

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AWARDS

THE DEADLYS 2007

Strictly embargoed until 9:30pm
on Thursday, September 27, 2007.

DEADLYS 2007

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander music, sport, entertainment and community awards

AND THE DEADLY GOES TO ...

The 2007 Deadly Award Winners have been announced at what was a moving and awe-inspiring ceremony at the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall.

Celebrities, community leaders and dignitaries gathered on the shores of Bennelong Point to witness the event, which saw performances by Australian Idol star Jessica Mauboy, Arnhem Land rock stars Nabarlek, legendary singer/songwriter Warren H. Williams and a special appearance by the Nambucca Elders Choir.

Hosted by Home & Away heartthrob Luke Carroll, the 2007 Deadly Awards was a fitting celebration of the often unsung achievements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

2007 DEADLY AWARD WINNERS

MUSIC

Most Promising New Talent in Music

SHARON-LEE LANE

Sharon, or "Shaz" Lane lives in Dubbo and performs at clubs and charities throughout NSW. Her ability to captivate an audience has established her as an up and coming artist.

In April 2006, Shaz underwent major brain surgery to remove a meningioma tumour, which was having a detrimental effect on her eyesight. During this traumatic time, she appeared on Channel Nine's medical series RPA.

In November of the same year, she released her own independent three track EP *Left it all Behind*, after a short break from the industry.

Sharon entered the single *Left it all Behind* in the 2006 MusicOz Awards along with 5000 other hopefuls and was placed 55 in the top 100 for the Country Music section.

Single Release of the Year

YOUR LOVE IS LIKE A SONG – DAN SULTAN

Dan Sultan was nominated for a 2006 Deadly Award for Most Promising New Talent and was invited by Paul Kelly to contribute to the Kev Carmody tribute album, *Cannot Buy My Soul*.

Created with bandmate Scott Wilson, *Homemade Biscuits* is an accomplished album displaying versatility of talent with exceptional vocals that range from deep and velvet soulful yearnings to soaring heights reminiscent of Jeff Buckley.

The single, *Your Love is Like a Song*, has been featured on Triple J and has received rave reviews from the music press, with one journalist commenting: "It was almost as if the spirit of Elvis, Johnny Cash, James Brown and Sam Cooke were channelling through him as he brought maximum soul to the stage".

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Album Release of the Year**CANNOT BUY MY SOUL – KEV CARMODY**

Winner of the 2005 Jimmy Little Award for Lifetime Achievement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Music, Kev Carmody is one of Australia's most accomplished musicians.

Since his first album release, Pillars of Society in 1989, Kev has built a reputation for creating powerful, at times anthemic music that addresses the issues of identity, history, racism and spirituality without pulling any punches.

To commemorate his achievements, some of Australia's finest singers and songwriters banded together to record a tribute album that pays homage to the man and his music. The result is *Cannot Buy My Soul – The Songs of Kev Carmody*, released by major record label EMI.

Artists featured on the album include Troy Cassar-Daley, Archie Roach, Bernard Fanning, the John Butler Trio, Steve Kilbey and Missy Higgins, The Herd, The Waifs and The Pigram Brothers.

Band of the Year**BLACK IMAGE**

Black Image is a six piece Indigenous band from Wujal Wujal, Hope Vale and Cooktown in Queensland. After forming in 1997 the band has travelled throughout Australia performing their blend of rock, reggae, country, blues and traditional Indigenous music.

The band is made of five brothers and a cousin and in 2002 they released their first album, *Durrbil/ Dikarrba*. "Durrbil" meaning "red soil" in the Guugu Yimithirr language from their mother's side and "Dikarrba" means the Thompson Creek area of Wujal Wujal in the Kuku Yalangi language from their father's side.

Past performances include the Music Oz Awards, the Woodford Folk Festival, the Village Festival in Yeppoon and the Laura Dance festival just to name a few.

