acknowledge the uniqueness of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, language groups and custodial lines. Further expanding knowledge of Traditional Place Names and their meanings was also tabled.

The group will also explore embedding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and ways of learning into our education programs.

Collaboration

Ensure Clubs and Branches are equipped with training, knowledge, confidence and assets to embrace RAP actions.

What SLSQ's involvement and representation at Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC week activities will look and feel like.

'RAP the Coast'; an initiative to connect with Traditional Custodians, regional offices, branches and clubs across the 6 Queensland branches at forums, to discuss community needs and collaborate on initiatives and actions to be delivered and developed with our branches, clubs and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We hope to schedule these for 2025 following the implementation of the Reflect RAP. Updates and RWG initiatives will be included in future editions of 'It's a RAP'.



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Art in Action

Art is central to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, serving as a powerful medium for storytelling, spirituality, and connection to Country. With cultural roots dating back over 65,000 years, artistic expression has been an integral part of these communities, embodying their history, values, and beliefs.

Without a written language, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have relied on art to pass down essential cultural knowledge. Through symbols and iconography, they convey stories of creation, survival, and moral teachings. These artworks, found on rock walls, bark, and ceremonial objects, are not just creative expressions but also tools for education and preservation of heritage.

For children, art often takes a simpler, more didactic form, emphasizing lessons about behaviour and survival. For adults, the same stories can be layered with deeper spiritual and cultural meanings, reflecting a more profound understanding of the land and its laws.



While traditional art dates back tens of thousands of years, contemporary Indigenous art emerged in the 20th century. In the 1930s, Albert Namatjira became one of the first Aboriginal artists to bring watercolours depicting desert landscapes to broader attention. Later, in the 1970s, a significant movement began when Geoffrey Bardon encouraged Aboriginal men in Papunya to translate their sand drawings into paintings on canvas and board. This innovation introduced the now-iconic dot painting style and transformed Aboriginal art into a globally celebrated contemporary form.



The stories depicted in these artworks are deeply personal and culturally significant. They are inherited through family and skin groups, and only those with rightful ownership can create them.

Across Queensland, Surf Life Saving clubs and branches have embraced the richness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, incorporating it into programs, facilities, and events to celebrate First Nations culture and heritage and foster a sense of belonging.

In this edition we look at how Point Danger Branch, North Queensland Branch and SLSQ are working with First Nations artists to tell our shared stories.



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Saltwater Country: a Story of Land and Sea



BIREN JAGUN

In the heart of the land, where the saltwater whispers through the air and the red earth holds the memories of time, there lies a country — a country where the horizon bends to meet the sea, and where the sky touches the land in an eternal embrace. This is Saltwater Country, a place where the footsteps of our ancestors have left their mark on the sands, woven into the very fabric of the earth.

Long before the first wave touched the shore, the land was alive with the stories of those who walked before. Their footprints were not just impressions in the sand, but pathways of knowledge, guiding the people with the pulse of the tides. Each footprint, etched deeply into the earth, was a memory, a lesson in how to live with the rhythms of both land and sea. These lines, delicate yet enduring, represent the ancestral journeys — the paths taken not just with the feet, but with the spirit.

The ocean, ever-changing, is both a boundary and a bridge. Its tides, like the ebb and flow of time, carry with them the stories of the world. The waves kiss the shore, then retreat, leaving behind their marks in the form of tidal lines — soft, fluid tracings that carve out the shape of the land, shaping it, renewing it with each touch. The ocean is alive with life force, its energy pulsing through the land as much as the land pulses with the heartbeat of the sea. The rise and fall of the waves tell us that everything is connected, from the smallest grain of sand to the vast blue horizon.



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PDB engaged Brad Turner (<https://brad-turner.myshopify.com/>) who was born, raised and paints on Bundjalung Country, to create an original piece that tells the story of the origins of the Branch. Rachael Clarke, Branch Manager explained how this meaningful and beautiful collaboration came about, "we originally met with Brad over coffee to discuss the Branch, the clubs, boundaries, the fact we were turning 100 and what we were envisaging. We also sent him a number of photos of our local area."



