first nations **MEDIA** AUSTRALIA

Shaping Our
DIGITAL
FUTURES

Indigenous Digital Leadership Forum 2021

Sponsored by

Supported by

BROADBAND
FOR THE BUSH ALLIANCE

Hosted by

first
nations
MEDIA
AUSTRALIA

Sponsored by

accan
Australian Communications
Consumer Action Network

Supported by

BROADBAND
FOR THE BUSH ALLIANCE

Indigenous Digital Leadership Forum 2021 | LISMORE NSW

The Indigenous Digital Leadership Forum, formerly known as the Indigenous Focus Day, is a dedicated event hosted by First Nations Media Australia. It brings Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people together to share experiences and ideas about internet connectivity, digital tools, digital content and digital rights.

It provides a space to elevate the role of First Nations voices in shaping the digital transformation plans and investments of government and business. It also provides a platform for our communities to talk about our unique needs and digital aspirations.

The Indigenous Digital Leadership Forum is unique in its focus on digital inclusion needs and challenges at a local level. It also creates a pathway to provide input into policy needs at a state and national level. An outcome from the forum is to develop tangible recommendations to take to government and the industry to improve digital access, affordability, skills and opportunities.

A key focus of the forum is on remote and regional Australian where isolation, geography, language and cultural diversity present challenges for digital inclusion and unique and locally led solutions are needed.

The Indigenous Digital Leadership Forum will include speakers, presentations and case studies highlighting the innovation, ideas and ingenuity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, communities and a variety of organisations and collaborations. These will provide the background for facilitated small group discussions involving all participants. The Indigenous Digital Leadership Forum is the evolution of the Indigenous Focus Day that was a part of the Broadband for the Bush Forum.

The event has been held since 2013 and while the name as changed the forum will continue as an important day of knowledge sharing and collective voice.

A key focus of the forum is on remote and regional Australian communities and homelands where isolation, geography, language and cultural diversity present challenges for digital inclusion and unique and locally led solutions are needed.

Indigenous Digital Leadership Forum 2021
LISMORE NSW I Tuesday 4 May 2021

Time	Session	Presenter
8:30 AM	**Arrival and Registration**	
9:00 AM	Welcome to Country	Tracey King
	Welcome address	Naomi Moran | Deputy Chairperson First Nations Media Australia
	Opening keynote address	Pat Turner
	Overview of the day	Dr Heron Loban | Griffith University
	Remote learning with inDigiMOB	AJ | Ngukurr Learning Centre
	Talking big issues in many languages	Kumanjayi S Hodder-Watt | PAW Media
	Connecting Wilcannia during COVID	Brendon Adams | Wilcannia River Radio
	Q&A	
	Breakout Group Discussion 1	Communicating through the lockdown
	Reporting back	
10:30 AM	**MORNING TEA**	
11:00 AM	Keynote address 2	Christy Ditchburn | Telstra
	Shouting out to the Torres Strait Islands	Diat Alferink | TSIMA
	Aboriginal art workers keeping culture with digital skills (Zoom)	Marlene Chisolm, Penny Watson, Bronwyn Taylor | Desart
	Connecting stories, language and culture across the Country	Jaja Dare | Manager, indigiTUBE
	Language classes at a distance	Annalee Pope | First Languages Australia
	Q&A	
	Breakout Group Discussion 2	Relevant applications and services.
	Reporting back	
12:30 PM	**LUNCH**	
01:15 PM	Keynote address 3	Teresa Corbin | ACCAN
	Mobile Media - Training in the Bush (zoom)	Rebecca McLean | Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (Zoom)
	How to be a Software Engineer at Google	Tamina Pitt | Google
	Common Ground (Zoom)	Rona Glynn-McDonald | Common Ground
	Going Online: Closing the Digital Divide between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students in the age of COVID-19	Dr Scott Winch | World Vision Australia
	Deadly Digital Communities	Lyn Thompson | State Library of Queensland
	Q&A	
	Breakout Group Discussion 3	Indigenous digital engagement.
	Reporting back	
2:30 PM	**AFTERNOON TEA**	
3:00PM	NBN Co – Addressing the Digital Inclusion Gap	Sam Dimarco | NBN Co
	Securing and planning systems for our future *First Nations Technology Council (zoom)*	Leigh Harris | ingeous Studios
	Mapping Digital Inclusion in Remote Indigenous Communities	Daniel Featherstone | RMIT University
	Q&A	
	Group Discussion	Action plan
	Reporting back	
	Review findings and action plan	
4:45 PM	**WRAP UP AND THANK YOU**	

Group discussions

The group discussions will focus on identifying strategies to address the key challenges to digital inclusion for remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers. These include:

- *availability of communications infrastructure*
- *access to internet facilities and online services*
- *affordability*
- *awareness - digital literacy skills and understanding of cyber-safety issues*
- *culturally appropriate training, tools, content and services.*

The aim is to build upon outcomes of previous Indigenous Focus Days and collectively contribute to the Government's proposed Indigenous Digital Inclusion Plan with ideas that will have an impact for remote and regional First Nations communities.

