2026 NOONGA PRESIDENT REPORT

Yowella (Hello)

During my time as President, I am continually amazed at how much we achieve each year through the energy and commitment of our small committee. We recognized early on through our limitations the importance of seeking partnerships and allies. Today we have strong relationships and partnerships with Koobara Kindy, Community Living Association, Northside Connect, IUIH, Helena Jones Centre, Jabiru Community College as well as the many schools and early childhood centres.

I am grateful to the members of my committee, who come with this sense of community and engagement to embrace others and bring them on board to participate and improve knowledge and understanding of the 'Stolen Generations' but more broadly the issues that continue to cause frustration and pain towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

In preparation for this year's Sorry Day event the students from CLA and Northside Connect underwent an Induction course to better acquaint themselves with the project and its history. The 5-month collaboration moved very smoothly along and the students found the Induction information very valuable in building their community management skills. In addition to the Induction, the student and other NRG members visited the Ration Shed in Cherbourg to gain a broader understanding of Indigenous issues and the impact of colonization on our people.

Each year our outdoor event is under constant threat of rain and this year was no different. The committee were surely tested as we checked out the Park a day before the event! Working Group members Sharon Gingell, Colleen Kelly and the students along with and our local member Cr. Julia Dixon worked quickly to reconfigure the event to be staged in the car park of Kalinga Park, and not on the soggy grounds of the park. A mammoth effort provided by all and appreciated by everyone.

Even though the weather was still threatening not one participant pulled out and the community all came out to make our 2026 Sorry Day gathering a great success.

A very special feature of the day, was the performance by Koobara Kindy children, led by Aunty Sharron mirii Bell, Children's Entertainer who worked on a specific project funded by the BCC, Black Diamonds Grant submitted by NRG and Koobara Kindy. Aunty Sharron worked with the children over 6 weeks teaching them a song titled "I Am Me" and performing it with children on the day. Aunty Sharron was also our keynote speaker. Thank you to VP Cate Ryan who led and coordinated this project.

This year, we also had our very first Torres Strait Island Dance Group from Kedron State High and new schools wanting to perform next year.

Other NRG activities that we now support and get involved in throughout the year include:

Elders Lunch (in partnership with CLA and IUIH)

Gallery Tours (in partnership with volunteer QAGOMA guides Gillian and Catherine) 'Kith and Kin Exhibition'

Nundah Festival with Northside Connect

Social Justice Grants Program ($1000 each to WWILD, Wavell SHS, Koobara Kindy, CLA and Jabiru College)

In recent years, NRG member, David McLaughlin has been instrumental in forging stronger relationships between NRG and the Nundah Historical Society and we look forward to working together on a shared project in 2027.

All of these activities provide opportunities to connect and expand our reach within the community as well as keeping in touch with other like organisations, e.g. ANTAR, First Nations Allies, and Benarrawa. As you can see there is much for members to choose from to get further involved in NRG activities depending on your availability.

As we navigate and try to stay relevant in the ever-changing technological world, I'm grateful for the expertise given by the committee and NRG online communications volunteer Helen Fallding, who continue to update and lift our processes and system to meet these 1st world challenges.

Overall we continue to punch above our weight and try to provide to our community a program of activities that are thoughtful and fun to give the message that we honour and respect our First Nation's peoples and build bridges to increase knowledge, understanding and participation in local cultural activities.

Tonight we say a very big THANKYOU and GOOBYE to our Secretary Aurora DuBois who willingly took on this role with very little knowledge but walks away a more confident person who can easily adapt and hold her own in any situation.

Thank you to the staff of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Team, Arts and Community Development Branch, Brisbane City Council, who go the extra mile to ensure our programs are funded and delivered on time.

I apologize for my absence tonight but leave it in the steady hands of my committee, I will be enjoying my granddaughter's 18th birthday, high school graduation and formal in Cairns.

Noella Nuggera (Thankyou)

Moira Bligh
President

16/11/2026