



# Talking Sport

Members of the La Perouse  
Aboriginal Community share their  
sporting memories



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**17 March – 19 October 2023**

**La Perouse Museum Community Galleries**

**FREE ENTRY**

**Randwick City Council and La Perouse Museum acknowledge the Bidjigal people who occupied the Sydney Coast, as the Traditional Custodians of the area on which the Museum stands and serves. We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Elders past, present, and emerging.**



*Talking Sport*

***Story of the Talking Sport logo  
by artist Dennis Golding:***

This logo represents the local Aboriginal community and their contribution to sport. Sport is a key part of contemporary Aboriginal culture and is celebrated across many communities around the nation. This logo incorporates symbols that recognise the place and storytelling of the La Perouse Aboriginal community.

The shield and boomerang is significant to the history of this place. These objects are drawn with contemporary sports objects such as footballs, netballs and other sporting balls that recognise the legacies of Aboriginal sports champions from this community. This logo recognises their strength and resilience and leads pathways for new generations.

## Introducing *Talking Sport*

When it comes to sport, community pride, and social inclusion within Aboriginal Communities, look no further than La Perouse. The La Perouse Museum is honoured to partner with community Elders and leaders to showcase the achievements of Aboriginal sportspeople from La Perouse, and explore what sport means to them and to the Community as a whole.

***Talking Sport*** is a show about memory. The exhibition features a curated film, and rare and significant sporting objects, archives, photographs and stories both from our collections and those generously shared by the Community.

### Introduction by *Talking Sport* Community Lead: Alan Daly

My home, La Perouse, has been and continues to be a breeding ground for some of the top sportspeople in Australia; the stories of the Ellas and Eric Simms are well known across the country.

We are determined through this exhibition – ***Talking Sport*** – to also shed some light on the grassroots community members that have paved the way for such stories to be written.

The people that feature in ***Talking Sport*** represent all sorts of sports, and all types of sporting “heroes”. These stories speak to our strength, passion and commitment to each other. They keep us united and moving into the future.



Uncle Les Davison running with the Sydney Olympic Torch, 2000. Collection of Donna Daly.

## Our thanks

The La Perouse Museum wishes to thank the following Community members for their generous support and sharing for the **Talking Sport** exhibition and memory project:

Alan Daly, Community Lead **Talking Sport** and Director of the La Perouse Panthers Sporting Aboriginal Corporation

Aunty Marion Russell, Community Lead **Talking Sport**, and caretaker of La Pa sporting history

And Community members:

Aunty Marjorie Dixon  
Shaun Longbottom  
Aunty Marilyn Russell  
Quinton Silva  
Carrine Liddell  
Aunty Lorraine Lester

Glen Kunga Kelly  
Aunty Marcia Ella-Duncan OAM  
Jasmin Allende  
Uncle K.J. Kenny Foster  
Uncle Lloyd Walker  
Uncle Assen China Timbery

And families and members of the Community who have generously loaned treasures to the Exhibition

Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders should be aware that this publication and the exhibition **Talking Sport** contains images or references to names of deceased persons in written histories, recordings, artworks, descriptions and in photographs.

Portrait photographs by Glenn Duffus (Copyright 2022)



## AUNTY MARION RUSSELL

Aunty Marion is a mother of three children, who was raised at La Perouse and comes from a family of accomplished sports heroes. She played a variety of sport including netball and softball while at La Perouse Primary School, netball and hockey at Matraville High School, and later round robin rugby league, and netball for La Pa. Her passion for the history of rugby league in La Perouse started with researching her family photos. Her father Reginald Russell was a highly respected La Pa rugby league player who made an enormous contribution to the community.



Aunty Marion Russell, 2022.  
Photograph by Glenn Duffus.

