

MEDIA RELEASE: MABO DAY CELEBRATIONS 2020 ARE GOING VIRTUAL!

SEQ MABO DAY WORKING GROUP

Celuia Mabo, Nancy Bamaga, Charles Passi, Leon Filewood, Murray Saylor, Daniel Tapau

We give our Love & Respect to the Traditional Owners, Custodians, Elders across these Lands



'My name is Edward Mabo, but my island name is Koiki. My family has occupied the land here for hundreds of years before Captain Cook was born. They are now trying to say I cannot own it. The present Queensland Government is a friendly enemy of the black people as they like to give you the bible and take away your land. We should stop calling them boss. We must be proud to live in our own palm leaf houses like our fathers before us.' Eddie Koiki Mabo

Due to the COVID-19, South East Queensland Mabo Day Celebrations are going VIRTUAL!

The MABO DAY CELEBRATIONS 2020 Facebook page will be the main portal for all events planned as a part of National Reconciliation Week.

<https://www.facebook.com/MaboDayCelebrations2020/>

The South East Queensland Mabo Day Working Group have connected with National Reconciliation Week, Reconciliation Queensland (RQ), Arts Front, Queensland Performing Arts (QPAC), Teralba Park Stolen Generations Support Group Inc, Inala Wangarra, Digi Youth Arts and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to bring MABO DAY CELEBRATIONS 2020 online.

From 12pm Monday 25th Many tune into Reconciliation Week events including Arts Front in conversation with Elders Aunty Flo Watson OAM and Nancy Bamaga. On 7.30am Tuesday 26th May join Teralba Park Stolen Generations Support Group Inc for the Virtual National Sorry Day Commemoration.

From 9am Wednesday 3rd June #MaboDay virtual events begin with the streaming 2019 Mabo Oration with Luke Pearson (Indigenous X) at QPAC.

At 12pm join the MABO DAY CELEBRATIONS 2020 Facebook page for **The Mabo Day Webinar** hosted by Rhianna Patrick – Torres Strait Islander woman with 20+ years as a media professional. Rhianna has worked across Indigenous media, communications, radio, television documentaries and news and currently presents a national ABC Radio programme. Speakers include Charles Passi – Visionary Elder from Mer (Murray) Island, Torres Strait and son of David Passi, one of the plaintiffs in the Mabo case, Dr Rose Elu - Elder from Saibai Island and campaigner on climate change who has presented papers at many forums and universities around the world, most recently at the UN in Paris; Kevin Smith – Chief Executive Officer of Queensland South Native Title Services and Hannah Duncan - Lawyer and the granddaughter of the late Eddie Mabo.

At 2pm Join the MABO DAY CELEBRATIONS Facebook page for the **#MDC2020 Virtual Gathering** with Welcome to Country by Gaja Kerry Charlton - Goo'enpul-Yuggera and Ngunda- Gabi Gabi Goori teacher, facilitator and researcher of family and community history. Acknowledge of Country by Patty Mills. Patty is the three-time Olympian and NBA Champion, the San Antonio Spurs point guard is the only Indigenous Australian to have won an NBA Championship. Performances by Jessie Lloyd, Rochelle Pitt and Joey Tapau. At 7.30pm **Digi Youth Arts** brings the voices of Torres Strait Islander youth to the front with a very special Mabo Day Virtual Event.

On June 3, 1992 – 28 years ago to the day – the High Court historically ruled that the lands of this continent were not terra nullius, overturning the 200 year old myth. Terra Nullius was the legal understanding that prior to British Colonial settlement in 1788, this land was “empty” (or literally “nobody's land” in Latin) and therefore free to be claimed by the British Empire, despite the presence of between 750,000 and 1 million Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who had lived on the continent for more than 80,000 years.

MABO DAY, on Wednesday June 3rd 2020, falls at the end of RECONCILIATION WEEK - which begins on May 27th, the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum. Usually for MABO DAY celebrations our communities hold events. We celebrate with our music, we get together, we sing, we eat, we remember Eddie Koiki Mabo and how in May 1982 he and fellow Murray (Mer) Islanders David Passi, Sam Passi, James Rice and Celuia Salee campaign for Indigenous land rights overturned the legal myth of “terra nullius” which systematically denied land and human rights to Aboriginal & Torres Strait peoples for too long.



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ALL EVENTS CONNECTED VIA MABO DAY CELEBRATIONS 2020 FB PAGE

RECONCILIATION WEEK VIRTUAL EVENTS:

Monday 25th May 2020 | 12pm

We have partnered with Arts Front to bring you a very special Little Lunch Online. In conversation with Aunty Flo Watson of the Teralba Park Stolen Generations Support Group Inc. and Nancy Bamaga of Bamaga Productions on the events and feelings of Sorry Day and where do we go from here.

Link: <https://artsfront.com/event/37103-little-lunch-online-llol#!tab=lunches>

Tuesday 26th May 2020 | 7am - 8.30am

Virtual National Sorry Day Commemoration - Teralba Park Stolen Generations Support Group. In 2020 we will continue to come together virtually to remember Australia's Stolen Generations and support those still healing.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/teralbaparkstolengen/>

Friday 29 May 2020 | 9 – 10pm

IN CONCERT TOGETHER: DEADLY MUSOS LIVE IN CONCERT. Busby Marou, Alice Skye & Jimblah take part in an hour of music tunes and chat hosted by Christine Anu on her National Evenings show on ABC Radio and on Facebook Live – ABC and Reconciliation Australia Facebook pages. **Link:**

<https://www.facebook.com/ReconciliationAus/>

MABO DAY VIRTUAL EVENTS - Wednesday 3rd June 2020:

8.30am: Welcome to Country with Gaja Kerry Charlton

8.45am: Acknowledgement of Country by Patty Mills

9am – 11.30am: Streaming 2019 Mabo Oration with Luke Pearson (Indigenous X) at QPAC

12pm - 1pm: The Mabo Day Webinar

Hosted by Rhianna Patrick with speakers Charles Passi, Dr Rose Elu, Kevin Smith & Hannah Duncan.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/MaboDayCelebrations2020/>

2pm - 3pm: #MDC2020 Virtual Gathering

Over the past weeks we have collected video messages from all over the world. Come and join us to celebrate our #MaboDay virtual event. With Welcome to Country by Gaja Kerry Charlton. Acknowledgement of Country by Patty Mills. Performances by Jessie Lloyd, Rochelle Pitt & Joey Tapau.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/MaboDayCelebrations2020/>

7.30pm – 8.30pm: DIGI YOUTH ARTS presents MABO DAY

We are very excited to have partnered with Digi Youth Arts for their Virtual Event featuring Torres Strait Islander Youth! Digi Youth Arts creates change through artistic excellence, advocacy and ensuring our young people are at the core of all that they do. Through socially and politically engaged arts practice, Digi Youth Arts continues culture by encouraging, documenting and sharing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/digiyouharts/>

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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