



## 5 Lands Walk Aboriginal Committee

### Phillip Bligh – Chairman



*‘To feel happy about yourself, you must feel happy about the place you live in. To feel happy about the place you live in, you must get to know that place. To get to know that place, you must ask the people who have lived there the longest, the Aboriginal people. We have the key that can open the treasures of this land’*

(Boori “Monty” Pryor *Maybe Tomorrow*)

Phil Bligh was born in Bourke, a small town in the north-west of New South Wales. Both his parents were removed from their traditional lands as children and sent to Aboriginal missions in Queensland where they were taught Christian ideals and trained as domestic worker and stockman. His father a Kullilli/Wakka Wakka man and mother a Kalkadoon woman.

Phil is a member of the Kullilli Bulloo River Native Title Aboriginal Corporation established in 2014 to facilitate native title rights and interests of the Kullilli community, Queensland. He acknowledges the NSW Central Coast as his home and is an active long-standing member of the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council. Prior to living on the Central Coast, Phil worked as a senior consultant with the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs and senior policy analyst with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) where he directed the Education Portfolio. He holds a BA (Liberal Studies) degree from Charles Sturt University.

Reconciliation is at the heart of Phil Bligh’s work, seeking to overcome “division” by promoting a greater understanding of Aboriginal worldviews to diverse groups of people. He was a foundation member of The Ourimbah Protocol (TOP), a unique partnership between State Forests of NSW and Central Coast community groups and businesses. Inspired by Aboriginal values, TOP was the first collaborative forest management protocol to be made in NSW. Phil is also a foundation member of the 5 Lands Walk. His holistic approach to reconciliation within the 5 Lands Walk context involves sharing an Aboriginal appreciation of relationship to land, based on reconnecting with its spirit and story.

Phil is the co-founder of [Beyond the Campfire](#) Aboriginal Cultural Intelligence.

TERRIGAL NORTH AVOCA AVOCA BEACH COPACABANA MACMASTERS BEACH



The 5 Lands Walk Inc acknowledges that the land on which we operate and function is the traditional land of the Darkinjung people. We pay our respects to the Elders, both past and present and acknowledge the Youth, the future leaders, in whose hands we hold our hope for a reconciled future.

## Linda Ashton



Linda Ashton is the Aboriginal Community Links Manager at Tumby Umbi Campus. She works with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, parents and community on a range of programs and events. She is very passionate about education and has been actively involved for over 25 years in Aboriginal Education.

Linda's Ancestors were Wandj Wandean people of the Yuin Nation.

She was born on the lands of the Eora Nation and raised on the lands of the Darug and Tharawal people. Linda moved to the Central Coast 35 years ago and has had the opportunity to raise her three children and work on Darkinjung country.

As well as being a member of the 5 Lands Walk Aboriginal Committee, Linda is currently the local representative of Muru Bulbi AECG (Aboriginal Education Consultative Group) and the current Treasurer to the Central Coast Regional AECG.

*"I have been involved with the 5 Lands Walk since 2015 and love how it respects and brings so many cultures together" – Linda Ashton*

## JD – Jeff Delaney



Jeff Delaney or 'JD' as he prefers to be known, was born on Darkinjung country and is the youngest survivor of six boys. His father was a proud Kamilaroi man who was taken from his mother (JD's grandmother) soon after his birth in 1929 at Forked Mountain, Burra Bee Dee Mission, Coonabarabran. He was reunited with his mother and other family members in his later years. JD's mother is of Norfolk Island ancestry, a direct descendent of Fletcher Christian and Tahitian princess Mi'Mitti.

JD proudly shares his Aboriginal/Islander cultural heritage for the benefit of helping people in the wider community around him. He enjoys meeting and connecting with people from all walks of life through his leatherwork, demonstrating a wide range of techniques and styles. He says "I mostly like to use my art to communicate creative skills, self-esteem and confidence to youth."

JD is a fully trained Mentor and Mediator, Aboriginal Education Assistant and Teacher's Aid (Special). He works with schools, youth groups, disability support and many other community organisations. Also, in his role as a Director of the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council (DLALC), JD says "I have a passion for improving the health and wellbeing of our community and protection of our culture and heritage."