*"I don't only just watch Lapa, I like watching other teams and even the children that are up and coming. It's good to see. And I talk to parents and have a yarn... we just talk about the football and it's all about how it's good to see each other. It's community, from all over New South Wales getting together.... When you go and watch sports, you're happy. You watch your children playing, you're happy. And when a lot of sad things have been happening and you go to sports, it brightens you up, makes you happy. And I can't wait to go to football this week [because] Women's La Perouse Grand Final this Saturday!"*



1932 La Perouse All Blacks Team. Collection of  
Aunty Marion Russell.

## SHAUN LONGBOTTOM

Shaun Longbottom grew up in La Perouse, and like so many La Pa Community members he started out playing footy (rugby league) from a young age and progressed to a competitive level. He then took up surfing with the support of his father Michael Longbottom, a key member of the original La Perouse Boardriders established in 1959.

Shaun re-ignited the Boardriders in 2015 to inspire and mentor a new generation of surfers, and like his father, has helped get young Kooris to places like Bells Beach to compete in surfing competitions, and to build confidence and a sense of wellbeing and pride.



Shaun Longbottom, 2022. Photograph by Glenn Duffus.



La Perouse Boardriders, n.d. Courtesy of La Perouse Boardriders Indigenous Corporation Facebook.

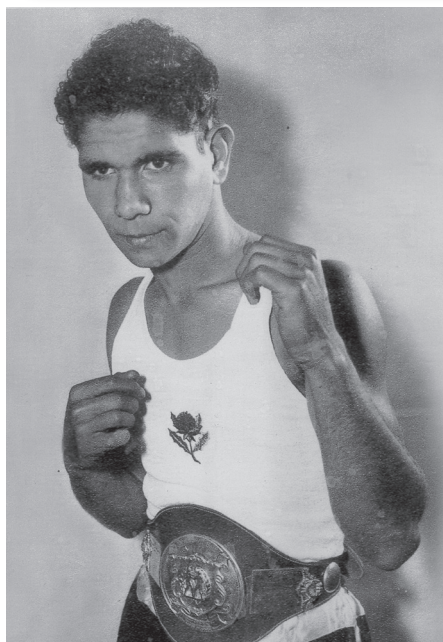
*"My old man [Michael Longbottom] was a part of the group that formed the La Perouse Boardriders. I was pretty sort of grateful that my old man was a part of that group. They used to get around the backyard and have meetings and things like that. And as a kid I was able to see what they were planning; surf trips and things like that. They would hire a bus and grab all the kids around the area and take them away surfing. I got that inspiration from the surf so I wanted to start Board Riders back up."*

## ALAN DALY

Alan is the Director of the La Perouse Panthers Sporting Aboriginal Corporation. He has played rugby league for 35 years and continues to play and coach today. He played representative league with South Sydney and the La Perouse Panthers, was captain in the Koori Knockout from 2008 to 2018, and was part of the victorious 2002 La Perouse Knockout Team. Alan is passionate about the La Perouse Aboriginal community and its direction and development into the future.



Alan Daly, 2022. Photograph by Glenn Duffus.



*"A couple of our old men that over the years trialled for the Olympics or made it on the way to the Olympics. One was my grandfather, Les Davison. He, in 1956, trialled in boxing to make the Olympics, and he made it all the way through to the final bout and won the fight. However, he wasn't allowed to compete at the time as it was still in the days of the Aboriginal Protection Board. But the guys that he fought against at the time, the runners-up, said that they needed to take Les Davison, and they wouldn't compete. They got to about the fourth bloke down the list. Uncle Les spoke about his time trialling and boxing and held it in high regard, he loved to chat about it. In his later years we would sit down and yarn about what it takes to become the best in your field. You always refer back to your training and preparation."*

Uncle Les Davison with Boxing Trophy Belt, n.d. Collection of the Davison Family.



## AUNTY MARCIA ELLA-DUNCAN OAM

Aunty Marcia Ella-Duncan OAM is a Walbunja Bidjigal woman from La Perouse. She has played netball for over fifty years, from when she was nine to the present. She has also coached in the Randwick Netball Association. Aunty Marcia was selected for the Under-21 team for NSW when she was eighteen and then progressed to the NSW Open. In 1984 she was selected for Australian representative netball and played until 1987. She was also an Executive Member of the Randwick Netball Association, a Netball Australia Director from 2016 to 2019, and is proudly included in the Netball NSW and Netball Australia Hall of Fame.



Aunty Marcia Ella-Duncan, 2022.  
Photograph by Glenn Duffus.