Brad then created an original, unique and representative piece specifically for the Branch. He had the original painted on canvas, framed, and this will be proudly displayed at the Branch. Rachael added, "Brad also gave us permission to use the artwork in a number of ways including table runners for the 100 year celebration night and as backing board for the presentations to the clubs who have been part of the Branch and Life Members. In addition to this, Brad had a further three copies of the artwork printed and framed so we could auction these off."

Thank you to PDB and Brad for sharing the story of this very special partnership.



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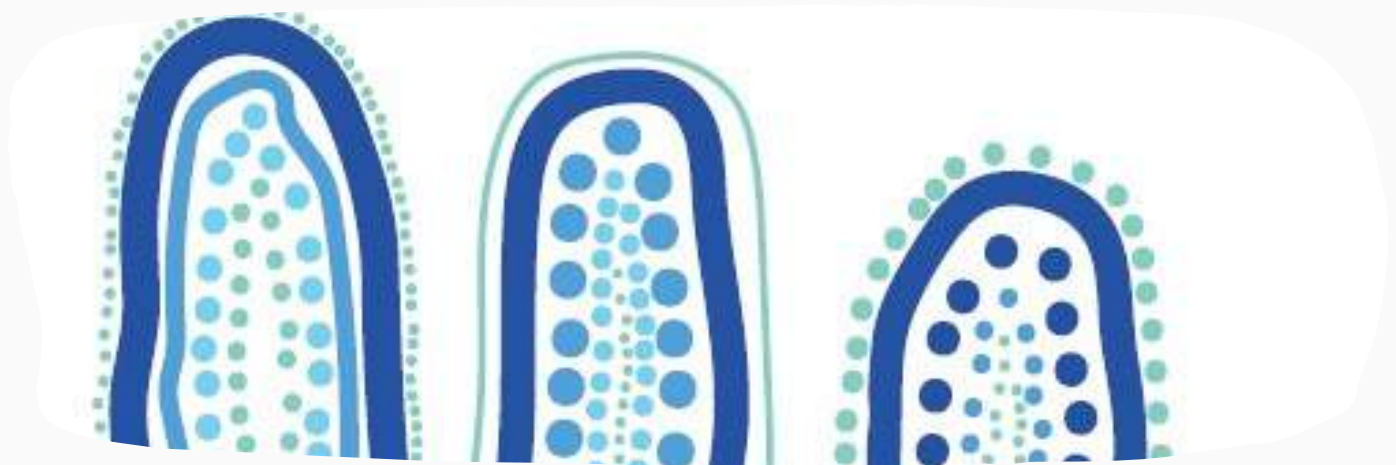
As One.

The Life of the Ocean

North Queensland Branch recognises that to genuinely engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, we must foster a sense of belonging and one way to do that is through art. With support from Sport and Rec Queensland's Indigenous Engagement grant, they were able to commission works through an 'Art in Action' project whereby they engaged a young First Nations artist to produce works that recognise the ongoing custodianship and connection of our beaches and oceans with those who have walked, and those who now walk on the sands. The artwork will be incorporated into the branches assets including their RAP.



The artist, Maurahbai Mundraby was supported by the staff of Trinity Bay State High School and given the incredibly beautiful and significant pieces produced, her cultural connection and creativity as well as the production skills and knowledge she developed, we are sure this will be the first of many opportunities to share her art and stories.



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Here is her artist statement:

I am Maurahbai Mundraby, from Mandingalby Yidinji clan and I am deeply invested into my culture, and I reflect that through art making. My culture gives me identity and opens my eyes to new aspects of life.

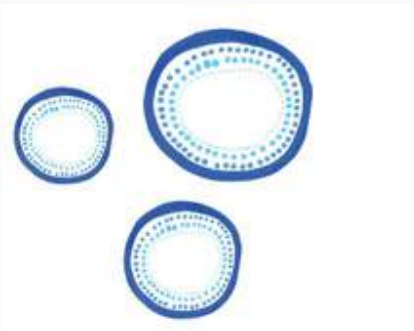
I sketched out the ideas that were coming from mind, then it was scanned high resolution to put into Adobe Illustrator, to be vectorised in Illustrator, then Caroline Mudge continued to help me make patterns and tweak the design still using Adobe Illustrator.

