

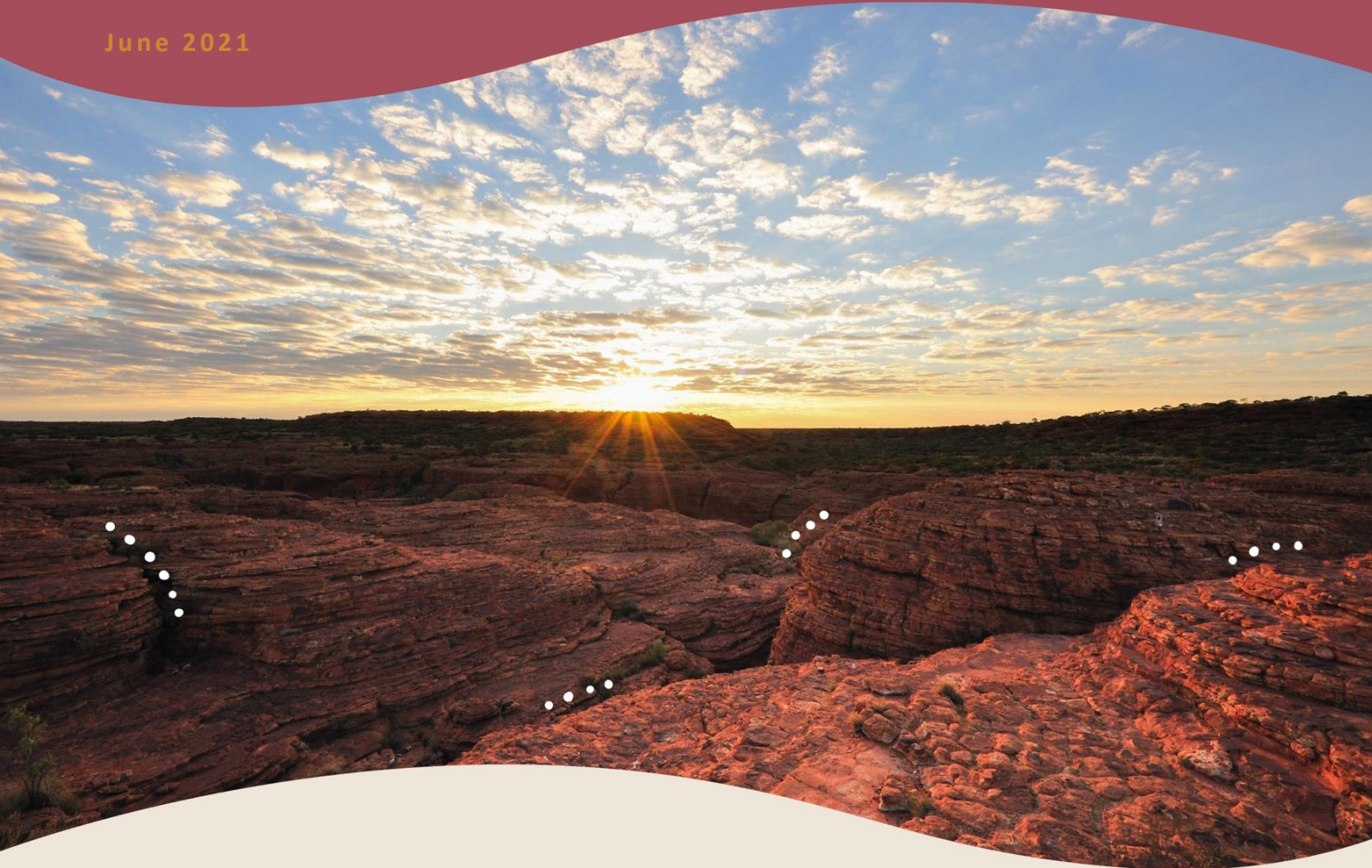


THIRRILI

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# NEWSLETTER



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**You can contact us 24 hours a day, 7 days week.**

If you would like to subscribe to the newsletter, please contact John Balmforth at [john.b@thirrili.com.au](mailto:john.b@thirrili.com.au)

**National Indigenous Postvention Service Call 1800 805 801**

# From the desk of our CEO



Hello Everyone

It is now a year since I commenced as the CEO of Thirrili Ltd, which has been an amazing, challenging and heart-warming experience. I am impressed every day by the work of our fabulous team who continue to provide culturally safe and responsive services to our families and communities bereaved by suicide and other fatal traumatic incidents.