Throughout the day there will be four facilitated discussion groups focused on:

1

Communicating through the lockdown

What issues were brought to light when digital technologies and online communication became more required during the COVID lockdown period?

What applications or technologies were relied upon more?

Were there any unexpected benefits of more online communication?

What will be important for First Nations communities and people in terms of future technologies?

2

Relevant applications and services

What digital applications and tools have become necessary in remote organisations?

Why are these better than others? Are they more affordable?

What are the implications of moving towards greater use of these?

How could they be more relevant, appropriate or effective?

How much does privacy and online safety impact choice and broader use of technologies and online services?

3

Indigenous digital engagement

What obstacles are in the way of greater Indigenous employment in digital jobs?

How can we increase the role of Indigenous people and organisations in skills development and knowledge transfer?

What might applications and technologies look like if designed with Indigenous knowledge and cultures at their centre?

4

Action Plan

What are the key actions needed to close the gap on Indigenous Digital Inclusion in remote and regional Australia?

Welcome to Country

Tracey King
Bundjalung nation

Tracey King is a Widjabul/Wiabul woman from the Bundjalung nation.

Her bloodlines, kinships and connections are Widjabul/Wiabul, Githabul, Nyangbal, Arakwal and Dunghutti.

Tracey is a Koori Mail Board Member and Chairperson of the Bundjalung Tribal Society, one of the five owning organisations of The Koori Mail. Tracey is a Board Member of the Ngulingah Local Aboriginal Land Council.

She is a strong advocate for land rights and building partnerships for the advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Tracey will welcome delegates to the Indigenous Digital Leadership Forum (IDLF) in Lismore and acknowledge that the IDLF is proudly hosted on the lands of the Widjabul/Wiabul people of the Bundjalung nation.

MC and Facilitator

Dr Heron Loban
Griffith University

Dr Loban is a Torres Strait Islander woman with family connections to Mabuiag and Boigu. She is an academic, former lawyer and expert in Indigenous law and justice issues. As a lawyer she practiced in commercial law, native title law and criminal law. Dr Loban also has held a number of key positions in community-based, not-for-profit companies and sat on numerous State, Territory and Commonwealth advisory committees on a range of issues relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Australia. Her research focuses on consumer protection and Indigenous people and communities.

Dr Loban is currently a Senior Lecturer, School of Humanities, Languages and Social Science, at Griffith University.

Welcome address

Naomi Moran
FNMA Deputy Chairperson
Koori Mail Newspaper General Manager

Naomi Moran is a Nyangbal, Arakwal and Dunghutti woman from New South Wales, and is the General Manager of Australia's only independent Indigenous newspaper, the Koori Mail. Her career in Indigenous media spans over 20 years, and includes experience in print, television and radio.   At just fourteen years old, in April 1998, Naomi joined the Koori Mail as a trainee office worker, which resulted in a ten-year journey working for the paper in various roles and departments throughout the business including advertising, sales, marketing and editorial. In 2008 she pursued her career goals in Indigenous Media, joining the communications team at NITV, Australia's only Indigenous TV station, and then went on to explore working in radio with a joint position with both the Brisbane Indigenous Media Association and the National Indigenous Radio Service, in Brisbane. In April 2016, Naomi returned to the Koori Mail, with the Koori Mail Board of Directors appointing her as General Manager. Naomi has a passion for supporting Indigenous youth with employment and career pathways, by developing and delivering in-school programs and mentoring for students throughout the northern NSW region.

Opening keynote address

Patricia Turner AM
National Aboriginal Community
Controlled Health Organisation.

The daughter of an Arrernte man and a Gurdanji woman, Pat was raised in Alice Springs. As CEO of NACCHO, she is at the forefront of community efforts to Close the Gap in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Pat has over 40 years' experience in senior leadership positions in government, business and academia including being the only Aboriginal person, only woman and longest serving CEO of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Commission (ATSIC). Amongst her many appointments, she also spent 18 months as Monash Chair of Australian Studies, Georgetown University, Washington DC, and was inaugural CEO of NITV. Pat is the Coalition of Peaks Convenor and Co-Chair of the Joint Council on Closing the Gap. Pat holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Canberra where she was awarded the University prize for Development Studies.