My work explores life under water whilst using Indigenous markings.

With the influence of diverse cultures, it is evident that my work is based around how the sea can be interpreted through indigenous symbols.

Ever since I started art, and exploring how I can showcase my heritage, I have learned a lot. What started out as a little art project, now into something bigger. Art inspires me every day.

Thank you to Maurahbai and Surf Life Saving North Queensland Branch for sharing this wonderful tale of collaboration.



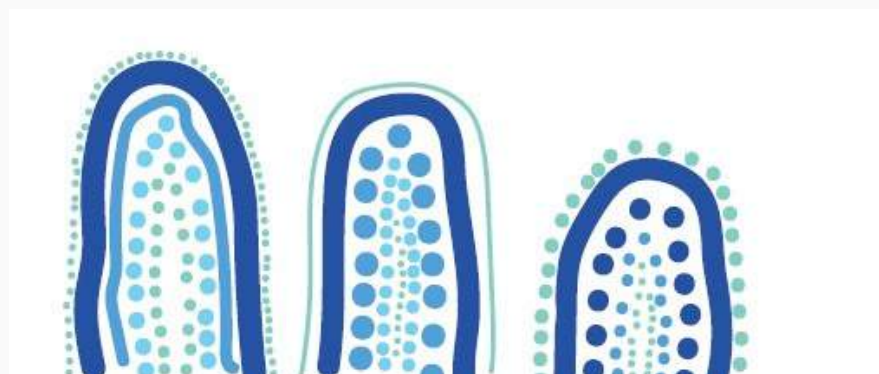
Bubbles
(rising in water)



Jelly Fish
(birds eye view)



Turtle
(water leader)



Waves or Coral Bombies
(changing because of the weather)



Queensland



As One.

Drawing on Connections



SLSQ recently called for expressions of interest from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander artists for commissioned artwork to be incorporated into SLSQ assets and communication including our RAP publication. The level of creativity, skill, culture and thoughtfulness reflected in the more than 20 submissions from around the country was humbling and inspirational. We are so pleased to announce that Christopher Ketchup and Darius Lewin- Pearson of Forest Beach Surf Life Saving Club and St Teresa's Catholic College, Abergowrie, were awarded the commission.

Christopher is an emerging artist from Palm Island and a proud Bwgcolman man. Born and raised on Palm Island, he began his education at St. Michael's Primary School before becoming a boarding student at St. Teresa's College in Abergowrie, where he graduated Year 12 in 2024. Christopher is passionate about sharing his love for his community and culture, often proudly telling new people, friends, and attendees at events like Surf Lifesaving how special Palm Island and its surroundings are.

Art and a deep connection to Country are at the heart of his culture. Christopher draws inspiration for his artwork from spending time on Country, surrounded by the land and sea, as well as from the cultural ties he shares with his community. His grandfather (Pop) is a major influence in his life, as he has always been there to teach and share wisdom with him.

Christopher also has a strong passion for the ocean, which led him to join Surf Lifesaving. One of his proudest achievements was earning his Bronze Medallion. He decided to submit his artwork to share his culture and knowledge with others, hoping to inspire and connect through his creative expression.



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Darius is an emerging artist from Kiriri, also known as Hammond Island in the Torres Strait. He attended primary school in Cairns before moving to St. Teresa’s College in Abergowrie as a boarding student, where he recently graduated Year 12. Darius is passionate about giving back to his community by sharing his culture through events, sports, and family celebrations.

Beyond art, one of Darius’s favourite aspects of Torres Strait culture is the food—especially seafood like fish, shellfish, crab and crayfish. His artistic journey was inspired by his father's cousin brother, Nino Sabatino a well-known artist in the community. Darius also looks up to his parents as role models, having learned various art styles from them: his mother taught him to create stars, flowers, and patterns, while his father introduced him to depictions of sea animals.



An avid fan of exercise, Darius joined Surf Lifesaving to stay fit during the off-season and, more importantly, to reconnect with the sea. His highlights from Surf Lifesaving so far include IRB training and travelling to Brisbane, the Gold Coast, and Mackay for the State Titles. Darius chose to submit his artwork to inspire other Indigenous people to get involved in both Surf Lifesaving and art, sharing his passion and cultural pride with others.

