

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025

IN THIS EDITION

FEATURED BUSINESS

- All First Nations

NEWS

- Billion Dollar Panel at CBRIN
- For Youth, By Youth, Message Stick Foundation 2025
- NAIDOC in the North 2025: A Decade of Culture, Community and Celebration
- Culture on the Move is bringing the energy to our shared spaces!
- Resilience, Reflection and Renewal Art Exhibition

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Indigenous Art Market 2025
- **WATCH THIS SPACE** Indigenous Business Month October 2025 Workshops



Hi my name is Malcolm Towney, Proud Wiradjuri Man from Peak Hill, Central West NSW, home of the Red Dust Mob.

At Badji, we believe that supporting Indigenous businesses is more than just good practice – it's a powerful way to honour culture, promote equity, and strengthen our communities.

Indigenous-owned businesses bring unique perspectives, deep-rooted traditions, and innovative solutions to the marketplace.



"We are an ACT majority-owned and managed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander company.

We have a wealth of lived and learned experience to share with First Nations businesses"

COOLAMON
ADVISORS

Office Desk Space



We welcome all who would like to work from one of our spacious desks. Bring your laptop and enjoy high speed Wi-Fi, printer facilities, a great kitchen, tea and coffee.

WHAT DO WE DO?

We're here to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Businesses in the Canberra Region

- We help you with the qualifying documentation for Supply Nation registration or certification.
- We find the specific Business Mentoring and Coaching services you need.
- We search available business grants that you could be eligible for.
- We find opportunities for you to study in an Accelerated Business Program.
- We can assist you to up-skill your business and IT skills.
- Our Business Support Concierge is here to guide you along the journey to business success.
- We have resources to connect you with everything your business may need.
- We are available Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm.

The Program was gifted the name "BADJI" by Ngunnawal Elder Caroline Hughes, meaning "Arise" in the Ngunnawal language.


Commissioned artwork by Yarrudhamarra Creations.

The BADJI Business Support Program is an initiative by the ACT Government for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT to grow their business and for entrepreneurs to start one up.

Get in touch with us to book your desk space, find out how we can help your business, view or download all previous Newsletters or to subscribe:

 coolamonadvisors.com.au/the-badji-business-support-program

 malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au

 02 5154 2300





Featured

BUSINESSES



2024 IMAGES ABOVE

ALL FIRST NATIONS

Julie Okely

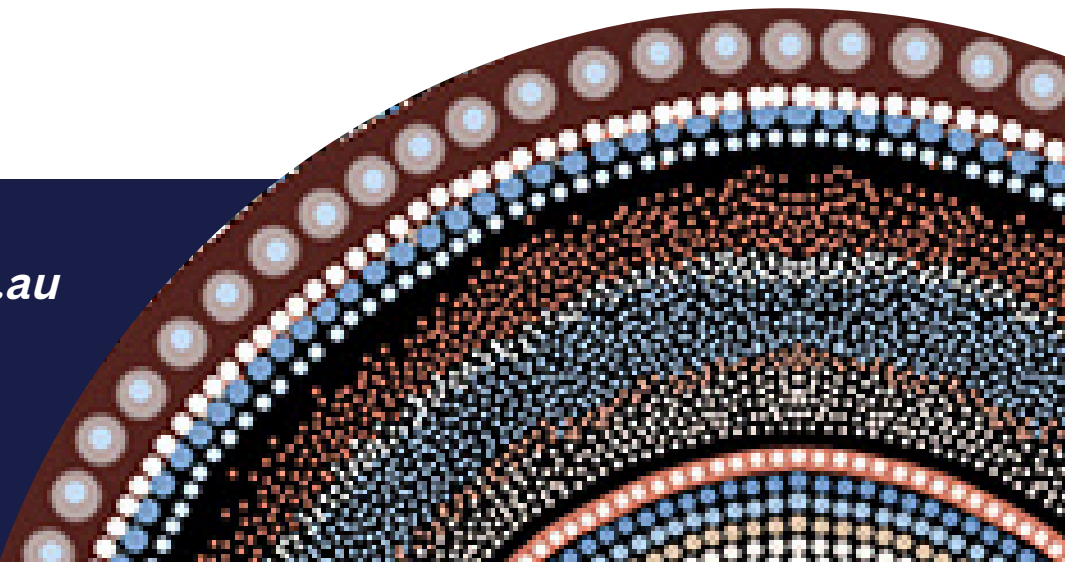
The All First Nations (AFN) Awards annually spotlight and celebrate Indigenous grassroots suppliers, products, and community services recognised by their peers, showcasing their success and community impact.