## Kevin 'Gavi' Duncan



Born in Moree, Gavi is a proud Gomilaroi, Mandandanji and Awaba man and an accomplished musician, vocalist and storyteller, artist and dancer. He is an elder and member of the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Gavi has played a key role in liaison between Gosford City Council and local Indigenous people and the non-Indigenous community. In that capacity, Gavi became a founding community member of the 5 Lands Walk and has been a generous contributor to 5 Lands collaborative art projects including the Land Art on the Skillion at Terrigal, notably with American artist, Daniel Dancer, with whom he created a whale totem. With 5 Lands artist, Paul Haggith, he has created murals at the Crowne Plaza Terrigal and Central Coast Leagues Club.

Gavi is the Senior Education and Tourism Officer at the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council, where he started in 2018 in what was then a newly-created position within the Land and People, Culture and Heritage team. He has been working with the team to help expand Darkinjung's involvement in tourism and education for its members and community.

He has a strong history in cultural education including at the Bara Barang Aboriginal Corporation and Youth Connections, where he was the Aboriginal Culture and Heritage Advisor. He has also worked at Coorallie High School in Moree where he fought for equal rights in education for Aboriginal people. He was NSW State Forests Cultural Heritage Officer and is a regular speaker on coastal bush foods, sacred sites and Indigenous Heritage. In 2007 he presented a forum on Indigenous Coastal Perspectives at the NSW Coastal Volunteers Conference sponsored by the Australian Government's Envirofund, Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority, Landcare Australia, Gosford City Council and Wyong Shire Council and others.

Gavi has performed at the annual Peats Ridge Festival and each year at the 5 Lands Walk. With local Darkinjung cultural custodians Deborah Swan and Phil Bligh, he established the Boardi Space at Peats Ridge, dedicated to the showcasing of emerging Indigenous artists of all ages. He also performed didge and sang an ancient Aboriginal song to close the Clean Energy for Eternity event at Manly in December 2008, hosted by Wendy Harmer.

He worked as a designer with the Aboriginal and Islander Dance Company in Sydney for about 9 years and also danced with that company and in the early days of the Bangarra Dance Company. He has performed didgeridoo and vocals with national and international artists, including Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

His life-sized portrait of Pemulwuy (one of the most famous Aboriginal warriors of the East Coast) was commissioned for the Pathfinders 6-storey high mural in New York on a building on the Hudson River. He has also painted a set for David Bowie film clip and has worked as an artist with the Aboriginal artists co-op Yurindali in Moree and the Sydney co-op Boomali. He is also a renowned in emu egg carving and his works have been acquired by Sydney Powerhouse Museum.

## George Pawley



George Pawley is Darkinjung, he lives on country and is a member of Darkinjung LALC.

George has been active in the Aboriginal Community for decades, attending protests including Land Rights in the NT, Darkinjung Wallarah 2 and the Wyong BLM March 2020.

George is a guitarist / vocalist performing artist with over 40 years' experience.

His proudest moment was at Wyong Shire Council NAIDOC Week 2007 Flag Raising Ceremony, performing with daughter Alisha the Crosby, Nash and Young song *Teach Your Children*.

Performances include 5 Lands Walk North Avoca Surf Life Saving Club, Peats Ridge Music Festival, Weddings, Pubs, Clubs, Colours of Country Cultural Market Day also various gigs in QLD and NT.

## Wendy Pawley



Wendy Pawley was born in Narrabri and is Kamilaroi / Gomeroi. For decades Wendy has been participating in group exhibitions both nationally / internationally and has had several solo exhibitions. She has been co-curating the 5 Lands Walk Aboriginal Art Exhibition each year since its inception, at North Avoca Surf Club.

Wendy's mother (the late) Mrs Noeleen (Trindall) Saunders was a well-respected Elder of the Kamilaroi / Gomeri people of Narrabri and surrounding areas. Wendy paints her mother's Country, in particular the ancient, spectacular, rugged Nandewar Ranges located on the outskirts of Narrabri. The Nandewar Ranges Mountains are Ningadhun, Kaptutah, Yulludunita and Yulludanda.