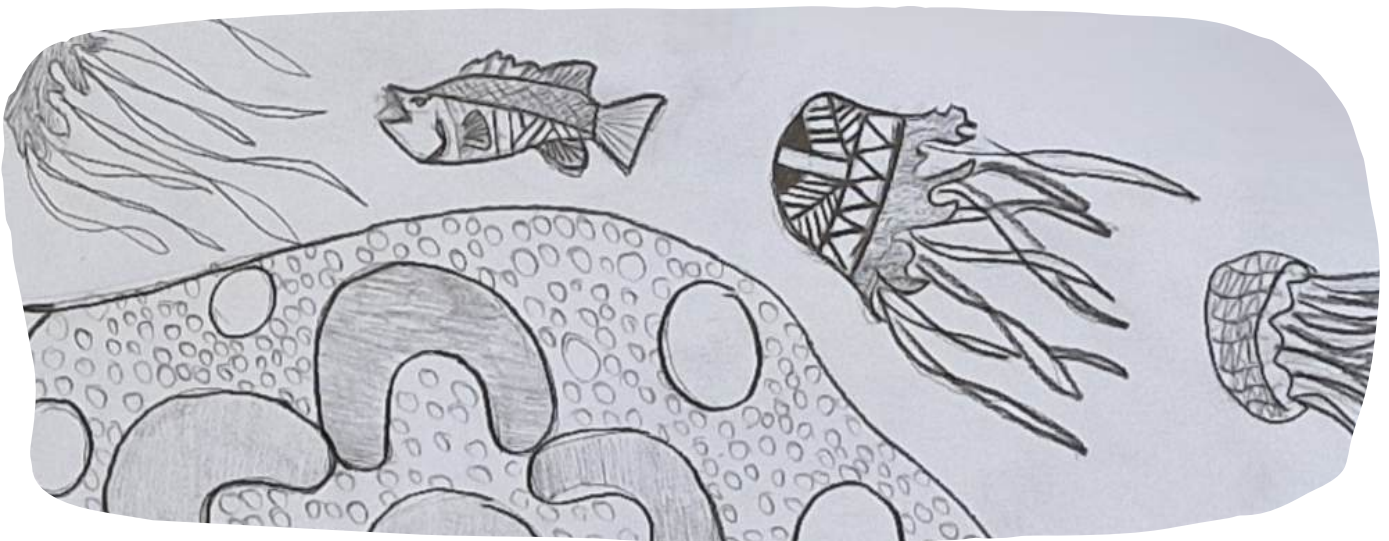
It is easy to understand how the boys have brought together their culture, passion for Lifesaving, and artistic talent to create a meaningful, significant collaboration to be representative of our organisation.



Whilst you have to sit tight before the unveiling of the completed artwork, here is the written description of their submission to ignite your imagination:

This artwork beautifully symbolises the unity of cultures and communities in caring for the environment. The yarning circle illustrates various communities coming together to engage in sporting events while prioritising safety on Queensland's beaches. The tidal rip depicted in the piece showcases the daily movement of fish and jellyfish venturing out to sea to nourish larger fish, reflecting the interconnectedness of marine life.

The section representing Torres Strait Islander culture at the top highlights the deeper waters and stronger currents that transport turtles, manta rays—sacred to Torres Strait Islanders—and squid around the islands. This emphasises the diverse habitats and ecosystems of Australian waters, particularly in Queensland, which must be preserved.



Every symbol in the artwork is deeply rooted in the traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Chris and Darius's distinctive drawing styles, unique to Queensland's First Nations artists, have been passed down through generations. Through the guidance of their elders, they have learned the importance of caring for the land and water, and they embrace their role in educating others about the profound connection and responsibility they hold as First Nations people. What a beautiful coming together and recognition of our ongoing connection.

Thank you Chris and Darius and congratulations again!



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Skills for Life



We recently had the privilege of connecting with a community segment that may not typically engage with us, creating a meaningful impact through the launch of the inaugural Skills for Life program. Funded by the Queensland Government's Department of Sport and Recreation grant for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement, this initiative brought together the SLS North Queensland Branch and Queensland's Youth Justice through the Transition to Success (T2S) program.