*"Sport's everything for us, a way for us to come together. We forget all our differences when we're going for the La Pa Panthers or we're at the netball court... It brings us together physically as well as emotionally. And for that period of time, we've got a simple vision, which is magic to be a part of. But as well sport is really important for our physical well-being as well as social and emotional well-being. It's about how we maintain active lifestyles. I think games are a traditional way that Aboriginal people learned and taught, and I think we continue that legacy by teaching people about what it means to be part of something that's bigger than ourselves. How we rely on each other not just to sustain us, but where we can succeed."*



Aunty Marcia on the court, n.d. Collection of Aunty Marcia Ella-Duncan OAM.

Aunty Marcia in centre position, n.d. Collection of Aunty Marcia Ella-Duncan OAM.



## AUNTY MARJORIE DIXON

Aunty Marjorie Dixon is an Elder from La Perouse who has played with many great sportswomen from the 1930s onwards. She was an outstanding player and trailblazer herself in a variety of sports including cricket ('cricko') and vigoro. She represented the State for cricket in 1956 and was the State bowler in 1957.

Aunty Marjorie also played vigoro from when she was 40 years old, with great players including Velma Mulcahy, Joan Foster and Aunty Marjorie's own mother. Vigoro as a women's sport was eventually superseded by netball. Aunty Marjorie represented La Perouse and community across Australia, playing cricko and vigoro at representative level in Queensland, Tasmania and across NSW.

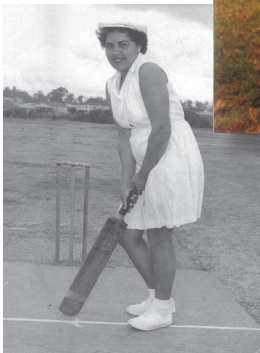
*"I come from La Perouse and I have played sports since I was 12 years old and played with old players that played in the 1930s. The only thing we had [at La Perouse] was sports and everyone loved it, football and vigoro and cricko. My first sport was cricko, with the cricket bat. They wanted to play us at Moore Park, but we wouldn't wear all the gear that they were wearing because we were too good. When we saw the girls all geared up, we said, no, we'll play the way we stand as we are now. And they thought they'd hurt us? and I said, no we've got more sense than that to be hit with the ball, but we're willing to play you."*



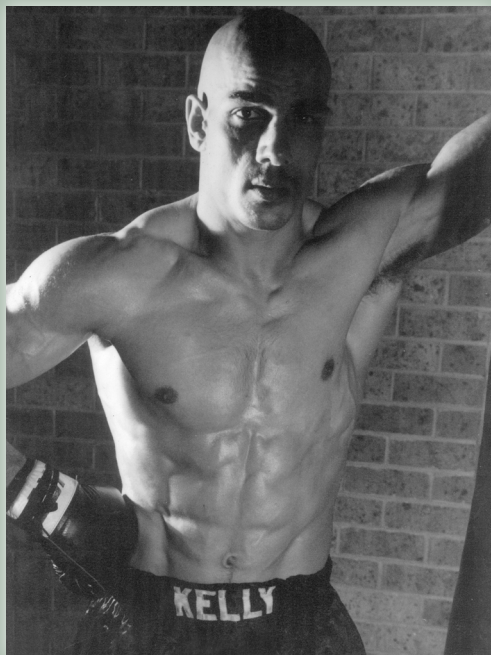
Aunty Marjorie Dixon, 2022.  
Photograph by Glenn Duffus



Aunty Marjorie Dixon playing vigoro,  
n.d. Collection of Aunty Marjorie  
Dixon.



Aunty Marjorie Dixon as a young  
woman playing cricko, n.d.  
Collection of Aunty Marjorie Dixon..



Glen Kelly, Champion boxer (n.d.). Collection of Glen Kelly

Boxing gloves belonging to Glen Kunga Kelly. Loaned by  
Glen Kelly



Framed photograph of Uncle Les Davison as captain of his rugby league team,  
1952. Loaned by the Davison Family.