Black Image has also supported acts such as country band the Wolverines, Troy Cassar-Daley, Coloured Stone and Yothu Yindi. In 2004 the band's song *Beautiful Land and Sea* was released on a compilation CD called the *Indigenous Saltwater Songs*.

Artist of the Year**JESSICA MAUBOY**

The vision of Jessica Mauboy, braving the heat and dust of the Australian Idol audition set in Darwin will forever be a special moment in Idol history; a vision which is second only to her triumphs witnessed by millions during the hotly contested 2006 series.

After stepping out of a competition of the magnitude of Australian Idol, Jessica's new focus was the success of her debut album *The Journey* – a souvenir CD/DVD package that features her complete Australian Idol journey from Top 12 to Final 2.

The past year has established Jessica as a celebrated artist with soul, integrity and a wonderfully harmonious pop sensibility. Jessica's debut album will be released in late 2007 and will ultimately reflect the work of an artist mature beyond her years, brave enough to pursue her dream, and talented enough to pull it off.

Jimmy Little Lifetime Achievement Award for Contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Music**JIMMY LITTLE**

Jimmy Little's long and illustrious career began in 1956. His first Festival Music recording, *Ballads with a Beat*, reached the top 10 in the Australian popular music charts. This heralded a steady stream of singles and albums including the chart-topping *Royal Telephone* in 1963. *Royal Telephone* went on to become Jimmy's signature tune after selling more than 75,000 copies and going gold. In 1964 he was named Australian Pop Star of the Year.

He was the first Aboriginal person to regularly feature on television and, at a time when Indigenous Australians did not even have basic citizenship rights, Jimmy managed to break down cultural barriers with his music.

In 1994 Jimmy was inducted into the prestigious Tamworth Australasian Country Music Roll of Renown and, five years later, the ARIA board also inducted Jimmy into the ARIA Australian Music Hall of Fame.

In 2004, a serious kidney illness forced Jimmy to cut down on his touring. That same year he was named a National Living Treasure and received the Order of Australia for his contribution to the entertainment industry and his ongoing work with Indigenous education and health.

Despite his own ill health, in August 2006 he launched the Jimmy Little Foundation to help improve kidney health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across regional and remote Australia.



APRA Song of the Year

GOING BACK HOME – TROY CASSAR-DALEY

Troy Cassar-Daley is one of Australia's most awarded and successful singer/songwriters.

In 1993 Troy released his debut album *Beyond The Dancing*, which has gone on to become a classic Australian recording that not only spawned four top 10 singles, but also reflected Troy's Aboriginal roots.

Since then Troy has won countless awards, including Golden Guitars, Mo Awards, ARIAs and Deadly awards. He has also been immortalised in wax at the Tamworth Wax Museum.

In May 2004 Troy released his fifth album, *Borrowed & Blue*. The album received rave reviews across the board and has been one of Troy's most successful albums to date.

Troy's sixth studio album, *Brighter Day*, was released in 2005.

In 2007, Troy released *Born to Survive: The Best of Troy Cassar-Daley*. *Born to Survive* is a luminous collection of 20 songs, tracing Troy's career from his first major label recording, *Dream Out Loud*, to his new single *Everything Is Going To Be Alright*.

Thirteen of the 20 songs on the album reached Number One on the Country Tracks Top 30.

Troy's single *Going Back Home* was the most performed song on radio, television and live in by an Indigenous APRA member in the last full calendar year.

SPORT

Most Promising New Talent in Sport

DALE RICHARDS

Growing up ten minutes from the beach at Tweed Heads on the Gold Coast, it wasn't long before Dale Richards began surfing.

After establishing himself as one of the stars of the junior pro-series, Dale was selected to compete in the trials for the 2007 Quicksilver Pro, on the Gold Coast.

He went on to beat 15 more experienced surfers during the trials to earn himself a wild card entry into the tournament. In doing so, Dale became the first ever Indigenous surfer to advance to the main round of a surfing world championship tour event.

Joining 48 other top professionals in the tournament, Dale drew three time world champions Andy Irons in his first heat and then squared off against one of his idols, surf legend Kelly Slater in the next.