Our work is difficult, yet our teams continue to turn up and be there for those who need them.

In reflecting on the past year, I am very proud to say we have achieved a great deal – including new partnerships with national, regional and local Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations. We continue to engage with mainstream services who can support and enhance our services. Our team of dedicated, qualified Indigenous staff mean we are able to ensure that our 1800 number is **always** answered by an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander team member. We continue to expand with staff located in WA, NT, QLD, VIC, SA and NSW – we also provide in-reach support to families in Tasmania and the ACT. The commitment of our teams is truly amazing and I thank each and every one of them for their efforts.

We have also focused on partnerships that help us to engage the best possible services for our families, and this is supported by our ability to travel anywhere, at any time, if requested by a family or community. Our 1800 number means families can contact us at any time to seek support, or to refer their friends or families to our service. It is critical that our families know who we are and what we do: to that end, we have engaged with First Nations media; mainstream radio and print media; and have developed our three new Social Media sites on Facebook, Instagram and Linked In.

Last week in NSW we held a further meeting with the Redfern Aboriginal Health Service and expect to sign an MOU in the coming days. We also met with members of the Galambila Aboriginal Health Service Board and signed a foundational MOU to support the communities in Coffs Harbour and surrounding locations. Another key event was the signing of an MOU with Livingworks Australia which will see us partner in delivering the Indigenous ASIST and SafeYARN training to communities. Finally, we had a very fruitful meeting with the team from the South Eastern NSW PHN (Coordinare) to discuss how we collaborate to support families and communities in the Illawarra-Shoalhaven region.

As you may be aware, the Indigenous Suicide Postvention Service went to tender in recent weeks and closed on 10 June 2021. Thirrili Ltd has applied to continue to deliver this service, and we have had our funding extended to end September 2021 to ensure that there is no break in service to our families and communities. We thank our families and communities for allowing us to work with you during your times of grief, loss and trauma. *If you, or a family member, has been impacted by suicide or other fatal traumatic incident, please do not hesitate to call us on 1800 895 801 – this number operates 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advocates will answer your call, and start the process to supporting you as may required.*

I would also like to acknowledge and thank our very dedicated Board Members – they have not only supported me and our fabulous team, but they have engaged in building our governance frameworks to ensure we provide quality, culturally safe and responsive services. The Board has also taken the first steps to moving Thirrili to become not just Indigenous led and controlled, but to Aboriginal Community Control with a view to having new members on the Board at our AGM this year. Behind the scenes, we also have a very experienced and dedicated team of Managers and Executives and Administration staff – without them, we could not function and I pay my respects to them all and thank them for their support.

We look forward to hearing the outcome of the tender process and being able to continue to provide critically needed supports to our families and communities who are bereaved by suicide and other fatal traumatic incidents.

Until next time,

Jacqueline



# Our Partnership Development Program

## *New Memorandum's of Understandings Established*

During the month of June, Living Works Australia and Galambila Aboriginal Health Service joined the Thirrili Family in collaborating to deliver high quality, culturally informed and responsive programs to Indigenous communities affected by suicide and other social and emotional wellbeing trauma across Australia.



Our partnership with Living Works Australia will see both organisations working together to achieve positive outcomes for our mutual and individual client bases. In delivering the Indigenous ASIST and SafeYARN training to communities, impacted by suicide, loss and trauma related to suicide or other critical incidents resulting in death of a loved one, communities will have access to the supports offered by Thirrili and Living Works Australia



**Shayne Connell, Chief Executive Officer, Living Works & Thirrili Regional Manager (NT, QLD, NSW/ACT) Tegan Scheffe**

This engagement will deliver Improved client outcomes and actively encourage effective referral pathways which will in turn facilitate the joint delivery of seamless services to clients to improve client outcomes. As well, sharing of best practice and working collaboratively to resolve service gaps where possible and exploring options to support and improve capacity through mechanisms such as the sharing of expertise, resources and training and supervision opportunities will form part of this agreement.