It provides a platform to honour their achievements and amplify their contributions across various categories, reaffirming our commitment to Indigenous recognition and upliftment.

-  allfirstnations.com.au
-  info@allfirstnations.com.au
-  [allfirstnations](https://facebook.com/allfirstnations)
-  [allfirstnations](https://instagram.com/allfirstnations)

Would you like assistance to link with these businesses? Get in touch with Malcolm, Badji Co-ordinator

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News

Billion Dollar Panel at CBRIN

On July 22, 2025, the Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) hosted its highly anticipated Billion Dollar Panel, headlined by renowned investor Nick McNaughton. The event brought together some of Canberra's most visionary entrepreneurs and business leaders to explore what it takes to build and scale billion-dollar ventures.

Malcolm Towney, Badji Co-ordinator, and Kenny Williams of Birrabang Scaffolding joined the conversation to gain insights into high-growth strategies and connect with fellow innovators. Their presence underscored the growing engagement of Indigenous-led enterprises in Canberra's thriving innovation ecosystem.

The panel offered a rare behind-the-scenes look at the entrepreneurial journey, from securing investment to building high-performance teams. It was a valuable opportunity for Malcolm and Kenny to represent their communities and explore pathways for scalable impact.

CBRIN continues to be a hub for innovation, offering events and programs that empower startups, SMEs, and community leaders to grow and thrive.



Photo left:

Renowned investor Nick McNaughton with Badji Co-ordinator Malcolm Towney and Kenny Williams of Birrabang Scaffolding.



Photo right:

Malcolm Towney with Kenny Williams, Leanne McLaughlin of AusIndustry, Irene Zhen and Petr Adamek, both of CBRIN.

Would you like us to join you at an event or to talk more about it? Get in touch with Malcolm, Badji Co-ordinator

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For Youth, By Youth Message Stick Foundation 2025

Canberra came alive Thursday, 10 July 2025, as Boomanulla Oval transformed into a vibrant celebration of First Nations youth, culture, and leadership for the inaugural Message Stick Foundation: For Youth, By Youth – The Next Generation event.

Held during NAIDOC Week 2025, the event was co-designed by over 15 young First Nations leaders from the ACT and proudly hosted on Ngunnawal Country. The theme, "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy," set the tone for a day filled with inspiration, connection, and celebration.

Star Power & Deadly Performances

The stage was electric with performances from hip-hop queen BARKAA, lyrical storyteller Kobie Dee, and the hilarious Isaac Compton. The crowd was thrilled by a surprise appearance from AFL legend Adam Goodes, whose presence added even more energy to the celebration.

Willie Tonga captivated the Stronger Future Youth Panel with Adam Goodes, sharing a raw and riveting journey through his life and sporting career. With honesty, humour, and hard-won wisdom, Willie held the room spellbound—warts and all.

Youth NAIDOC Hub: Voices That Matter

Jeff McMullen hosted a powerful panel titled "Truth Telling: Our Stories, Our Strength." This panel was part of the Youth NAIDOC Hub, a space dedicated to deep conversations, cultural storytelling, and intergenerational dialogue. The panel brought together young First Nations leaders and community mentors to share lived experiences, challenge narratives, and explore the importance of truth-telling in shaping a stronger, more inclusive future.

Culture, Connection & Community

The event was a beautiful blend of intergenerational connection and cultural pride. Market stalls showcased Aboriginal businesses and youth entrepreneurs, while food trucks served up delicious dishes. Badji businesses MJ's Handcrafted Aboriginal Artefacts and Designs and Blaklabel Dreaming were featured during the day providing handcrafted items and of course promotion of the Badji program.