The tournament marked an unbelievable achievement for the 18-year-old, who now has the surfing world at his feet.

Outstanding Achievement in AFL

LANCE FRANKLIN

Lance "Buddy" Franklin played his AFL debut in Round One of the 2005 season and enjoyed a superb first year. He played in 20 games for the season, kicking a number of spectacular goals (21 in all) for an average of just over a goal a game. He also earned himself a Rising Star nomination.

In July last year, Lance signed a new two-year deal with Hawthorn. After another six goal haul late in the season, he finished the year with 31 goals, averaging just over two a game.

Lance enjoyed a strong start to 2007, booting five goals including four in the final term in the Hawks NAB Cup match against Melbourne, propelling them into the second round.

In Round Six against Essendon, Lance booted an amazing nine goals in one of the most thrilling individual performances of the year. By round 18 he had kicked 53 goals, becoming one of the leading goal kickers in the AFL and firmly establishing himself as one of the game's most talented and brightest young stars

Outstanding Achievement in Rugby League**JOHNATHAN THURSTON**

Since making his debut with the Bulldogs in 2002, Johnathan Thurston has been on a steady ascent toward the elite echelon of NRL footballers.

His pace, ball skills and vision saw him quickly move through the ranks of the Bulldogs. By 2003 he had become a key interchange player in a star-studded side. In 2004 he was handed the Bulldogs' number seven jersey and helped lead the Bulldogs to a Grand Final victory.

Johnathan signed with the North Queensland Cowboys for the 2005 season and led the Cowboys to the Grand Final, where they were narrowly defeated by the Wests Tigers. He finished the year winning the 2005 Dally M Award and the NRL Players' Player Award.

In 2006 he played a starring role in Queensland's victorious Origin campaign. He also made his test debut for the Kangaroos against New Zealand.

In 2007, as well as helping entrench the Cowboys in the top half of the league table, Johnathan led Queensland to back-to-back Origin series wins and starred for Australia in their Anzac Test victory over New Zealand. He was also once again named winner of the Dally M Award.

Male Sportsperson of the Year**ANTHONY MUNDINE**

Anthony Mundine began his professional sporting life as a rugby league player, but in 2000 he made a shock retirement from rugby league to follow his father's footsteps into the boxing ring. He quickly went on to claim the Australian Super Middleweight title in only his sixth professional bout.

In 2003, Anthony defeated American Antwon Echols to capture the vacant WBA Super Middleweight world title in Sydney. But after one successful defence, Anthony lost the world title in a close points decision against Puerto Rican Manny Siaca in 2004.

Anthony then began a quest to win back his title, and in June of 2005 he faced Super Middleweight world champion Mikkel Kessler. In a gutsy attempt, Choc lost to Kessler in a points decision.

In 2006, Anthony faced rival Danny Green in a fight that stopped the nation. Anthony dominated the fight in front of 40,000 people at Aussie Stadium in Sydney, winning by unanimous decision.

In early 2007 Anthony regained the WBA Super Middleweight crown he lost three years earlier by knocking out Sam Soliman in the ninth round of their world title bout in Sydney. Anthony then successfully defended his title against Pablo Nievas with a unanimous points decision on the Gold Coast in June.

Female Sportsperson of the Year**ROHANE COX**

Women's National Basketball League (WNBL) sensation Rohanee Cox has had a rollercoaster career, but has always remained an exciting player who can turn a game on its head with a fast break.

Rohanee is a former AIS scholarship holder who played with the Opals in Brazil in 1998 and won silver with the Australia Gems in 1997.

A crippling knee injury in 2003 while she was playing with the Perth Lynx had kept her out of the game for a while, but she returned to the game; signing with Townsville Fire and determined to reignite her career. She was named as her team's most valuable player for the 2005/06 season.

In 2006, Rohanee was included in the Australian Opals squad for the 2006 FIBA World Championships, held in Brazil.

Rohanee remains a key player for the Townsville Fire, and this year she was once again selected to represent her country with the Opals, competing in the William Jones Tournament in China.



