



2007 NAIDOC Perth Award Winners

Outstanding Achievement Award

WINNER: SEALIN GARLETT

Sealin Garlett is an honourable older Aboriginal man who has put great time and effort into creating an affordable funeral service to cater for our Aboriginal community. Sealin arranges and conducts the funeral services and may be required to carry out several per week. Many people in the Noongar community know and trust him to respect their wishes during these times.

RUNNER UP: DENNIS EGGINGTON

Dennis Eggington, the CEO of the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA (ALSWA), has excelled in many aspects of his life. Mr. Eggington is currently completing his Masters of Human Rights Education and also has also a Diploma of Teaching and a Bachelor of Applied Science in Community Management and Development. Mr. Eggington has been passionately involved in the fight for Aboriginal human and civil rights and equality for over 20 years, including work with Aboriginal Hostels Ltd, the WA Aboriginal Media Association, the State Government's Aboriginal Education Consultative Group and ALSWA, for which he has been the CEO of for the last 11 years. Mr. Eggington is noted for bringing his vision of reconciliation to the media arena, as well as the right of all Australians for political, social, and economic equality.



2007 NAIDOC Perth Award Winners

Elder of the Year (Female)

WINNER: THERESA WALLEY

Theresa Walley has throughout the years conducted many Welcome to Country ceremonies in Perth and is always available to offer advice and guidance. Ms. Walley is a respected Noongar Elder who is heavily involved in native title determinations. She has been involved in developing the Kwinana Spectacles Wetland Cultural Tours and is always ready to teach the stories and songs traditionally from the area. Ms. Walley is also an accomplished artist, being awarded with the Prestigious Rockingham Indigenous Artist Award and has had work sold overseas. Ms. Walley left New Norcia mission at 17 years of age and has raised a family of 7 children and many more grandchildren.

RUNNER UP: EDNA RILEY

Edna Riley has been an important member of the Armadale Domestic Violence Intervention project for over 14 years. She constantly pursues a social justice agenda for Indigenous families with her passion and commitment to ending violence against women and children. Ms. Riley has a generosity of spirit which enables her to motivate and engage all people to support families experiencing domestic and family violence.



2007 NAIDOC Perth Award Winners

Elder of the Year (Male)

WINNER: SAM DINAH

Sam Dinah has worked tirelessly in the Health and Legal systems for over 20 years and has contributed to youth in trouble and the wider community. Mr. Dinah is well respected and known in the Aboriginal Communities of Western Australia. Mr. Dinah is also the Uncle to (rest in peace) Robert Riley. He found him in Sister Kate's when he was 10 years old. Mr. Dinah sees the same vision that his nephew saw and worked hard towards this. He is dedicated to helping others, particularly in ALSWA, to make this world a better world for all Aboriginal people, especially in regards to 'Human Rights' and the right to live in a safe world.

RUNNER UP: SEALIN GARLETT

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Sportsperson of the Year (Female)

WINNER: ROBERTA TACEY

Roberta Tacey started playing as a hockey goalkeeper when she was 16 years old. Since then she has represented the Peel Hockey Assoc for over 10 years before being recruited to YMCC's League team in Perth. Her accolades include:

- 2001 - Current YMCC hockey club League goalkeeper
- 2002, 03 & 05 YMCC Goalkeeper of the Year
- 2003 WA Diamonds squad member
- 2005 WA Indoor hockey Team member @ Aust Indoor Champs (bronze)
- 2006 WA Indoor hockey Team member @ Aust Indoor Champs (silver)
- 2006 Hockey WA Goalkeeper of the Year (State Award)

Ms. Tacey attends schools, speaking with students and running clinics. She also assists the Noongar Sports Association and Hockey WA. She is also a National Indigenous English Literacy and Numeracy Strategy (NIELNS) Ambassador and was the 2003 WA Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year.

RUNNER UP: NONE



2007 NAIDOC Perth Award Winners

Award 7: Sportsperson of the Year (Male)

WINNER: JESSE JONES

Jesse Jones is a bright, enthusiastic, inspiring 17 year old. Mr. Jones has won many medals in his javelin, discus and shot put. His accolades include:

- Silver medal in Javelin in April 2003 in the National under 13's Athletics Competition in Brisbane;
- Gold medal in shot put and Silver in javelin and discus in July 2004 for the Under 14's International Championships in Singapore;
- Gold medal in javelin, Silver in discus and Bronze in shot put in July 2005 in an international competition in Kuala Lumpur.

Mr. Jones lives with his mum and has two sisters and six brothers. Jesse believes in setting a good example not just for his family but for the whole community. He aspires to compete in the Olympic Games, but for now Jesse is focusing on the Commonwealth Games.

RUNNER UP: CLAYTON GARLETT

Clayton Garlett is an up and coming AFL star. His accolades included that he was selected:

- to represent Australia in the AIS/AFL under 17s tour to South Africa in April 2007;
- to represent WA in the AFL State 16s in Brisbane in 2006
- to participate in the South Fremantle Football Club Warriors 15s in 2004 in Brisbane
- as Fairest & Best Player for the Kwinana Junior Football Club in 2005
- as Fairest & Best Player for the Kwinana Junior Football Club 14s in 2004.