A jointly developed and agreed Pilot Program for delivering safeYARN and IASIST and the undertaking of practice design, including a fundamental principle of co-design with individuals, families and communities affected by suicide will also form part of this engagement. A co-design of best practice service delivery models will be identified across regions to deliver specific training with up to 15 pilot sites nationally. This agreement will promote both Living Works Australia as a training partner for Indigenous training programs safeYARN and IASIST and Living Works Australia will promote Thirrili as a key strategic partner.





Our other partnership with Galambila Aboriginal Health Service delivered a foundational MOU to support the communities in Coffs Harbour and surrounding locations. This engagement will ensure our organisations collaborate on the critical work we each do with families and communities, to assist in restoring capacity for Indigenous Australians to improve their social, emotional and cultural wellbeing and to stem the high rates of suicide.



**Kelly Gittins, Director, Galambila AHS; Alex Webb, Chair, Galambila AHS & Jacqueline McGowan-Jones, CEO Thirrili**

This collaboration to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people impacted by suicide will have access to the supports offered by Thirrili and Galambila Aboriginal Health Service and will see enhanced capability of the partners to collaborate in their work to support communities to co-design and deliver supports at the local and regional level.

This engagement will deliver Improved client outcomes and actively encourage effective referral pathways which will in turn facilitate the joint delivery of seamless services to clients to improve client outcomes. As well, sharing of best practice and working collaboratively to resolve service gaps where possible and exploring options to support and improve capacity through mechanisms such as the sharing of expertise, resources and training and supervision opportunities will form part of this agreement.

The development of joint resources using a shared support team to respond to families and communities to improve client outcomes and actively encourage effective referral pathways and sharing of best practices and working collaboratively to resolve service gaps where possible will be a key objective in the co-design of best practice service delivery models in identified regions.

Other identified benefits of this agreement will see practice design, including a fundamental principle of co-design with individuals, families and communities affected by suicide and exploring options to support and improve capacity through mechanisms such as the sharing of expertise, resources and training and supervision opportunities.



# Meet more of our staff

## *Clarice Goddard*



Clarice Goddard is a Warlpiri, Pertame and Arrernte woman from Yuendumu and Alice Springs. She is currently working in Thirrili as a Community Development Worker, COVID based in Adelaide.

Clarice has background knowledge and experience working across a range of organisations and government agencies throughout the Northern Territory and South Australia. Her background is in office administration, human resources, communications, medico legal administration, business support and executive assistant.

She holds a qualification in Certificate III in Business Administration and was also the 2020 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year for South Australia.

## *Ken Lechleitner*



Ken is a married man with five children. He is an Aboriginal person from the Alice Springs Region with family connection on his mother's side to the Hermannsburg Mission region, and Arrernte is the language spoken by the people there. His father is an Anmatjere man with Austrian/ German heritage and he is from the Mt Allan region where Anmatjere is spoken.

Ken also speaks these four languages fluently; Aranda, Anmatjere, Warlpiri and English. His cultural understanding of Aboriginal people within this local region is very close to his heart. He participates in maintaining the Aboriginal culture, as part of his own life for his Two-ilpa Bi-Cultural Consultancy Business. He has a sound cross-cultural understanding between the two worlds that allows him to stand firmly with one foot in each cultural society. The Aboriginal and mainstream cultural society. In transferring his knowledge of Aboriginal culture he has been able to conduct research within this cultural space, and to further develop the cultural nuances need to connect the two worlds without friction.

He also prides himself as being part of the process in endeavouring to find ways to improve and advocate positive aspects for his fellow Aboriginal people, to becoming active participants in the mainstream world, by relearning own governance system and then applying that knowledge to becoming independent.



# Our Service Delivery Team in the Field

## Our Continual Commitment to Community Engagement

As part of our continual commitment to communicate our services to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families affected by a loss to suicide and other fatal traumatic incidents, our Northern Territory Advocate team attended the Barunga Festival this month to promote our services. Over the 3 days of the festival there was great interest from attendees about our services and many spent time at the Thirrili stand enquiring about the service and how they could engage with our Advocates.