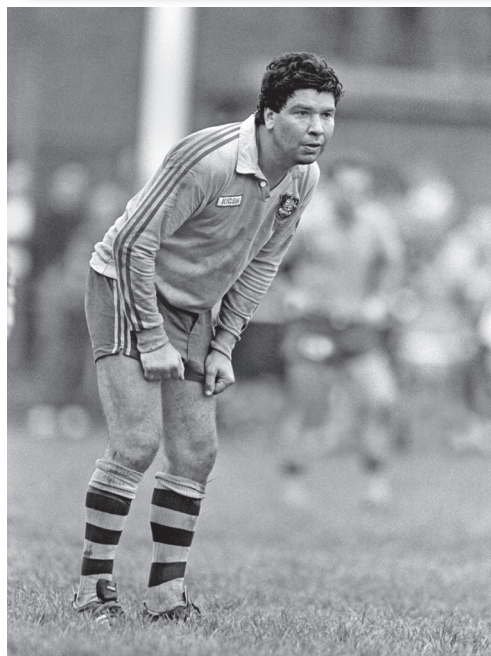


## UNCLE LLOYD WALKER

Uncle Lloyd Walker is an Aboriginal man and a respected member of the La Perouse Community. It was during his childhood that Lloyd discovered his love of sport. Lloyd went on to represent Australia, playing eight test matches for the Wallabies (Rugby Union) from 1989-1994 and was then Assistant Coach for the National Team. He was also a competitive sailor from the Yarra Bay Sailing Club on Botany Bay and competed in state and national sailing championships.



Uncle Lloyd Walker, 2022.  
Photograph by Glenn Duffus



*"Rugby League was a [big] part of the La Perouse Aboriginal Community, and you tried to achieve what your idols were doing. In those days rugby union was a very private school situation and I think myself and the Ella brothers broke through that private school with our success. Mark Ella, being the captain of the Wallabies, was a great achievement. He scored the Grand Slam, playing against England, Ireland, Wales and Scotland and scoring a try in each of those games. No one has ever done that before and hasn't done it after....We've had some really good role models to look up to in football. And it's an achievement for us to succeed. That's the thing with Aboriginal sportspeople: they know they're playing for themselves but the overriding thing is they're playing for their family and their community."*

## QUINTON SILVA

Quinton Silva is from the La Perouse Aboriginal community and comes from a family with a long tradition of playing rugby league in La Perouse. He is the grandson of La Pa rugby league legend Reginald Russell. In 2001 Quinton was part of the victorious La Perouse Knockout Team which played at Redfern and defeated the defending champions the Louis Street Dodgers. The following year Quinton played once more when La Perouse hosted the Knockout and achieved an incredible back-to-back win.

La Perouse has won the Men's Knockout four times, in 1971, 1991, 2001 and 2002. In 2013 the Boys Team won the first Under-17 Knockout, and in 2019 the La Perouse Girls Team won the Under-16 Knockout.



Quinton Silva, 2022. Photograph by Glenn Duffus

*"The Knockout started off as only seven men's teams and was something that developed and grew...And it's a huge, huge event in the Aboriginal Community that we all look forward to. It takes precedent [over] the NRL Grand Final for us. But Knockout comes first because it's more than just the football or the rugby league. It's a cultural event. It's somewhere in which family can make the time and effort and save to travel and to catch up with family and friends and also get to watch great, amazing football."*



Quinton Silva at the Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout, Woy Woy Oval, 2010. In the background left to right: Auntie Marion Russell (Quinton's mother), Mitchell "Mim" Houghton, Jamie Ingram, Alan Daly. Photograph by Amanda James. Collection of Quinton Silva.





*Waratahs and Wallabies*, 2009, by Natalie Bateman. A painting by the artist, now held in the La Perouse Museum collections, depicting her family – the Ella family – sporting achievements. Including her mother and older sisters playing for the Black Swans (Goonyas), her nan in vigoro (Rosellas), and three uncles who played for Australia in rugby union (Wallabies).



