

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2025

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- Back to Boomanulla Aboriginal Knock Out
- First Wednesday Connect
- TOAC at Floriade
- ACTCOSS Gulanga NAIDOC Community Sector Day

FUNDING

Annual Pitch on a Page - Grants up to \$10,000

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

October Indigenous Business Month Workshops

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Canberra Women in Business Awards, 24 Oct 2025
- NAIDOC Family Fun Day at Boomanulla, 25 Oct 2025
- Indigenous Art Market, 7-9 Nov 2025
- World Indigenous Business Forum, 28-30 Oct 2025
- International First Nations Female Entrepreneurs Lunch, 28 Oct 2025



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



News



ALL FIRST NATIONS Awards 2025

The second annual All First Nations Awards were celebrated 12 September 2025.

Congratulations to all nominees and winners!

Photo top left: Andy Muirhead of Yara Co Pty Ltd.

Photo centre left: Jody and Kaylene Mcleod of McLeods Angels with Ashlee Rake.

Photo bottom left: Kate Buerckner of KaBu Art.

Photo bottom right:
Julie Okely of All First Nations.

"Back to Boomanulla" Queanbeyan Kanberri Knock Out

Queanbeyan Kanberri Connections Aboriginal Corporation held the Aboriginal Knock Out on Saturday 27 September 2025

The Knock Out was played at beautiful Boomanulla Oval in Narrabundah, a place much loved and of cultural significance for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Photo top left: Malcolm Towney, Badji Co-ordinator with Knockout Legend Geoff "Choco" Johnson.

Photo top right: Malcolm Towney with Noel "Bomber" Ingram.

Photo bottom left: Malcolm Towney with NRL and Knockout Legend Joel Thompson.

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

 malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au
 02 5154 2300



CBRIN First Wednesday Connect

On September 3, 2025, the Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) held it's monthly pitching event at the Academy of Interactive Entertainment (AIE) in Canberra Technology Park, where Game Plus and Film Plus are co-located.

Game Plus is Australia's largest non-profit co-working space for game developers. **Film Plus** is a hub for film production professionals to co-locate, share resources, facilities, knowledge and opportunities.

Innovative business ideas were enthusiastically pitched to the audience that included keen investors.

Photo above: Malcolm Towney, Badji Co-ordinator with Badji participant Andy Muirhead of Yara Co Pty Ltd.
Photo below: Chris Higgins, Head of School Canberra and Online, AIE with Malcolm Towney.



Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (TOAC) at Floriade

If you visited Floriade and were looking for that unique item, you may have seen Local Ngunnawal Man and Badji participant Richie Allen of Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (TOAC) Stall.