### *Major Achievements:*

Prestigious Archibald Salon Des Refuses 1999 SH Erwin Gallery, The Rocks Sydney

'Kamilaroi / Gomeroi Dreaming' Solo Exhibition Gosford Regional Gallery 1999

'Ambientie Messe' Trade Fair Frankfurt Germany 2001

'Decouvert de l'Art Australien Aborigine' Martigues France 2007

Parliament of NSW Aboriginal Art Prize Finalist 2010, 2011

NSW Gosford Fair Trading and Gosford Regional Gallery Reconciliation Art Competition - Tony Donovan Reconciliation Award 2015

Gosford Regional Gallery 5 Lands Walk 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2015

Gosford Regional Gallery – Gosford Art Prize Finalist 2019, 2020

## Deborah Swan



Deborah Swan is a Ngarrindjeri mimini (woman), with kinship affiliation to Darkinjung and Awaba Country where she grew up and still resides. Deborah has been a Culture and Heritage officer for over 30 years and was previously a certified Ranger with Forest NSW. Cultural mapping has been a large part of her life through previous studies and work.

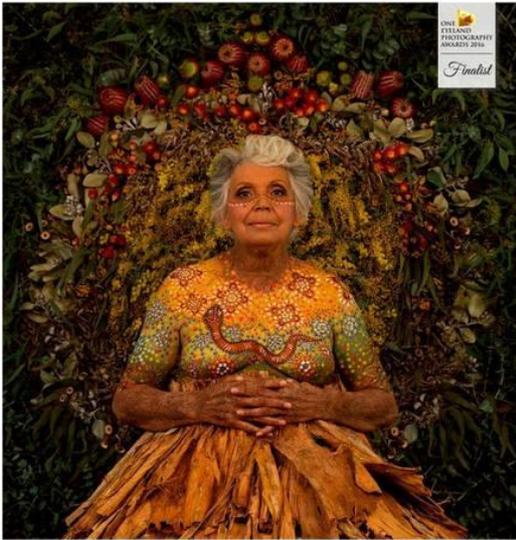
Deborah completed a diploma in Aboriginal Studies, Natural and Cultural Resource Management, Quality Auditing and has a Master's degree in Architecture Research. Her thesis explored Indigenous epistemology and ideologies, highlighting the importance of reciprocal research methodologies when working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

While studying at the Institute of Koorie Education at Deakin University, Deborah developed and co-authored the *Guidelines and Principles for Pre-Ethical Approaches to Indigenous Australian Research* (Martin et al., 2016).

Deborah is also a PhD candidate Doctor of Philosophy and Anthropology University of Newcastle.

Together with Gavi Duncan and Phil Bligh, Deborah was a community founding member of the 5 Lands Walk. Through the Aboriginal Committee, she has generously provided her expertise and skills to the 5 Lands Walk for over 15 years regarding culture and spirituality.

## Donella Waters



Donella Waters is a self-taught artist who has been a finalist in the 2005, 2006 and 2007 Parliament of NSW Indigenous Art Prize. Donella is a Kamilaroi woman who grew up on Toomelah Mission in north west NSW and developed her practice while working in early childhood education. She has been a finalist several times in the Parliament of NSW Indigenous Art Prize, in 2005, 2006 and 2007 and in 2005 was awarded the first prize in the Aboriginal Artist Reconciliation Week Art Prize at Gosford Art Gallery, NSW.

In 2010, Donella collaborated with another renowned Indigenous artist, Michael Birk, and the Sunnyfield creative team for the Sunnyfield Day Options in Lilyfield over a month, to develop creative concepts in sound and art around social inclusion within the community. The event involved a traditional circle gathering to acknowledge the land and the ancestors of the Gadigal and Wangal people followed by a performance from Indigenous musician, Michael Birk. The process included an exhibition of the collaborative artistic process in a sound installation and a piece of artwork, plus the 'Pitta Patta' art work produced by the team, that won The People's Award at the Bloomin' Arts Festival in 2009.

Together with Wendy Pawley, Donella has been the curator for several years of the exquisite Aboriginal art exhibition at North Avoca each year for the 5 Lands Walk.