A Platform for Change

More than just a celebration, Message Stick 2025 was a platform for young First Nations voices to be heard, seen, and celebrated. It was a reminder that the future is not only bright—it's bold, brilliant, and proudly Blak.

Photos from top left:

Michael Mitchell of MJ's Handcrafted Aboriginal Artefacts and Designs, along with Traditional Owner Richie Allen.

Panel Members Katrina Fanning, Swans Legend Adam Goodes, Supreme Court Justice Judge Louise Taylor, Jeff McMullen and former Queensland and Australian Rugby League Star Willie Tonga.

Malcolm Towney and Jeff McMullen.

Entertainer BARKAA with a youth attending.

Tim and family of Blaklabel Dreaming.



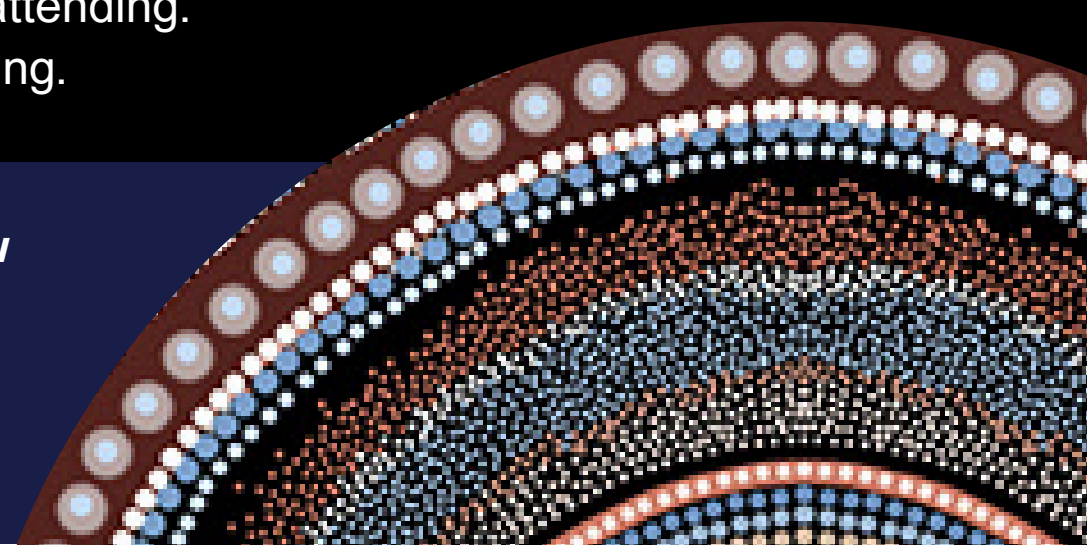
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NAIDOC in the North 2025: A Decade of Culture, Community & Celebration

On Saturday, 12 July, the community gathered at Belco Arts to mark the 10th anniversary of NAIDOC in the North—a vibrant celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, creativity, and connection.

Held on Ngunnawal Country, this free, family-friendly event was part of NAIDOC Week 2025, themed “The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy.” The day honoured the achievements of First Nations peoples while spotlighting the emerging voices and talents shaping the future.

Culture in Action

Visitors were treated to a rich program of live performances including Dale Huddleston and his Riverbank Band, interactive workshops, and hands-on activities led by some of Canberra’s finest First Nations artists and cultural leaders. From storytelling and dance to art and ceremony, every moment reflected the strength and beauty of the world’s oldest continuing culture.

A standout feature of the day was the presence of Badji businesses KaBu and Burrunju Aboriginal Art Gallery, whose stunning displays of handcrafted items and cultural products drew admiration and interest from attendees. Their contributions added depth and authenticity to the celebration, showcasing the entrepreneurial spirit and cultural knowledge of local First Nations makers.

A Look Back and Forward

The event also featured a special exhibition at the Window Gallery, showcasing highlights from the past decade of NAIDOC in the North. Photographs, artworks, and community memories offered a powerful reflection on the journey so far—and a hopeful vision for the years ahead.

Community Collaboration

NAIDOC in the North was produced by Belco Arts in collaboration with Yerrabi Yurwang Child and Family Aboriginal Corporation, ACT Child and Family Centres, Kippax Uniting Care, and Northside Community Service, with support from Icon Water, Ginninderry, and the ACT Education Directorate.