Christy Ditchburn | Telstra

Christy Ditchburn is a Sustainability Principal in Telstra's Sustainability, External Affairs and Legal Services team located in Melbourne. Christy leads a team of sustainability experts focused on Responsible Business and Digital Inclusion.

Christy has extensive experience in both the telecommunications and power sectors, both in Australia and Asia. Prior to her role in the Sustainability team, Christy was a senior lawyer in Telstra's legal team supporting the Wholesale, Enterprise, Retail and Operations business units. Prior to working for Telstra in Melbourne, Christy supported Telstra's international operations in Hong Kong where she advised the Asia team on all aspects of the operation, including contracting, anti-bribery and corruption, risk, corporate governance and privacy. Prior to working for Telstra, Christy worked for the China Light & Power (CLP) Group (in Hong Kong) as Senior Corporate Lawyer in CLP's Group Transactions team. Christy advised on the legal implications for Hong Kong, Australian and international transactions (including India, Vietnam and Thailand), IPOs, as well as sustainability, environmental, climate change and carbon trading issues. Christy was also the Company Secretary of all of the TRUenergy group subsidiaries.

Christy began her career at Mallesons Stephen Jaques (now King & Wood Mallesons) and holds a Bachelor of Science (Chemistry)/Laws (Hons) from Monash University in Melbourne, Australia.

Are Telecommunications Providers meeting the needs of Indigenous Consumers?

1. A brief introduction to ACCAN and our membership, main goals and priorities related to Indigenous consumers
2. Brief outline of ACCAN Advisory Forums, and summary of meeting of the Indigenous Advisory Forum
3. Overview of relevant recent ACCAN consumer representation and research, including 'Remote Indigenous Communications Review'.
4. Misselling issues and update on Telstra's historical issues with misselling to Indigenous communities.

Teresa Corbin | ACCAN

Teresa Corbin is CEO of ACCAN, Australia's peak body for communications consumers. She has many years of experience working as a consumer advocate in telecommunications in Australia. Teresa currently sits on several bodies including the ACMA Consumer Consultative Forum and she chairs Standards Australia's Consumer Policy Committee. Previously she was on the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman Board and Council. Teresa holds a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Linguistics from La Trobe University and is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Remote Learning with InDigimob
Update on the Commonwealth's activities to support Indigenous digital inclusion.

AJ | Ngukurr Learning Centre
Andrea is a proud Aboriginal woman, a descendant of Waramungu and Larrakia elders, with strong family connections throughout the Northern Territory. Andrea is currently Assistant Secretary, Culture Branch within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Prior to this, Andrea served as the Deputy Executive Officer with Reconciliation Australia.

Talking big issues in many languages
Discussing the difficulties of translating important information with a range of language groups (e.g. COVID-19 updates, pulling apart fake news), with limitations on internet or phone service between communities.

S Kumanjayi Hodder-Watt | InDigiMOB, PAW Media
Kumanjayi is a Lardil man that has worked in Aboriginal Media in regional-remote NT and NW Queensland for over 20 yrs including Caama Radio/Productions, Central Land Council, Mirndiyan Gununa and photojournalism for IndigenousX, NITV Online, Koori Mail, Time Online & The Guardian.

Connecting Wilcannia during COVID
1. The struggle and the impact during the COVID period
2. How WRR and Community came together to overcome the issue
3. The challenges and success we face as a community

Brendon Adams | Wilcannia River Radio
Brendon is a proud young Ku-Ku Yalangii (Cape York) and Woppaburra(North Keppel Island) man and currently the Site Manager For Redie Organisations which includes his beloved Wilcannia River Radio. The Station has devoted themselves to their community and country.

Brendon also has committed to delivery community programs such Youth Nations of Origin festival, NAIDOC, Fight for our BAAKA Our Country - Our Lives Festival (Currently)

Wilcannia River Radio are very proud recently won the Prestige Tony Staley Award in Broadcasting at the 2019 Community Broadcasting of Australian Association.

Finally he is proud father of 7 kids and grandfather of 4 grand daughters. In Wilcannia he is known as BB Adams.

Shout out of the Torres Strait Islands

Connectivity in the Torres Strait: how it can be improved, what can be done, and how hard it can be to set up a Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Service in the Torres Strait.