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

DAVID PEACHEY

Born in Dubbo in 1974, David Peachey developed his love of rugby league at an early age, playing junior football with the Dubbo Pacemakers. Discovered by league legend Arthur Beetson, he moved to Sydney and was slotted into the Sharks' Under 21s team where he quickly caught the league world's attention with his freakish attacking flair, lightning pace and try-scoring capability.

Since those early days he has played Super League for Australia, State of Origin for New South Wales and captained the Sharks from 2001 to 2003. In 2006 he joined the South Sydney Rabbitohs becoming one of their most important players, both on and off the field. This year he has proven once again that he possesses amazing skill, ball smarts and competitiveness. In what was a momentous year for the Rabbitohs, David continued to be an inspirational figure for many of the side's younger Indigenous players and he remains one of the game's true legends.

THE ARTS

Dancer of the Year

ELMA KRIS

Dancer and choreographer Elma Kris was raised on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait, and studied dance at NAISDA Dance College.

Joining Bangarra Dance Theatre in 1999, she has performed in all of Bangarra's acclaimed productions, including Unaipon, Boomerang and last year's celebrated UK tour of Bush.

She has also appeared in film and television programs, as well as in the Olympic Arts Festival and at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

This year Elma joined fellow dancer and choreographer Frances Rings to create the Bangarra double bill, True Stories.

In October the previous year, Elma had travelled to Murray Island to ask permission from the Indigenous elders to share the island's traditional songs and stories through dance. The result was Elma's choreographic debut Emeret Lu, meaning "very old things".

Emeret Lu is brilliant collection of traditional and contemporary dance – a celebration of rain, wind, hunting and the little-known Torres Strait Island culture.

Outstanding Achievement in Film, Television or Theatre

RICHARD FRANKLAND – DIRECTOR, THE CIRCUIT

Richard Frankland is one of Australia's most experienced Indigenous singer/songwriters and filmmakers.

After working as a Field Officer during the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, Richard produced, co-wrote and presented the 1992 award-winning documentary *Who Killed Malcolm Smith?*, which won an AFI Lemac Award for best TV Documentary.

In 1993 he co-wrote and directed his first documentary, *Songlines*, about Aboriginal people finding their way in the Australian music industry. Since then he has written, directed and produced a wide range of video, documentary and film projects, including the award winning *No Way to Forget*, based on his experiences as a Field Officer during the Royal.

Richard was the executive producer of *After Mabo*, an AFI award-winning which screened on SBS during November 1997 at the height of the Wik legislation debate in Canberra.

His 1999 film, *Harry's War*, about an Aboriginal digger fighting for his country in Papua New Guinea, also won numerous national and international awards including Best Short Film at the Hollywood Black Film Festival.

In 2006 Frankland co-produced the two-part documentary *The Convincing Ground*, which examines the history and cultural impact of one of Victoria's first massacres near Portland in 1834. He also directed two episodes of the mini drama series *The Circuit*.

Outstanding Achievement in Literature**DR ANITA HEISS – NOT MEETING MR RIGHT**

Dr Anita Heiss is one of Australia's most prolific and well-known Indigenous authors. Her published works include the historical novel *Who Am I? The Diary of Mary Talence, Sydney 1937*, the poetry collection *Token Koori*, the satirical social commentary *Sacred Cows*, the non-fiction text *Dhuuluu-Yala (to Talk Straight)* – Publishing Aboriginal Literature, and a children's book entitled *Me and My Mum*.

In 2004 Anita was awarded the NSW Indigenous Arts Fellowship and was listed in *The Bulletin* magazine's Smart 100, as one of 10 of the most innovative people in the Australian Arts community. In the same year she was nominated for a Deadly Award for Outstanding Achievement in Literature and wrote and directed her first short film *Checkerboard Love*.

In 2007 Anita released the chicklit novel *Not Meeting Mr Right*, her collection of poetry *I'm not racist, but...* and the kids' novel *Yirra and her Deadly Dog, Demon* which she wrote with the students from La Perouse Public School.