Photos from top right:

Kate Buerkner and her KaBu Art display.

Malcolm Towney at the Badji stall explaining the program.

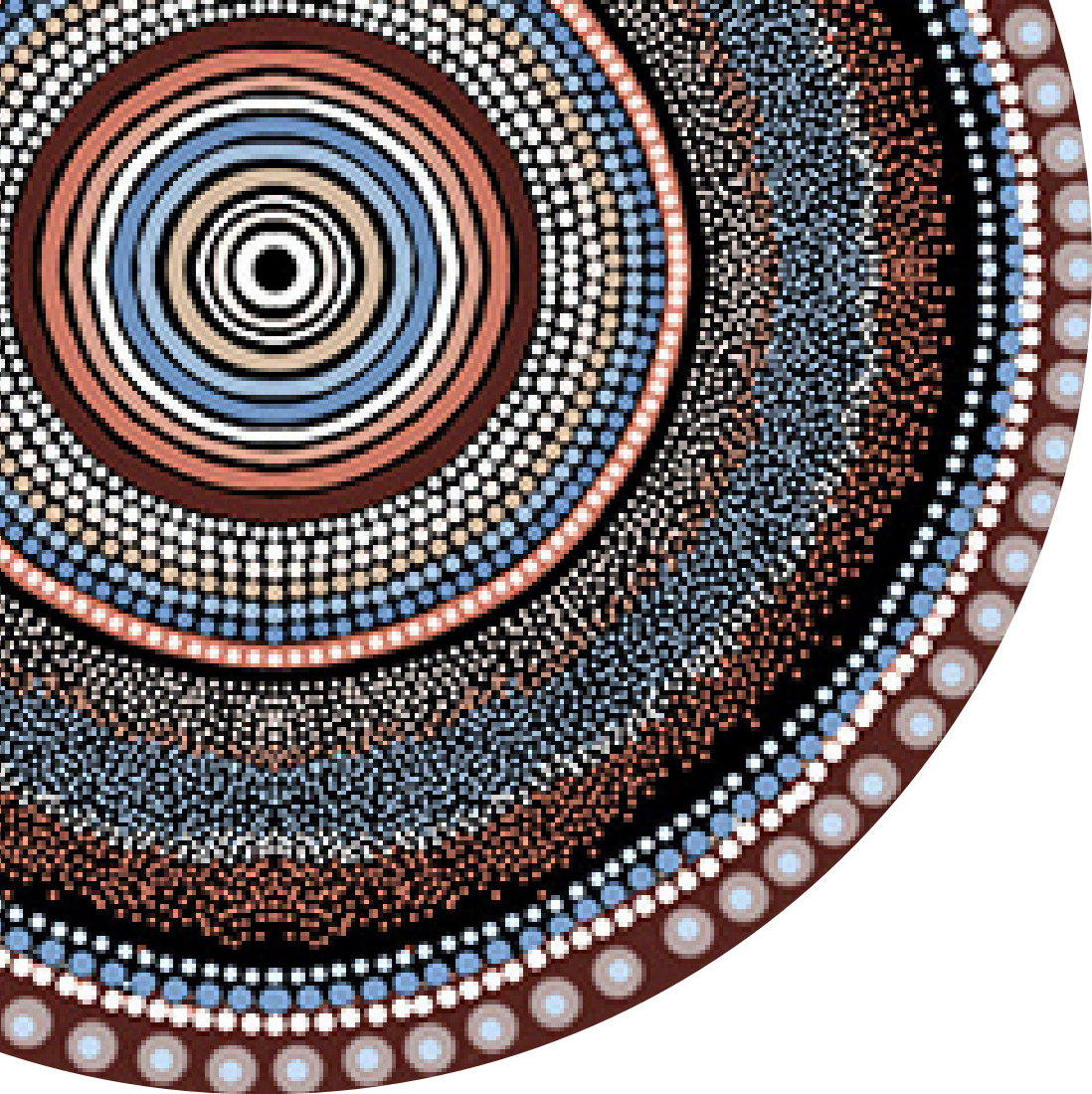
Dale Huddleston and his Burrunju Aboriginal Art Gallery display.