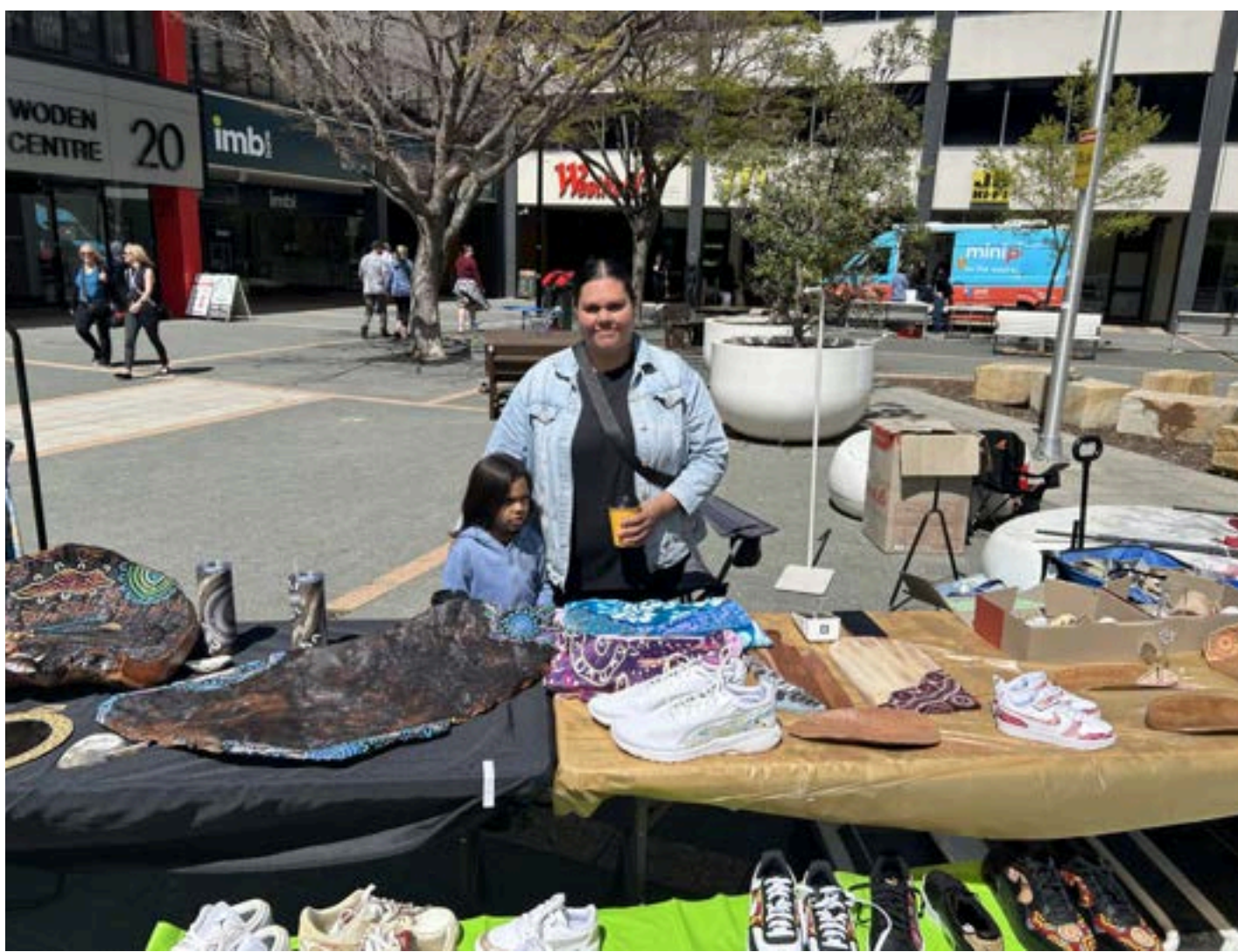
On display was candles, shirts, paintings, Artifacts and many more items for sale.

If you missed Richie at Floriade, you can get in touch at

toac.com.au

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

✉ malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au
☎ 02 5154 2300



Malcolm Towney,
Badji Co-ordinator

ACTCOSS Gulanga NAIDOC Community Sector Day "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy"



The ACT Community Sector held the 11th annual NAIDOC celebrations for a day filled with performances and workshops by First Nations artists, as well as stalls, activities, food and drinks, at the Woden Town Square including the new CIT front courtyard.

This year's theme celebrates the power of First Nations young people, honours the trailblazers who came before, and looks ahead to a future shaped by Culture, Resilience, and Pride.

Badji businesses were kept busy and were very happy with the turnout and sales, making new connections within the community and business eco-system.

Photo top left: Jenna Kelly and daughter of MJ's Designs.

Photo top right: Kate Buerckner of KaBu Art.

Photo bottom left: Julie Okely of All First Nations.

Photo bottom right: Tim Mutton and son from
Blaklabel Dreaming.

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

 malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au
 02 5154 2300

Annual Pitch Information

- > Write a pitch on a page for up to \$10,000 outlining an idea to promote and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business development in the ACT.
- > The Idea must consist of ideas not currently being provided within the ACT.
- > You may apply more than once but will need to provide a pitch for each idea on a separate page.
- > Priority consideration will be given to proposals that support the following sectors: tourism, visitor economy, construction, export and trade.