T2S is an evidence-based program delivered by Youth Justice in Queensland to prevent young people's introduction or progression through the justice system. T2S is delivered in partnership with schools, registered training organisations, community organisations and private businesses. This partnership model reconnects participants with education, training, and employment opportunities as well as with community projects that directly benefit their local areas.

The Skills for Life program was designed to provide participants with essential qualifications, including First Aid and CPR, while opening doors to further skill development, surf lifesaving participation, and potential employment opportunities. Spanning 3 sessions, the program's flexible structure accommodated the unique learning needs of participants, many of whom may face complex challenges such as trauma, mental health issues, or family instability.



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The first session introduced 12 participants to the program through a site visit, an overview of course objectives, and presentations with head of the North Queensland Lifeguard Service, Dee, and volunteer surf lifesavers. These interactions highlighted pathways into volunteering, employment, and ongoing personal development and got them excited about what Surf Life Saving can offer (especially opportunities with RWCs 😊).

While the program faced some challenges such as postponement of the CPR and First Aid component, it successfully resumed on October 16th and 17th. . The full course was completed over 2 days with the support of a Surf Life Saving Education trainer Rachael, lifeguard and community awareness presenter Lilly to support learning and share her extensive knowledge, and NQ Education and Training Supervisor, James - who got participants' blood pumping (pun intended) with simulated arterial bleeds! The feedback was overwhelmingly positive reinforcing the program's value and desirability.

Of the partnership, Jonas Bosch, Senior Transition Officer said, "I cannot speak highly enough of the commitment and passion displayed by both Rachael Wynberg and the Queensland Surf Life Saving team. Having partners like Surf Life Saving Queensland involved delivering First Aid and CPR in this round of T2S has been a great addition to our program and we hope to continue working together in the future.

It is only through all of us working together that we can effect positive change in our communities".

However, the program is about more than just qualifications; it aims to create lasting connections and build capacity within participants, their families, and their communities.

Program coordinator, Rachael, was honoured to attend the graduation for participants held at the Selectability Bike Shed on the 20th November where the participants achievements were celebrated with program partners and an awesome feed prepared by the program leaders. A highlight was learning that one of the program participants who completed the CPR and First Aid course and the 15 week program, had gained employment as a landscaper!



The Skills for Life program reflects SLSQ's commitment to improving capabilities through saving lives and changing lives. By offering vital qualifications and meaningful connections, this initiative sets participants on a course toward personal growth, community involvement, and lifelong success.

For more information on Skills for Life or to explore partnership opportunities with Youth Justice and the T2S program please contact Rachael Wynberg at r.wynberg@firstwavetraining.com.au. To learn more about T2S, visit the Queensland Youth Justice website.

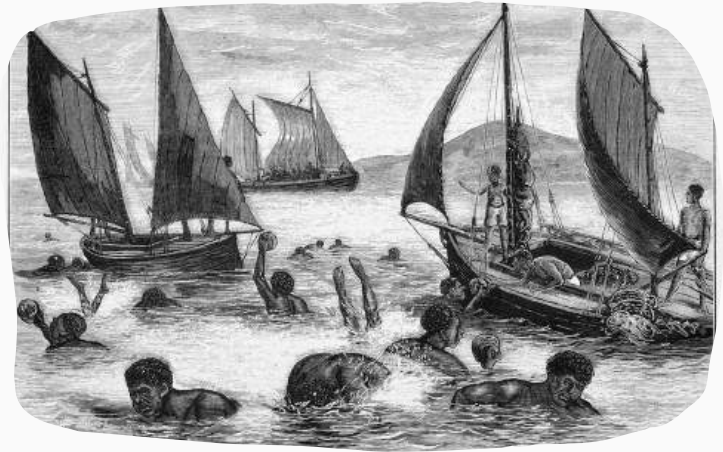


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Muara Lifu Wacando A Woman's Courage



On March 5, 1899, Cyclone Mahina—the first recorded Category 5 tropical cyclone in Australia—struck the Torres Strait pearling fleet off Cape Melville on the Cape York Peninsula. The eye of the cyclone was preceded by a very large storm tide, which, according to eyewitnesses, left dolphins and sharks atop 15 metre cliffs and garnered the lowest barometric pressure ever recorded on the Queensland coast, crossed the coast through Bathurst Bay.