Anita is currently the Director of Gadigal Information Services and Koori Radio and is the Deputy Chair of the Australian Society of Authors.

Outstanding Achievement in Entertainment**LUKE CARROLL & CATHERINE FREEMAN – GOING BUSH**

Catherine Freeman is one of Australia's most admired and respected athletes. Since retiring from athletics in 2003, Catherine has worked tirelessly to promote Australian sport, Aboriginal tourism and other causes close to her heart including Indigenous health. In April of this year, Catherine joined fellow Olympian Ian Thorpe in launching the *Close the Gap* campaign with a view to ending Australia's Indigenous health crisis.

Catherine starred in the first series of *Going Bush* alongside actress Deborah Mailman and is back in the popular *Lonely Planet* series alongside actor Luke Carroll.

The series not only opened broader Australia's eyes to the diverse beauty and wonder of Indigenous Australia; it also took these two self-confessed city folk on a journey of physical, cultural and personal exploration.

Luke is one of Australia's most promising and hard working young actors and has a swathe of stage, film and TV credits to his name.

Nominated for AFI Awards in 2002 for Best Supporting Actor in *Australian Rules*, and in 2006 for Best Supporting

Actor in a TV series for *Remote Area Nurse*, Luke also won Best Actor at POV 2003 for his performance in the short film *Free*. Luke's film credits also include *The Tender Hook*, and *Children of the Revolution*.

In theatre, Luke has had leads roles in *Capricornia* and *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, *Riverland*, *Eora Crossing*, *Conversations with the Dead*, *Purple Dreams*, *My Girragundji* and *Cherry Pickers*.

On the small screen Luke has recently filmed episodes in *Home and Away* for Channel Seven and starred in *The Alice* for the Nine Network. Luke has also appeared in *Stingers*, *All Saints*, *Water Rats*, *Heartbreak High*, *Man from Snowy River* and *The Flying Doctors*.

Male Actor of the Year**AARON PEDERSEN**

Aaron Pedersen has featured on countless television productions, including *Wildside*, *Water Rats*, *MDA*, *Territorians*, *Grassroots*, *Queen of Hearts*, *Black Jack* and *The Secret Life of Us*

His film work includes *Dead Heart*, *Saturday Night*, *Dark Love Story*, *Grange*, *Unfinished Business*, *Mimi*, *Mirror Images*, *De-Evolution* and *Dark Love Story* for which he won the 2006 Melbourne Underground Film festival Award for Best Actor.

Theatre credits include *King Lear* (Melbourne Theatre Company), *Black Medea* (Company B/Malthouse Theatre Company), *Eating Ice Cream with Your Eyes Closed* (Queensland Theatre Company), *The Club* (Sydney Theatre Company), *No Way To Forget*, *Harry's War* (Darwin Theatre Company) and *Conversations with The Dead* (Playbox Theatre Company) for which he won a Green Room award for Best Male Actor in 2002.

In 2003 he won a Deadly Award for Male Actor of the Year and in 2005 he was nominated for a Helpmann Award for Best Male Actor in a Leading Role for his performance in *Eating Ice Cream with Your Eyes Closed*.

Last year, Aaron was nominated for two Deadly Awards – one for Male Actor of the Year and one for Outstanding Achievement in Film for his work on *My Brother Vinnie*, the heartfelt documentary that explores his close relationship with his 34-year-old brother Vincent who has a mild intellectual disability and cerebral palsy.

Aaron is also the recipient of the 2007 Bob Maza Fellowship.

This year Aaron appeared in the critically acclaimed SBS production of *The Circuit* – a drama series that follows the trials and tribulations of the Kimberley Circuit Court.

Female Actor of the Year**DEBORAH MAILMAN**

Deborah Mailman gained national attention for her role as the character "Kelly" on the successful Australian television series, *The Secret Life of Us*, and won the 2004 Silver Logie for Most Outstanding Actress in a Drama for her performance – the first Aboriginal actor to do so.