Matraville High's Ella brothers, 1974. Photograph by Kevin Berry. Courtesy of Sydney Morning Herald. FXJ161093

## UNCLE KENNY KJ FOSTER

Uncle Kenny Foster has lived in La Perouse all his life. He has been involved in sport since he was 5 years old, starting with rugby league in the Under-5s at La Perouse and playing league into his thirties. He then took up coaching league and touch footy, and started playing golf. He formed the Sydney United Aboriginal Social Golf Club and has played golf all over NSW.



Uncle Kenny KJ Foster, 2022.  
Photograph by Glenn Duffus.

*"In the old days, they had the wooden sticks and now they got the new beaut graphite shafts. So golf in La Perouse has come on leaps and bounds. We got to a stage where we were really picking up numbers in a big way. And we all got a golf day at the New South Wales Open and we invited other groups to come to play. And from there it just blossomed, right across New South Wales. We got invited to go and help guys in Newcastle, Maitland, Taree, Rutherford, Dubbo, Nowra, even as far west as Forbes to help them set up their own social clubs... There was always that fear of, not only racism but the way the public looked at us. It wasn't till we really started playing football together, rugby league, and the club itself – La Perouse United. That for me was the catalyst for unity in a big, big way. La Perouse United – we never forget the words and we sing it every time we win. And if it wasn't for La Perouse Rugby League United, we wouldn't be the sort of community that we are."*



## JASMIN ALLENDE

Jasmin Allende is a star rugby league player for La Perouse and a mentor to young women in the La Perouse Community. Jasmin played rugby league for La Perouse Panthers Under-6s to Under-12s Mixed Junior Competition. She played in 2014 for the women's competition, and in the same year for the NSW Indigenous All-Stars and the Redfern All-Blacks. In 2018 Jasmin debuted with the South Sydney Rabbitohs and in 2019 she debuted with the Sydney Roosters, and the Prime Minister XIII Australian Team.



Jasmin Allende, 2022. Photograph by Glenn Duffus.

*"Sport is massive in the La Perouse Community and it's always been something that we all feel connected to. We all go to the Koori knockouts and see mob and all that kind of stuff, and then also just having that space outside of work. I have always seen it as an outlet to go to and just be around my mates and have fun, which I love. And then getting the chance to play rep footy... Getting the chance to play all the different rep teams. It gave me the chance to represent my community, which I loved... There's so many young girls playing for La Perouse right now, it's amazing. And they get the chance to play from Under-6s through to being women. So it doesn't stop when they're 12. They're the future of the game."*



Jasmin Allende playing representative rugby league, 2019. Collection of Jasmin Allende.



## AUNTY LORRAINE LESTER

Aunty Lorraine started playing sport in school, describing it as 'whatever was going.' She played softball, basketball and football, and was part of a team that travelled up to Mount Druitt to play their women's footy team. As an adult, she began playing vigoro with the Rosellas. The team travelled all over the state and represented New South Wales in Tasmania and Queensland. Lorraine's whole family played vigoro and she retired from the sport in her sixties. Her grandson Blake Taaffe is part of the next generation of sportspeople from La Perouse and plays with South Sydney.



Aunty Lorraine Lester, 2023.  
Photograph by Glenn Duffus.



*"First time I represented New South Wales, I think it was in Queensland... We went out to enjoy ourselves and the other team, Queensland, they enjoyed having us there. Tassie, we went to Tassie, represented New South Wales down there... It was a good life. My sister played, my daughter played, and cousins... It was a family game. They were the good days and we were all family, really. We were all good friends. And we had good friends that we played against, too."*

## AUNTY MARILYN RUSSELL

(interviewed by her sister Aunty  
Marion Russell)

*"Hi, my name is Marilyn Russell. I was born in Crown St Hospital and was raised in La Perouse in a tin shack under old fig tree going towards Laperouse beach. I went to Lapa School and in second class I was introduced to softball and I fell in love with it and I played basketball. As I got older, in the year 1974 the Lapa girls formed a rugby league football team and asked Ivan Simon to coach the girls' team.*

*In the year 1974 I couldn't play because I was pregnant but the next year I played. In the year 1976 we were asked to play for South Sydney Boys, Henson Park, borrowing the Under-21s jerseys and Mt Druitt girls represented Newtown Jets. (The Lapa rugby league girls and Mt Druitt girls were all related).*

*After football folded, we were introduced to vigoro from Aunty Marge and Aunty Velma. From there we represented NSW against Queensland and Tasmania. The Juniors also came up and joined us as well. I had the pleasure of playing with my daughter Carrine both representing NSW."*



Aunty Marilyn Russell and Aunty Lorraine Lester at NSW Vigoro Sports awards, n.d. Collection of the Russell Family.