The devastation (the worst in Australian maritime history) was overwhelming: 73 vessels wrecked and a death toll in excess of 300 people. Aboard one of the vessels was a young Erub (Darney) Island woman, Muara Lifu Wacando. She had recently wed pearl diver William Wacando and together they were celebrating their honeymoon on one of the ill-fated luggers.

In the midst of the cyclone's fury, Muara set about the seemingly impossible task of swimming to shore. She not only battled raging seas for nearly seven hours, but she carried two white sailors on her back for almost 4 kilometres before safely reaching shore. It was one of the most heroic feats recorded in Australia's maritime history. As a recognition of her incredible courage, the Royal Humane Society awarded her its gold medal; the first Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person to do so in the history of the award.

Following her death in 1930, Muara's legacy was honoured by the people of Erub Island. Over her resting place on Thursday Island, a beautiful memorial was created, made from coral and adorned with mother-of-pearl, lovingly crafted by the Erub Island community. Her bravery continues to be remembered as a symbol of strength and resilience within the Torres Strait and beyond.

Sources: Creativespirits.info
Courier Mail archives
trove.nla.gov.au
Celebrating Blak History Month



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Shared Learning: Symbolism of the Flags



Iconic Red and Yellow

In 1855 an International Code of Signals was introduced for ships at sea. The letter 'O' signalled 'man overboard' and was represented by a red and yellow flag divided diagonally. According to the National Museum of Australia, this was probably the inspiration for the surf lifesaving flags introduced in 1935. Before then, patrol flags were said to be blue and white.

Source: National Museum of Australia



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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags

Each flag has a different history, and in 1995 both were recognised as official flags of Australia under Commonwealth legislation.

The Aboriginal flag was designed by Harold Thomas, a Luritja man from Central Australia.

According to Thomas, the meaning of the flag is represented through:

Black: The Aboriginal people

Yellow: The Sun – the giver of life and protector

Red: The red earth – red ochre and a spiritual relationship to the land



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The Torres Strait Island flag was designed by the late Bernard Namok of Thursday Island. The meaning of the Torres Strait Islander flag is represented through:

Green: Land

Blue: Sea

White: Peace

Black: The Torres Strait Islander people

At the centre of the Torres Strait Islander flag is a Dhari (headdress) that represents the Torres Strait Islander people, and a five-pointed star that represents the five major island groups, and the role of navigation in this sea-faring culture.

Source: Reconciliation Australia



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Join the Journey

As we continue our journey to inclusion, recognition and engagement, we invite you to become involved:

- **Share Your Story:** If your club or branch is working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, let us know! We'd love to hear about your initiatives and through shared learning, expand our partnerships and impact across the state.
- **Community Partnerships:** If your club is interested in supporting education and development of new members with community partners we can help connect you with First Nations led organisations and groups.
- **2025 Come and Try Days:** Help spread the word that Come and Try Days are being held to introduce Surf Life Saving, encourage membership, participation and familiarisation of the events that will be part of the Indigenous Round - Fastest on Sand across NQ, NBB and WBC (see dates and locations listing below).
- **2025 Indigenous Round - Fastest on Sand; Coming to a beach near you:** Following the success of last year's North Queensland event, there are more dates and locations for next year's events across the state. These celebrations of sport and culture are open to club and community members so join in and find out who is the Fastest on Sand! (see dates and locations listing below).

The Come and Try Days and Indigenous Round - Fastest on Sand events are made possible through the Active Industry Project Funding from the Queensland Government.



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EVENT	NORTH QLD BRANCH	NORTH BARRIER BRANCH	WIDE BAY CAPRICORN BRANCH
Come and Try Days	23 March 2025	13 July 2025	21 March 2025
	Location: NQB Clubs	Location: Townsville Picnic Bay SLSC (Strand Clubhouse)	Location: Yeppoon SLSC
Indigenous Round Beach Event	10 May 2025	10 August 2025	16 August
	Yorkey's Knob	Townsville Picnic Bay SLSC	Yeppoon SLSC
		17 August 2025	
		Mackay SLSC	



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