Eligibility

- > Be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander business or organisation based in ACT—at least 50% Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander owned and be able to provide evidence if requested.
- > Present an innovative idea or format that is not currently delivered within the ACT.

Grants Application Dates

Grants Open: Wednesday 10 October 2025

Grants Close: Friday 31st October 2025 at 3pm

Successful Recipients Announced: Friday 21st November 2025

Submission Contact

Amanda Savle

amanda@coolamonadvisors.com.au



GRANTS
UP TO
\$10,000

How to apply

Pitch on a page

Outline your idea



- > Using a one-page document outline your idea to promote and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business Development in the ACT with a **budget breakdown included.**
- > Include any other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses that would be engaged within your project.

Payment of funds



- > Please note funds are able to be paid into a Business, Organisation or Corporation account only.
- > Funds are not able to be transferred into an account in the name of an individual. (50% payment of funds will occur within 7 days of receipt of the signed agreement with bank details. The final 50% of funds will be processed within 7 days of Coolamon Advisors receiving promotional material for the event).

Notify of success



- > When successful don't forget to let Coolamon know the details of your project and send any promotional material to **amanda@coolamonadvisors.com.au** so we can assist with letting the community know about the opportunity.

How to acquit

Funds must be expended in full with no carry over.

The project must be completed before Tuesday 31st March 2026 with the acquittal due no later than Thursday 30th April 2026.

Financial Acquittal form will take the form of:

Item	Budgeted amount	Expended amount
Totals		



Applications close on Friday 31st October 2025 at 3PM.

Successful businesses or organisations will be notified on Friday 21st November 2025. If you have any questions email amanda@coolamonadvisors.com.au or call 02 5154 2300



Upcoming

BADJI

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER BUSINESS SUPPORT
PROGRAM



October
2025

is

Indigenous
Business
Month

and we've prepared
three workshops
based on what
you've told us
you need.

1

Date: Wednesday 15th October 2025

Time: 12.30pm - 2:30pm

Location: 169 Goyder Street, Narrabundah (Boomanulla Oval)



**Indigenous Business Australia
- Information Session**

- What do you know about IBA?
- How to access IBA services?
- Would you like to know about IBA
Business and Finance Support?



Free lunch provided



**Tuesday 14 October 2025
3pm**

**FOR INDIGENOUS
BUSINESSES AND
COMMUNITY
CONTROLLED
ORGANISATIONS**

*For further information please contact
Malcolm, Badji Co-ordinator*



malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au



02 5154 2300



Upcoming

BADJI

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER BUSINESS SUPPORT
PROGRAM



2

Date: Wednesday 22nd October 2025

Time: 12.30pm - 2:30pm

Location: 169 Goyder Street, Narrabundah (Boomanulla Oval)

CONSTRUCTION

A workshop designed to support community and Badji participants by providing information on how to best engage with Infrastructure Canberra.

Infrastructure Canberra's presentation will provide insights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander construction industry businesses in procurement, fostering networking opportunities and will also share information about connecting with the broader ecosystem.

It is a great opportunity to strategise and collaborate directly with Infrastructure Canberra.



Free lunch provided



Monday 20th October 2025

**FOR INDIGENOUS
BUSINESSES AND
COMMUNITY
CONTROLLED
ORGANISATIONS**

3

Date: Wednesday 29th October 2025

Time: 12.30pm - 2:30pm

Location: 169 Goyder Street, Narrabundah (Boomanulla Oval)

ACT Government Procurement Basics

ACT Government Procurement information session. This session will help you to understand how government facilitates procurement, including:

- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander procurement policy
- Procurement policies that impact business
- How to access opportunities
- How to register with, and be known within the ACT Government
- What to expect and consider when responding to quotes and tenders

The session will be delivered by:

- Nithya Sambasivam (Procurement ACT)
- Maryanne Honeyman (Procurement ACT)
- Patrick Gunn (Procurement ACT)



Free lunch provided



Monday 27th October 2025

**FOR INDIGENOUS
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ORGANISATIONS**

For further information please contact
Malcolm, Badji Co-ordinator



malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au



02 5154 2300

Upcoming

LOCAL EVENTS

CANBERRA WOMEN IN BUSINESS GALA 2025

On Friday 24 October, the National Ballroom at Hotel Realm comes alive to honour women in business, leadership, innovation, sustainability, social impact, and community service. Your ticket includes a three-course meal, premium beverage package, and entertainment.

It will be an unforgettable evening to connect with peers, recognise remarkable achievements, and celebrate the powerful impact of Canberra women in business.

We look forward to hearing about this year's winner of the Indigenous Woman in Business category.



Date: Friday 24 October 2025

Location: National Ballroom at Hotel Realm in Barton ACT

cwb.org.au/awards

A fun opportunity for businesses to showcase their bespoke talents and connect with the community.

Come and meet Malcolm at the Badji Program's stall for a chat at the deadly Blak markets, and visit the stalls of a number of exciting Badji businesses.



INDIGENOUS ART MARKET (IAM) 2025

Held annually since 2014, the AIATSIS IAM brings together artists and art centres from across the country to showcase a diverse range of artworks including paintings, textiles, sculptures, jewellery, and much more. Importantly, 100 per cent of sales from the art market goes back to participating art centres, artists and their communities.

You can enjoy live performances by First Nations artists, explore a variety of delicious offerings from local food trucks, and soak up the atmosphere on the beautiful Acton Peninsula.

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

Date: Friday 7 to Sunday 9 November 2025.

Location: On the lawns of the AIATSIS Maraga building, Acton Peninsula



Would you like to attend or promote your business at these events? Get in touch with Malcolm, Badji Co-ordinator

 malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au
 02 5154 2300

Upcoming

INTERSTATE EVENTS

WORLD INDIGENOUS BUSINESS FORUM 2025

In October 2025, Melbourne (Naarm) will host the 16th World Indigenous Business Forum, welcoming over 1,000 delegates worldwide.

Hosted by Kinaway Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Indigenous Business Australia, it highlights Australia's commitment to Indigenous business on the international stage.

WIBF 2025 will provide an invaluable platform for leaders across business, government, academia, and industry to come together, share insights, and develop strategies that drive economic empowerment for Indigenous communities around the globe.

Originating in New York City in 2010, the forum has travelled to multiple countries, consistently celebrating and strengthening Indigenous entrepreneurship and economic self-determination. Naarm's selection as the 2025 host reaffirms Australia's commitment to supporting Indigenous business on an international scale.



Date: 28-30 October 2025

Location: Hyatt Place Melbourne, Essendon Fields VIC, Australia

Don't miss this opportunity to connect and innovate!

kinaway.com.au/wibf-2025

INTERNATIONAL FIRST NATIONS FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS LUNCH

Kinaway warmly invites you to join them for the International First Nations Female Entrepreneurs Lunch, a special gathering that celebrates the strength, innovation, and resilience of Indigenous women in business.

This event will bring together inspiring First Nations women entrepreneurs from across the globe to share their business journeys, celebrate cultural knowledge, and build connections through networking.

Through storytelling, explore how entrepreneurial journeys are deeply rooted in Country, culture, and innovation – and how these journeys build powerful bridges between tradition and enterprise.



Date: 28 October 2025, 11:30am - 2:30pm

Location: Aerial at Southwharf, 17 Dukes Walk South Wharf VIC, Australia

kinaway.com.au/upcoming-events/international-first-nations-female-entrepreneurs-lunch

*Would you like more information on how the Badji Business Support Program can assist your business?
Get in touch with Malcolm, Badji Co-ordinator*

✉ malcolm@coolamonadvisors.com.au
☎ 02 5154 2300