Deborah was awarded the 1998 AFI award for Best Actress for her role in the film *Radiance*. She has also received the NAIDOC award for Aboriginal of the Year, the Tudawali Indigenous Film and Video Award for Best Actress and Matilda Awards for her stage performances in *Radiance* and *The Seven Stages of Grieving*.

Deborah has worked extensively in theatre, taking her one-woman show, *The 7 Stages of Grieving*, to the London International Festival of Theatre and Zurich Arts Festival. Other theatre credits include *The Small Poppies*, *As You Like It*, *Capricornia*, *Murri Love*, *King Lear*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Summer of the Aliens*, *The Cherry Pickers* and *The Sapphires*.

Deborah also starred in the film *The Monkey's Mask* and appeared in Phillip Noyce's *Rabbit Proof Fence*.

In 2006, together with Catherine Freeman, Deb embarked on the trip of a lifetime from Broome to Arnhem Land, for the SBS Independent and Lonely Planet series, *Going Bush*. Deborah and Catherine were nominated for a 2006 Deadly Award for Outstanding Achievement in Entertainment for the series.

This year, Deborah was awarded the 2007 Helpmann Award for Best Female Actor in a Supporting Role in a Play for her performance in the Sydney Theatre Company's production of *The Lost Echo*.

Visual Artist of the Year**DENNIS NONA**

Dennis Nona is widely acknowledged as one of the most important Torres Strait Islander artists in Australia today.

Born on Badu Island in 1973, Dennis was taught the traditional craft of woodcarving as a young boy. Since then he has translated this skill into the incredibly intricate and beautiful linocuts, etchings and sculptures that comprise his art practice.

Dennis holds a Diploma of Art from Cairns TAFE, a Diploma of Visual Arts in Printmaking from the Institution of Arts, Australian National University, Canberra and is currently completing a Master of Arts degree in Visual Arts at Queensland College of Art, Griffith University, Brisbane.

His work can be seen in the collections of most of the major Australian art institutions and in several important overseas collections. These include the National Gallery of Australia; Queensland Art Gallery; National Gallery of Victoria; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Art Gallery of South Australia; Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; British Museum, London; Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Cambridge University Museum UK; Musee d'Histoire Naturelle de Lyon, France; Musee d'Art & d'Historie de la Rochelle, France and the Institute of American Indian Arts Museum, USA.

Dennis has been a finalist for the prestigious National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award seven times. In 2007 he finally won the award, for *Ubirikubiri* - a 650 kilogram, 3.5 metre long cast bronze sculpture of a crocodile carrying a man on his back clutching a spear.

COMMUNITY**Outstanding Achievement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education****GAVIN KHAN**

Gavin Khan is currently Principal at Williamstown Primary School in South Australia's Barossa District. He is a Kookatha and Arunta man from the far north of South Australia and has also been a primary teacher, an Aboriginal Education Teacher, District Aboriginal Resource Teacher, District Aboriginal Education Project Officer and District Aboriginal Support Service Manager.

Gavin is co-Chair of the National Aboriginal Principals' Association, which he was also instrumental in establishing in 2006. He has a close association with the Australian Principals' Association Professional Development Council's Dare to Lead Project, serving as a committee member on the Dare to Lead National Steering Committee, Kids Matter and Mind Matters National Steering Committee, Leaders Lead working group and he is also a reviewer for the National Museum of Australia's Indigenous Education Series.

In 2005 he was involved in carrying out an open discussion with South Australia's Department of Education and Children's Services employees involved with Aboriginal Education. This resulted in the realignment of the structures for the education and care of Aboriginal children and students in South Australia.

Gavin has a background in classroom teaching and was one of the first Aboriginal principals of a mainstream school in South Australia.

Outstanding Achievement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

GRACELYN SMALLWOOD

Gracelyn Smallwood is a Birrigubba-Kalkadoon South Sea Islander woman from Townsville.