Mr. Garlett is passionate about Football and his personal goal is to be drafted in 2008 AFL Draft. He is also a very good role model to his family and extended family and hopes that his achievements have an impact on not only his life, but of his family and community too.



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Award 6: Business of the Year

WINNER: SOUTH WEST ABORIGINAL ENTERTAINMENT

South West Aboriginal Entertainment (SWAE) is a business that has set up a website for anyone wanting to involve Aboriginal people for whatever services, such as LIVE performances, Welcomes To Country's and the organisation of other Aboriginal groups/singers for CD launches. The Business has been involved in partnerships with Fremantle's "Wardanji Festival" and South Perth's "Fiesta Festival". Successful initiatives include the "Healthways Schools Program" and "The Chocolate Martini".

RUNNER UP: INDIGENOUS BUSINESS INSTITUTE

The Indigenous Business Institute (IBI) provides business assistance and advice, professional networks, mentoring and linkage services between Indigenous Members & Associates. IBI has assisted in the collective housing of Aboriginal Entrepreneurialism within an environment conducive to culture, profit and respect. The IBI is currently negotiating with State / Territory entities that manage the advertising of Government Tenders (e.g. WA State Supply Commission) to project manage Government Tenders under \$50,000 in Aboriginal Affairs.



2007 NAIDOC Perth Award Winners

Award 5: Not-for-profit Organisation of the Year

WINNER: LANGFORD ABORIGINAL ASSOCIATION

Langford Aboriginal Association Inc (LAA) is a not for profit Aboriginal community controlled organisation that provides a valuable service to the local Aboriginal community. LAA has a strong management committee of Aboriginal people from across the community as well as non-Aboriginal association members. LAAs partnerships that have been formed include Financial Literacy for Aboriginal Women, free basic computer training, youth groups, men and women's groups and raising awareness of diabetes. Selected programs are open to non-Aboriginal community members who are always welcome to learn more about the Noongar culture and language.

RUNNER UP: YIRRA YAAKIN ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Yirra Yaakin Noongar Theatre is Australia's leading Aboriginal Theatre Company. Established in 1993, Yirra Yaakin opened its doors with one successful funding application and three staff members. As the company grew, so did the commitment towards developing Aboriginal people in all aspects of the arts. A decade later, Yirra Yaakin is an important arts agency, professional theatre company and leader in community development. In the past year, more than 30,000 people have seen a Yirra Yaakin performance and its workshop program has had more than 7,000 participants. Yirra Yaakin has won copious national and international awards (too many to mention in this bio) and is respected internationally. Yirra Yaakin has a reputation for ensuring Indigenous stories are told by Indigenous voices and that correct protocols are followed when developing a story into a theatrical production.



2007 NAIDOC Perth Award Winners

Award 4: Carer of the Year

WINNER: GLORIA BENNELL

Gloria Bennell cares for a 21-year-old quadriplegic, her grandmother who is 67 and has hip problems, a cousin's baby and helps raise her 7 brothers and sisters. Ms. Bennell shows excellent values of kindness, sharing, giving and generally supporting others and for this reason she is very popular amongst the Mandurah community. Ms. Bennell is also an awarded school student, receiving the 2002 WA Young Indigenous Student of the Year Award. She is also involved in mentor training and leadership for predominantly Indigenous troubled youth in Mandurah.

RUNNER UP: VICTOR WOODLEY

Victor Woodley is a carer of Aboriginal boys from all across Australia aged between 14 – 17 at the North Fremantle Hostel. He was previously the President of the ALSWA. He was nominated by some of the boys at the Hostel, and this is some of what they had to say: "Uncle Victor has kids of his own but he always has time for us boys. He talks to us, listens to us and really treats us like we are his kids. He is always there for us when we need help. We come here because we like the way Uncle Victor looks and cares for all of us. He is funny, yarns about our cultures, tells us of many things we can be, never give up on your goals, how family is a big part of our lives, how voices can be heard in unity and that we are all important and have different things to even teach him. Without Uncle Victor this hostel would be very cold, we all know cos we have had other Hostel Parents and they were nowhere as good as Uncle Victor. He understands us and our ways and that helps us all when we are away from our families."



2007 NAIDOC Perth Award Winners

Award 3: Artist of the Year

WINNER: DELLA RAE MORRISON

Della Rae Morrison of Djiva (formerly Yowarliny) and South West Aboriginal Entertainment (SWAE) has achieved much in music and theatre over 20 years, including in Bran Nue Dae, The Vagina Monologues, Bratwurst & Damper, Lockie Lenard - The Human Torpedo, the Madjtil Moorna Choir and Abmusic. Ms. Morrison is a strong force in the local Indigenous Music scene. Her dedication and commitment to projects and events are often supportive of other artists such as her recent endeavour, The Chocolate Martini, a monthly event that showcases local acts. Ms. Morrison was nominated by over 20 people. One of them said: "What comes across very strongly as you get to know Della is her genuine pride in her Aboriginal heritage. She presents beautifully, is very loving and at the same time is strong and true and uncompromising when it comes to truth and justice. She acknowledges great pain but doesn't dwell in the past. Her focus is on the future and she is passionate about educating young Indigenous people about the dangers of drug use."