Dale Huddleston and the Riverbank Band.



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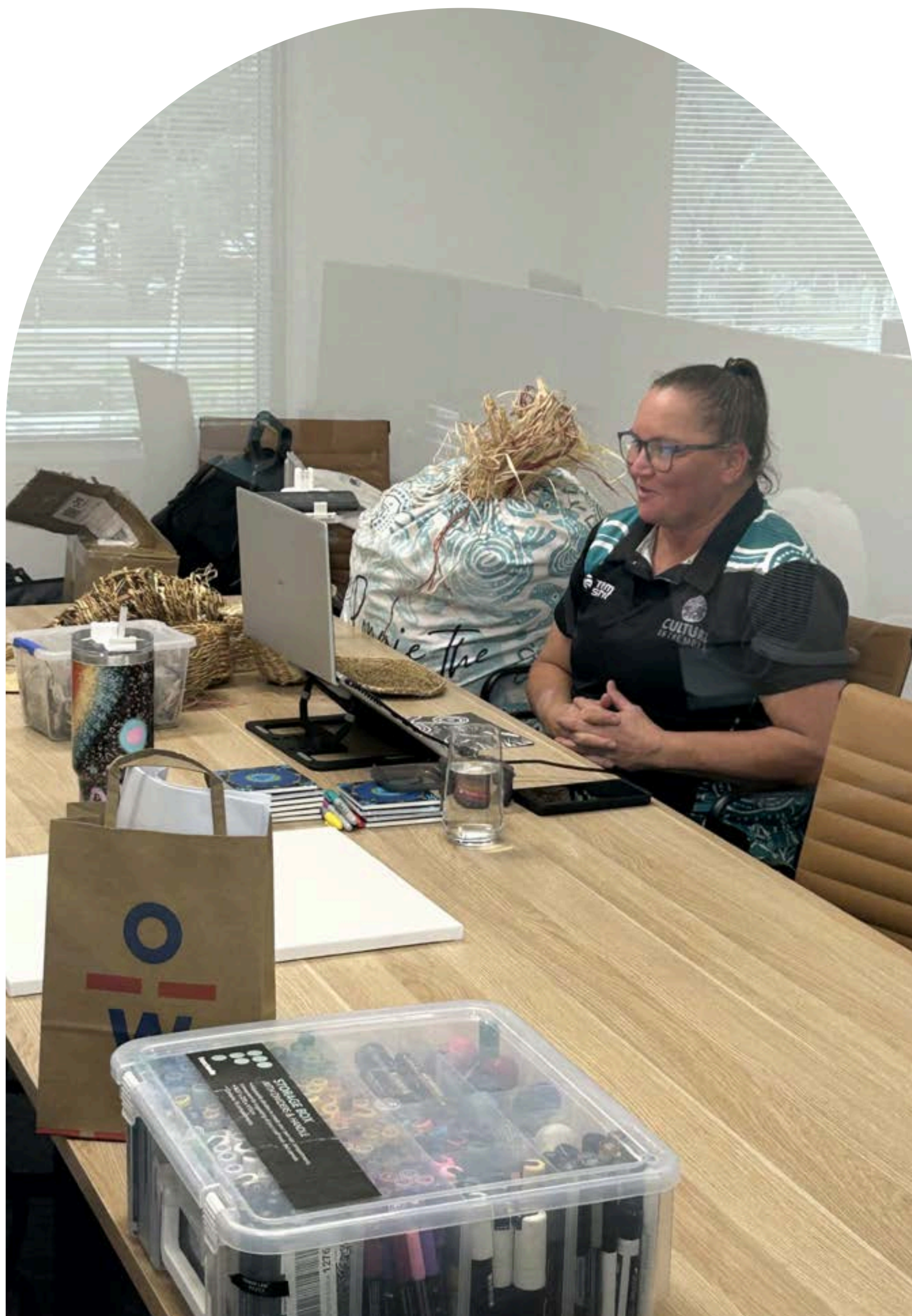


Culture on the Move is bringing the energy to our shared spaces!