Gracelyn's career as a primary health worker and Indigenous health and human rights advocate spans 35 years. While she works at a grassroots level as a nurse, midwife and matron in her community, Gracelyn's achievements also include being a Director of Nursing, Associate Professor in Education and Health as well as a consultant to the World Health Organisation and State and Federal Governments.

Gracelyn was also the first Indigenous Australian to graduate with a Master of Science degree in Public Health HIV/AIDS at James Cook University in 1995. In the same year she also received the Australian Medal for 25 years service in Public Health.

For the past 10 years, Gracelyn has been an editorial board member for the Francois Xavier-Bagnoud Centre for Health and Human Rights at the Harvard University School of Public Health. She was also instrumental in the establishment of the Townsville and Aboriginal Islander Health Service over 30 years ago.

Now working towards her PhD, Gracelyn continues to work as a registered nurse/midwife as part of the Townsville and Aboriginal Islander Health Service's highly successful Mums and babies program, which has seen a great reduction in low birth weights and perinatal deaths.

In 2007 Gracelyn worked tirelessly to bring Senior Sergeant Chris Hurley to trial for the Palm Island death in custody of Mulrunji Doomadgee. Her efforts not only contributed to the achievement of a police officer facing trial for the first time in Australian history in relation to a death in custody, she also successfully and articulately brought the issue of Indigenous deaths in custody to the attention of the national and international media, using the media as a platform to call repeatedly for the implementation of the 339 recommendations of the Royal Commission into Deaths in Custody.

Broadcaster of the Year

SANDY DANN

Sandy Dann's foray into successful radio broadcasting began by chance when she was employed as a cleaner at Goolarri Media in 1991 when Radio Goolarri first opened. A recommendation was put in for Sandy to commence a radio cadetship and after two months on air, her passion for radio broadcasting was ignited and she became a radio broadcast trainee at Radio Goolarri.

In 1995, with Joe Edgar, she became the first Radio Goolarri broadcast trainee to complete a radio cadetship with an Advanced Diploma in Broadcast Journalism. In 1996, Sandy went on to become a trainer with the Broadcasting for Remote Aboriginal Communities Scheme (BRACS), also commuting to Fitzroy Crossing as a trainer with Wangki Yupurnanupurru Media. Sandy then returned to Radio Goolarri as a full time broadcaster, establishing links with BRACS units throughout the region.

In 1999 Sandy commenced full time work as the station manager at Puranyangu-Rangka Kerrem in Halls Creek.

In 2006 Sandy was welcomed back to Radio Goolarri, broadcasting her current affairs program two hours a day, five days a week.



Apprentice or Trainee of the Year

MARGARET ROSS

Margaret grew up in Armidale, NSW and is from the Gumbangerri and Dhungutti tribes of that area.

Margaret says she can't remember a time in her youth when she wasn't making a mess somewhere with her paper and pencils, and always knew she would pursue a career in the arts.

Upon leaving school she received a scholarship to study at TAFE and completed a course in Digital Media after which she was offered a cadetship with the National Indigenous Times, where she has worked for the past three years creating "digital mischief".

Her favourite projects have included re-designing the entire paper, putting John Howard's face on Napoleon's body, making Mal Brough into Indiana Jones and turning Peter Costello into Pinocchio.

This year Margaret has been worked on some challenging projects, including a letter to the Senate from the Northern Territory Aboriginal communities, which appeared as a full-page ad in the Australian.

Young Leader of the Year

TANIA MAJOR

Tania Major is a Kokoberra woman from Kowanyama on the west coast of Cape York Peninsula. An Indigenous activist, she was awarded the 2007 Young Australian of the Year for her work in Indigenous affairs.

After completing a degree in Criminology at Griffith University, Tania became the youngest elected regional councillor in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) at the tender age of 21. Since then she has won the Queensland Young Australian of the Year in 2006 and is currently the Cape York Institute's Youth Ambassador.

She is a regular speaker at national and international forums on Indigenous and Youth affairs and is determined to raise political awareness of Indigenous education and health issues.

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