## GLEN KUNGA KELLY

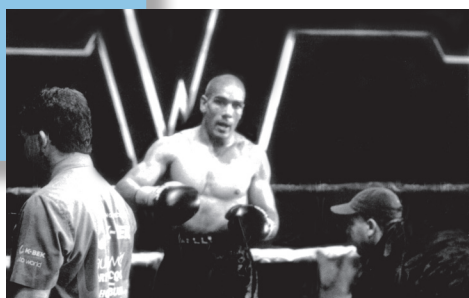
Glen Kelly is a community member of La Perouse. He started out playing rugby league, but around 24 years old he followed his brother Kevin Kelly into boxing. Under the guidance of trainer George Reno, Glen won the New South Wales light-heavyweight title in 1997. The following year he claimed the Australian title. In 1999 Glen fought overseas for the Intercontinental Boxing Federation light-heavyweight title, which he won. He then fought for the Pan Pacific title, which he won, putting him in the top 13 boxers in the world. He fought Roy Jones Jr for the undisputed Light Heavyweight Title in 2007 in Miami in front of 12,000 people. Both Kelly brothers, Glen and Kevin, fought on the world stage and were the first Aboriginal champion boxers since Lionel Rose.



Glen Kelly during his boxing career,  
n.d. Collection of Glen Kelly.



Glen Kelly, 2022. Photograph by  
Glenn Duffus.



*"I just took it up really to get fit at the start and then it blossomed into what it did. I remember fighting Garth Cushion at East Leagues club, and I think I stopped him in the eleventh round or something. No one was really giving me a chance at the start except for my trainer, George Reno. And I won that, then we started moving forward.... I also beat Ruben Kennedy for the New South Wales Title. Rubes was an Alexander Rovers boy and he was known for his real toughness. And everyone was telling me, "Oh, be careful, like, he's heaps tough..." I mean, he never really landed a shot on me, not one I don't think, and I got through him.... Sport gives you a lot of respect. Respect for others. Respect for yourself. It gives you a lot of discipline."*

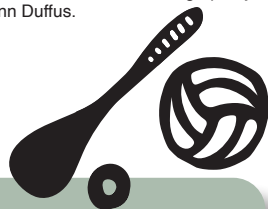


## CARRINE LIDDELL

Carrine has been playing sports her whole life. She started with netball and softball in school and continued with netball afterwards. She began playing vigoro when she was ten, joining her mother on the team, and played both netball and vigoro up until her thirties. Carrine is passionate about the Koori Knockout and believes strongly in the benefit of team sport to communities. She founded the La Perouse Youth Haven in 2004 to support and encourage young people by providing cultural, educational and recreational activities. The Haven rugby league teams have played in the Battle of Countries and Kids and Care Cup.



Carrine Liddell, 2023. Photograph by Glenn Duffus.



*"Vigoro is a rite of passage that we can do as we get older... It's something that's been amazing for our community... It's pretty sad that we don't have [vigoro] anymore. Because it did so much more than sport for the women in our community. We were together every Saturday, you know, religiously. It provided a lot of support to women who were going through tough times. And it also got us out and about and out of La Pa. And we travelled a lot of places... Because I know and believe in sport so much in our community, we have a local youth service. And the local youth service has sport embedded in it... They get to play in a team sport together, so you know, Battle of Countries, Kids and Care Cup, and then, of course, the Knockout. The Youth Haven really supports and encourages our young people in sport and we just try and find different ways to provide opportunities for them to play in a team sport, you know, representing the Youth Haven."*

## UNCLE ASSEN CHINA TIMBERY

Uncle Assen is a member of the Aboriginal Bidjigal Tribe in La Perouse. He was born in La Perouse, as were his parents, and their grandparents. When he was young, he played rugby league for the La Perouse local side before branching into sailing. He has sailed in New South Wales for nearly forty years.