RUNNER UP: GLEN STASIUK

Glen Stasiuk (Director at Kulbardi Aboriginal Centre, Murdoch University) is an inspiring Indigenous film maker. Mr. Stasiuk has a Business Degree and First Class Honours Degree in Media Studies. Mr. Stasiuk directed the documentary 'The Forgotten' which was voted best documentary at the 2003 WA Screen Awards. His current work includes a new film: 'Noongar of the Beeliiar (Swan River)', 'Weewar' and a 25 minute documentary, 'Footprints in the Sand', which he has written and directed for the National Indigenous Initiative (NIDF7) for SBS TV. Mr Stasiuk is dedicated to raising the profile of Kulbardi and to encouraging Aboriginal people to undertake study.



2007 NAIDOC Perth Award Winners

Award 2: Scholar of the Year

WINNER: MICHELLE WEBB

Michelle Webb (coordinator of the Aboriginal Bridging Course at Curtin University) is one of the first Indigenous people in Australia to graduate with a Master of Human Rights Practice. She has been nominated solely by Curtin University to attend the 29th IFUW Conference in Manchester in August 2007. Ms. Webb's leadership, dedication and enthusiasm to Indigenous education led to 19 Indigenous bridging course students graduating from the program in 2006, 14 of which enrolled into mainstream degrees. Ms. Webb is an inspiration to students and leads by example to show that they can succeed and teach future generations.

RUNNER UP: EZRA JACOBS-SMITH

Ezra Jacobs-Smith is an outstanding Year 12 student. His accolades include:

- highest exam mark in 2006 in Foundations of Mathematics and Human Biology at Mandurah Senior College;
- "Top Student" in Human Biology in 2006 at Mandurah Senior College;
- scholarship to the Indigenous Australian Engineering Summer School at the University of New South Wales;
- letters of Commendation in 2006 for outstanding achievement in all subjects;
- an "Advanced Standing" status at Mandurah Senior College;
- foundation member of the "Follow The Dream" programme which identifies Aboriginal students who wish to pursue tertiary studies.
- "Dux of the School", "Citizenship" Award and "Top Student" in English and Science in 2005 at Coodanup Community College; and
- scholarship for 2006 at Mandurah Senior College.

A reference from the Deputy Principal at Coodanup Community College stated that "he has the potential to be a leader of men and a prominent voice for his people."



2007 NAIDOC Perth Award Winners

Award 1: Youth of the Year

NB: In Indigenous culture, the concept of what is a “youth” and what is an “elder” does not fit into non-Indigenous categories. For Indigenous people, their status as a youth or an elder is dependent on many things including their position in their family, their responsibilities and their age. For this reason, it was the decision of the NAIDOC Perth Committee to not have specific ages for these Awards. We accepted whatever nominations came in and the winners are indicative of this. Also, as the Judges could not decide between the 3 following nominees, each have been selected as winners:

WINNER: ETHEL WALLAM

Ethel Wallam has worked hard throughout 2007 to bring Perth's only Indigenous Youth Radio, Whadjuk Radio, to air. Ms. Wallam has created a friendly and informative program with all Aboriginal music, community news and opportunities for listeners to get involved in. Ms. Wallam is an inspirational role model and leader within the Perth Community demonstrated through her dedication to both her work as a mother, College Coordinator with Abmusic and her work as a producer and presenter at Whadjuk Radio.

WINNER: KELLY NASH

Kelly Nash is the Aboriginal Police Liaison Officer at the Armadale Branch of the Police Service. Her tireless work with young Aboriginal kids in encouraging them to play sports is truly inspirational. She often gives up her own time without any monetary gain to work in the community. Ms. Nash always remains a cheerful and passionate person about Aboriginal projects, programs and issues. There are a lot of children who now want to be in the Police Force because Kelly instils pride and helps the children to be the best they can.

WINNER: VINCENT RILEY

Vinnie Riley is a Year 5 student at Beeliar Primary School and is blind. Mr. Riley does not allow his vision impairment to rule his world. His former teacher, who nominated him said: “When I had Vinnie in my class, he brought cohesiveness and compassion to my students and my classroom. As children tend to be egocentric, their world was enhanced by being more responsible and aware of their actions. They demonstrated thoughtfulness and initially this was centred around Vinnie, but this soon became part of just how our classroom was. Vinnie is always included in activities with other students and does not allow you to set different rules for him. He expects to be able to do all that the other children are doing and at times this could be quite frightening for a teacher, but this has always been his way. Vinnie does not consider himself to be any different to any student at his school. However, he has inspired children to try their best because they can see that he is doing this at all times, despite his impairment and he does all of this just by being himself.”