The Badji Conference Room was buzzing with creativity and collaboration! Ronnie led a dynamic online workshop with over 20 enthusiastic participants, turning the room into a hub of learning and inspiration.

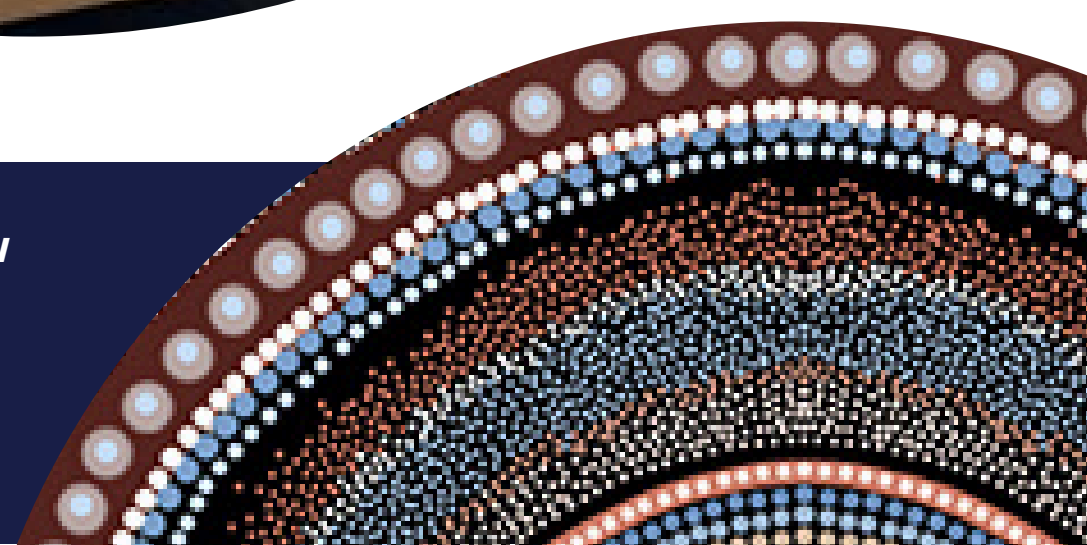
Meanwhile, just steps away, Coen and Emily were lighting up the hot desks with their artistic flair—crafting stunning pieces for upcoming community fundraising events.

Whether you're hosting a workshop, diving into creative projects, or just need a vibrant space to get things done, our hot desks and conference room are ready to fuel your productivity and imagination. Come join the movement—your next big idea starts here!



Would you like to book our desk spaces and conference room or to talk more about it? Get in touch with Malcolm, Badji Co-ordinator

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“Resilience, Reflection & Renewal”

ART EXHIBITION & OFFICIAL OPENING

Congratulations to proud Ngiyampaa woman and local award-winning artist Sarah Richards of Marrawuy Journeys, who held an art exhibition at Rusten House Art Centre in Queabeyan, 28 June - 19 July 2025.

The official opening on 28 June 2025 of her beautiful art, inspired by the cycles of life and the wisdom they reveal, drew an admiring crowd and these were treated to Sarah's storytelling about each piece.

 mjourneys.com.au



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Upcoming

INDIGENOUS ART MARKET 2025



IAM is a unique opportunity for stallholders to:

- Showcase and sell authentic First Nations art, craft, and cultural goods
- Reach new audiences
- Connect directly with buyers, collectors, and supporters of Indigenous art
- Be part of a major cultural event led by the only national institution focussed exclusively on the diverse cultures, history and heritage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia

Who Can Apply

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and creatives
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander art centres
- Indigenous-Owned and/or Governed art collective
- Cultural enterprises selling authentic works created by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists

Key Dates

Stallholder applications close 5pm AEST, **Sunday 31 August 2025.**

Successful applicants will be notified via email by Thursday 4 September 2025.

 aiatsis.gov.au/whats-new/events/indigenous-art-market-2025

WATCH THIS SPACE

INDIGENOUS BUSINESS MONTH

OCTOBER 2025 WORKSHOPS

The Badji team are in the process of developing several business workshops to be delivered in October. Keep an eye on our facebook page and future newsletters.

 [CoolamonAdvisorsAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/CoolamonAdvisorsAustralia)



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