Uncle Assen has sailed in two Sydney-to-Hobart races, the first time on the Southern Excellence, and the second on the Tribal Warrior. He taught four of the five Aboriginal crew of the Southern Excellence how to sail and helped gather an all-Indigenous crew for the 2016 campaign with the Tribal Warrior.



Uncle Assen China Timbery, n.d.  
Collection of Uncle Assen Timbery.

*"One of my memories I'll never forget was the first time we sailed into Constitution Dock at Hobart. And we were about 300 yards off the dock and all you could see were Aboriginal flags... It was an incredible feeling. And then to turn around and do it with five of the blokes that you taught. It was just unbelievable... Wayne Jones came around, a bloke I taught to sail. He said, "I got this idea of putting an Aboriginal crew in the Hobart I want you to come." So we foraged around for a crew and we had a really good time, but we were deadly serious about it. And we tried to pick an Aboriginal crew that represented NSW. We went to Moree and two guys from [there] tried out and they've never seen water before.... And I said to one of them "Have you ever been on the water before?" He said, "Yeah, I went on a Manly Ferry once." And I thought oh well, you'll do! And he was keen as mustard."*



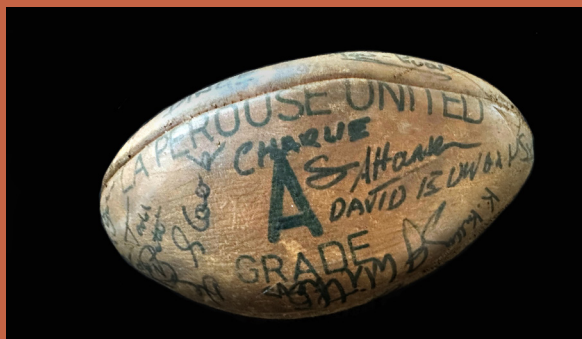
Uncle Assen China Timbery on the *Tribal Warrior*, 27 January 2017. Photograph by Paul Bramble. Courtesy of Paul Bramble.





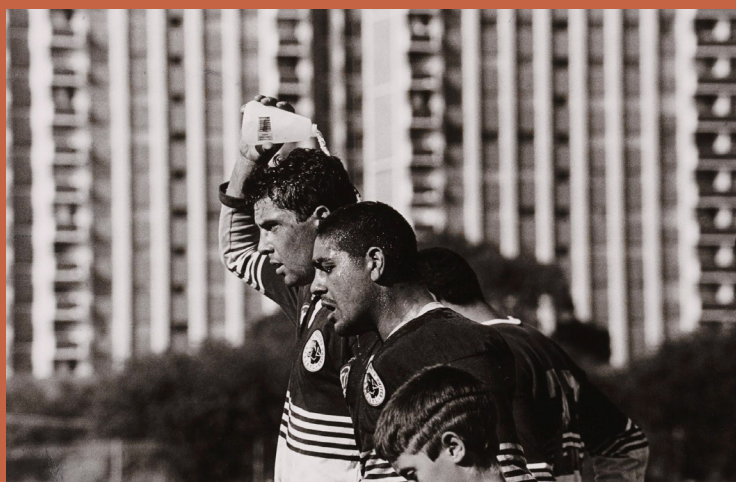


"Come on Cleo, I'm bloody dying here!" 1991 from the series *It's a man's game*. Photograph by Peter Yanada McKenzie. Eora, South-east region; Anaiwan, Northern Riverine region. Courtesy of Art Gallery of New South Wales, purchased with funds provided by the Aboriginal Collection Benefactors 2008. 274.2008.7.



Signed football from the 1991 La Prouse winning A-Grade Final team. Loaned by the Ingrey Family

"Well I'm glad that game is over" 1991 from the series *It's a man's game*. Photograph by Peter Yanada McKenzie. Eora, South-east region; Anaiwan, Northern Riverine region. Courtesy of Art Gallery of New South Wales, purchased with funds provided by the Aboriginal Collection Benefactors 2008. 274.2008.13.





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