



NGOONBI NEWS

Ngoonbi Community Services Indigenous Corporation
Established 1975 as a Housing Co-operative 2/40 Coondoo Street, Kuranda.
Office hours: 8:30am – 4:30pm . Phone Contact: 40937177

NGOONBI COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Ngoonbi plays a key role in delivering many Kuranda community events and activities in strengthening the Social, Emotional and Well Being of individuals and families to build resilience and strong foundations for members of our community. Activities such as facilitating workshops and sessions such as Mental Health First Aid, drug education, fortnightly Mens' and Womens' Group, parenting and playgroup, NAIDOC Week, a Talent Quest, Deadly Funny in collaboration with the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, weekly sporting, youth support and outings, cultural events and school breakfast assistance to name a few.

The common theme for all these activities is clear, simple messages to promote strong families, mental and physical health, education and learning, and the value of family cohesion and community support.

This is community engagement which is about education, empowerment, resilience and developing healthy relationships. Ngoonbi wants our community to know we are here to support the community wherever we can.



Silva Rose won the NAIDOC talent quest with her original song

For example, the Sport and Recreation program runs numerous activities focused on youth and the idea that exercise is good for mental and physical health. Sporting events include during school activities, after-school touch footy, tennis, and soccer in the communal spaces at Kuranda, Mantaka and Kowrowa. There are school holiday outings to try a range of sports and skills such as skating and innovative ball games with the John Moriarty Football Program on Cairns Esplanade.

The connection between exercise and health is made clear and reinforced in the discussions with participants. This is of considerable value on its own but this is not the only thing happening here.



Tennis skills at after school sports, Mantaka. Photos Ngoonbi

Sporting and other community events are a means of connecting with and gaining the trust with individuals and in the community. This trust allows Ngoonbi to identify and develop relationships with vulnerable children, youth and families whether at school or in community to strengthen the social, emotional wellbeing, health outcomes and to minimise substance abuse.

Specialist staff at Ngoonbi will engage, assist and walk alongside of individuals and their families. Our resident Social Worker is also available for sessions from Monday to Thursday by appointment only. We encourage individuals to seek support and link in with Ngoonbi, relevant agencies and NGOs. Ngoonbi offers to stand with families on their journey in attaining their aspirations, to creating life opportunities for a better future.



Young participants in a soccer game Kowrowa

Ngoonbi's mission is to support the First Nations community and those most vulnerable in whatever way we can. We also act as a service provider for government funded programs, providing various community services and support. For example, the Commonwealth Emergency Relief Fund is available to provide crisis funding if you are on income support benefits and/or experiencing extreme circumstances. This may include help in buying food, paying utility bills, transport assistance or assisting with unexpected costs during a crisis. Ngoonbi can help you access this support.

You can contact our Kuranda office at 2/40 Coondoo St, Kuranda or phone 07 40937177 for further assistance or to make an appointment with our friendly staff.

NEW TITLES RELEASED BY CAIRNS HISTORIAN & AUTHOR, THE LATE DR TIMOTHY BOTTOMS

From the author of *Djabugay Country*, *Conspiracy of Silence* & *Cairns History*



In the week before Dr Timothy Bottoms passing on 25 May, 2026, he had received the final print proofs of his new book series and was very excited for the upcoming book launch. Tim's Memorial will be held at Cairns Botanic Gardens, Saturday 29 August, 4 – 6pm. There will be speakers and a slideshow. Refreshments will be served. Books will be available for purchase. Everyone welcome (see QR code)



Scan for more information

Dr Timothy Bottoms re-compiled and re-mastered his 4 decades of research and writing into the *Bama Bulmba* book series – *An Aboriginal History of Tropical North Queensland*. There are four titles in the series with *The Tribes of the Wet Tropics* a shorter, more general overview of the tribes of the Wet Tropics, and of the broader Cairns region. The other three titles detail the tribes in Bottoms' study area and reflect his communications with the Aboriginal Elders of the time: Buluwanydji, Djabuganydji, Yidinydji, Yirrganydji. Dr Bottoms compiled the *Bama Bulmba* series as an essential educational resource for families, libraries, schools, higher education, government agencies, and for future historians to reference this time and place in Queensland history.

Get your copies locally at Kuranda Visitor Information Centre!

BAMA BULMBA SERIES

An Aboriginal History of Far North Queensland

“Building on over 40 years of familiarity with North Queensland's cultural landscapes and its First Nations peoples, Dr Timothy Bottoms offers an exquisitely produced series, covering the history of the Buluwanydji, Djabuganydji, Yidinydji and Yirrganydji peoples. It is rare to see ethnography and history blended in such a tasteful yet informative manner. Bottoms' histories reach back to the archaeological record but also up into the current day, showing the continuity between the distant past and current peoples. This is a rare feat, as most Australian First Nations histories concentrate on specific epochs, sometimes barely acknowledging the living descendants. This series is highly digestible, and contains a rich assortment of ingredients. It provides compact components of referenced data on local resources, Missions, Dreaming stories, major Indigenous sites, Frontier War massacres and more - richly illustrated and complemented with maps and charts. I was especially struck by the manner Bottoms provided detailed explanations of the content of historical photos and paintings. This is rarely done in history books to this extent. Bottoms' four books will become an important resource for anyone wishing to understand the North Queensland Rainforest region and its rich Indigenous context.”

Associate Professor (Adjunct) Ray Kerkhove,
School of Social Sciences, University of Queensland

From the author of
Djabugay Country,
Conspiracy of Silence
& *Cairns History*

New titles from
Dr Timothy Bottoms

**BAMA BULMBA
SERIES**

*An Aboriginal History
of Far North Queensland*

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BULUWAI
LAND PEOPLE CULTURE WATER FLORA FAUNA ARTEFACTS
INDIGENOUS
CORPORATION

MEETINGS & CONTACTS

10am – 12pm, Saturdays @ Kuranda Amphitheatre

2026: 12 September, 10 October

If you would like to find out more about the corporation's activities, get a membership form, discuss Buluwai areas of responsibility with traditional owners or any other matter relating to the Buluwai tribe. Dianne Brim can be reached on 0459 062 784.

日本語版あり

MAPS INCLUDED!

Download the Talking Trails Kuranda Tourism APP

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Learn about Rainforest Bush Foods

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