Initial feedback over the 3 days was overall positive, with comments such as *“great to know that a service like Thirrili is there”* and *“Thirrili is a national provider throughout Australia that specifically supports our mobs”*



**Thirrili Stand at the Festival - Greg Cusack, Thirrili Northern Territory Advocate**

Thirrili branded promotional items were used to assist in both promoting our messaging and also assisted in bringing festival attendees to our stand and asking about Thirrili. When festival goers did come to our stand at the Barunga Festival, the majority noted that they would *“spread the word about our service and how Thirrili can support families that are bereaved by suicide”*. As well, requests about volunteering with Thirrili were noted to be followed up and interestingly, both Indigenous and non-indigenous attendees enquired about how they could assist.





**Thirrili Stand at the Festival - Greg Cusack, Thirrili Northern Territory Advocate with Festival goers**

With festival numbers increasing from last year, the 3 days of activities celebrated Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander. Powerful Arnhem Land voices and the sounds of Darwin's symphony orchestra could be heard across the remote community of Barunga over the weekend of the festival. A sunset performance was one reason thousands of local and interstate visitors travelled 400 kilometres south-east of Darwin for the Barunga Festival.



**Guwanbal Gurruwiwi's solo performance with the Darwin Symphony Orchestra left many in the audience spellbound.**

Yolngu man Guwanbal Gurruwiwi ended his collaboration with the Darwin Symphony Orchestra on Saturday with ancient songlines, while all-female Maningrida band Ripple Effect sang about a cyclone and the dreaming spirit that scared it away.





**The members of the Ripple Effect want to give other women in their community the confidence to perform**

*"We want to do this music for our community and our people back at Maningrida," Ripple Effect band member Tara Rostron said and also commented "We like to inspire our young women and young girls out there to feel confident and to love and respect themselves."*

Tara's sister Cindy Rostron and Anusha Taylor also travelled to the Barunga Festival to share their culture with others. The young women took part in a fashion parade, wearing fabrics designed in their community. Ms Rostron's dresses were printed with her mother's paintings. "I was so nervous but I felt something, as I was so proud of myself," she said. "I want to share my knowledge to everyone, my culture to everyone."



**Maningrida women Anusha Taylor and Cindy Rostron want to share the designs and stories from their community with others**







**During the fashion parade, Cindy Rostron wore her mother's fabric from the Babbarra Women's Centre in Maningrida**

Barunga resident and educator Anita Painter, who sang with the community's schoolchildren each morning at this year's festival, said she was worried about attending at first but had no regrets.

*"It's important having visitors here," Ms Painter said.*

*"We all need to share, I think. Sharing is best, that's how we learn"*

*"It's great what we're doing right now, sharing our traditional songs, dance and everything to the rest of the world."*

There were fears the music, sports and cultural festival could be cancelled because of COVID-19 concerns, following the recent cancellation of [Arnhem Land's Garma Festival](#).

Despite receiving approval, Barunga Festival organisers Mark Grose and Michael Hohnen from Skinnyfish Music said they took a "cautious" approach and placed a cap on interstate visitors.

Mr Hohnen said some groups from surrounding Indigenous communities decided not to attend this year due to COVID-19 pandemic.

*"Maningrida decided not to send a few different basketball teams and I think the football is really missing the Ngukurr Bulldogs and a lot of the Ngukurr players," Mr Hohnen said.*

**Source: News Coverage provided by ABC News: Felicity James**





**QLD Mental Health Week 9<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

**Learn how you can get involved**

This year's theme is - *Take time — for mental health.*

Queensland Mental Health Week (QMHW) is an annual awareness week that aims to shine a spotlight on individual and community mental health and wellbeing. The initiative is linked to National Mental Health Week and World Mental Health Day, which is held in October every year.

QMHW encourages all of us to think about our mental health and wellbeing, regardless of whether we may have a lived experience of mental illness or not. The week also gives us the opportunity to understand the importance of mental health in our everyday lives and encourages help seeking behaviours when needed.

**[Queensland Mental Health Week | 9-17 October 2021 \(qldmentalhealthweek.org.au\)](http://qldmentalhealthweek.org.au)**



# Up-Coming Cultural significant dates for your Calendar

- **1 July 2021**                      **Coming of the Light** - The Coming of the Light is celebrated annually by Torres Strait Islander peoples. It marks the adoption of Christianity through island communities during the late nineteenth century.
- **4–11 July 2021**                      **NAIDOC Week** - NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia to celebrate history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- **4 August 2021**                      **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day** - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about the crucial impact that community, culture and family play in the life of every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child.
- **9 August 2021**                      **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples**  
- On this day, people from around the world are encouraged to spread the United Nation's message on the protection and promotion of the rights of Indigenous peoples.
- **1 September 2021**                      **Indigenous Literacy Day** - Indigenous Literacy Day is a national celebration of culture, stories, language and literacy. This day raises awareness of the disadvantages experienced in remote communities and advocates for more access to literacy resources.
- **13 September 2021**                      **Anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People** - The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People

<https://www.datsip.qld.gov.au/annual-dates-cultural-significance/cultural-significant-dates>



# NATIONAL INDIGENOUS POSTVENTION SERVICE AFTER SUICIDE SUPPORT ROLES AVAILABLE

Thirrili Ltd (Thirrili) delivers the National Indigenous Postvention Service across Australia and has taken a national leadership role in the provision of suicide postvention support and assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families and communities. Thirrili employs a dedicated team of professionals to provide support across all states and territories in Australia.

We provide flexible working arrangements and extensive salary packaging opportunities for all employees. We support our Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander staff with Cultural and Ceremonial Leave, as well as annual leave and personal leave.

## Are you in the East Kimberley- Would you like to join our Team?

We have opportunities available in the Kimberley and we are flexible within each of the Regions in which we operate.

We are also keen to discuss flexible opportunities for job-share arrangements with other Indigenous organisations - or secondment opportunities that will provide the opportunity for staff to build their skills and experience in the postvention space.

### National Indigenous Postvention Advocates (\$60-80,000pa, plus super)

The National Indigenous Postvention Advocates (NIPAs) will act as a local response contact point for critical incident needs, and as required, leads local critical responses to suicide events, trauma or circumstances that could trigger suicide or other traumatic events by the provision of practical support to individuals, families and communities, and support colleagues attending incidents with them.

Providing bereavement support to families and communities; and engaging with services to support our Clients, you will need to engage with Aboriginal community led and controlled organisations; Government agencies; and other services and supports available in local and regional areas.

### The key requirements are that you are an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person

You hold relevant experience and/or qualifications in strengthening the health and social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

That you are able to demonstrate and provide statements addressing the Selection Criteria outlined in the Position Description.

### Sound interesting?

Contact **Angela Threlfall**, via email [angela.t@thirrili.com.au](mailto:angela.t@thirrili.com.au) to obtain a copy of the Position Description and selection criteria information.

Applications must include: CV, Referees, Statement of Claims addressing the Selection Criteria.

**APPLICATIONS OPEN – JOIN OUR TEAM!**



# Suicides reported to us

The following tables shows a total of 56 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander alleged/completed suicides have been reported to Thirrili from 1 January to 16 June 2021, by jurisdiction, age and gender.

Jurisdiction	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Other	Total
Completed suicide	12	6	11	5	12	0	10	0	0	56

Age	Under 18	18-24	25-34	35+	Not known at this stage	Total
Completed suicides	7	14	21	7	7	56

Gender	Male	Female	Not known at this stage	Total
Completed suicides	39	14	3	56

## Annual Report

You can read our annual report at: [http://thirrili.com.au/sites/default/files/2020-12/19-20AnnualReport\\_Final\\_HR.pdf](http://thirrili.com.au/sites/default/files/2020-12/19-20AnnualReport_Final_HR.pdf)

## Strategic Plan

A copy of our strategic plan is available at: <http://thirrili.com.au/sites/default/files/2020-09/STRATEGIC%20PLAN%20-%20FINAL%2011092020.pdf>

National Indigenous Postvention Service can be contacted 24 hours a day on 1800 805 801 - Your call will be answered by an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Advocate

*We support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to deal with grief and trauma experienced as a result of:*

- *the suicide of an immediate family member; and/or*
- *the death of an immediate family member because of a fatal traumatic event other than suicide*



## Who to contact - Other Services?

Thirrili recognises that each number reported here represents an individual and wishes to acknowledge the devastating effects suicide and self-harm can have on people, their families, friends, and communities.

Our service is available 24/7 and you can call us at any time because you or someone you know has suicidal thoughts and you can also contact any of the services listed below for help:

- Lifeline 13 11 14
- Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467 (cost of a local call)
- Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800
- MensLine Australia 1300 78 99 78
- Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636.

The crisis support services above can be reached 24 hours a day