Diat Alferink | TSIMA

Diat is from the Kala Lagaw Ya Language group from Badu and Mabiuag Islands. Born in Port Augusta and raised in Outback South Australia. Diat has been an active member of the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts community over the past 25 years specifically in youth and community events, festivals forums and arts programs throughout Australia as an arts worker, performer, event manager and cultural awareness trainer.

Over the past 10 years Diat has lived in Far North Queensland and the Torres Strait. Previously she was is employed as the Arts Development Officer with Culture Art and Heritage at Torres Strait Regional Authority now is the Torres Strait Islanders Media Association's Operations Manager where she has been for the last 4 ½ years. Diat is passionate about reconciliation the contribution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Arts and First Media can make to improving the lives for all Australians.

Aboriginal art workers keeping culture with digital skills

The Desart Art Worker Program has observed that digital skills – access to computers, digital cameras, iPads and the SAM database – are the "glue" that engages and keeps art workers in their art centre jobs. The SAM database, developed by Desart, is not only an important management system to catalogue artworks and track sales, and protect ICIP through provenance records, but is an extremely valuable keeping place of cultural knowledge and imagery for each community. We at Desart champion art workers to be the creators of that digital content – to record the stories, photograph the artists and art works. As family of the artists they are the correct people to use digital skills to protect and maintain their culture, and to be a voice for the artists. We will present a short film written and directed by an art worker to illustrate her role in the art centre with digital skills being of central importance.

Marlene Chisolm, Penny Watson, Bronwyn Taylor | Desart

Marlene Chisholm is the Art Worker Program Manager at Desart, a position she has held since 2013. She brings a wealth of experience in education and is passionate about building capacity and increasing employment and career pathways for Aboriginal people in the arts.

Connecting stories, language and culture across the Country

A digital meeting place for First Nations language and stories; a unified space to share an evolving and living culture.

Jaja Dare, Manager | IndigiTUBE

JAJA is a Wiradjuri woman with an aptitude for innovation. Manager of indigiTUBE, previous Label Manager for CAAMA Music, podcast producer and artist with expertise in design and project delivery within the music, festival and arts sectors.

Language classes at a distance

In these time of COVID-19, language programs nationally have been exploring creative ways to continue language teaching through digital platforms. COVID-19 presents a huge threat to our old people, who often are the sole holders of our precious language knowledge. Keeping our old people safe is the number one priority. What digital tools are being used to help make the most of the time we have to learn and teach our languages?

Annalee Pope | First Languages Australia

First Languages Australia Project Officer, Annalee Pope, is a Waka Waka woman from Central Queensland. She began working to revive and strengthen Aboriginal languages in 2013 when she took on the Coordinator role at the Central Queensland Language Centre. Annalee has since become a mentor for young language champions and is using her skills and experience to guide and support young language workers with their language aspirations..

Mobile Media - Training in the Bush

Rebecca will be speaking about the Mobile Media Training she is currently delivering to Aboriginal Rangers from remote communities in the Northern Territory. The idea is to give new skills around media coverage and digital story telling using the tools they already have in their kits, such as Tablets and Smartphones.

Rebecca McLean | Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education

Rebecca has worked in the Film, Television and Radio Industry for over 25 years directing and producing short films, documentaries and magazine television including ABCTV, SBS, Channel 9 and 10. For the past three years she has worked for Batchelor Institute as a Media Lecturer in Darwin and Alice Springs.

How to be a Software Engineer at Google

In this presentation I will retrace the steps on my path to becoming a software engineer in the Google Maps team. I'll reflect on some of the challenges that I have faced along the way and the resources and people that helped me to develop the skills and abilities necessary for success in this dynamic and highly technical workplace. I'll also talk about my passion for seeing more Indigenous people succeed in STEM careers, and the initiatives I have started at Google for promoting this goal.

Tamina Pitt | Google Australia

Tamina Pitt is a Wuthathi and Meriam woman who was born and lives on Bidjigal country in Sydney. She is a software engineer on Google Maps where her team builds the directions experience. Tamina earned a bachelor degree in computer engineering from the University of New South Wales in 2019.

What is Common Ground?

An introduction to Common Ground – its beginnings as an organisation, the gap that Common Ground aims to fill, and the key projects currently in progress.

Rona Glynn-Mcdonald | Common Ground

Rona is a proud Kaytetye woman from Central Australia who works with high impact organisations to create systems that centre First Nations people, knowledge and solutions. Rona is the founding CEO of Common Ground and bring years of professional experience working across First Nations organisations and not for profits.

Rona was previously the Director of First Nations at YLab, a social enterprise that puts young people with diverse lived experiences at the centre of designing and developing innovative and impactful solutions to complex social issues. Over her career, Rona has worked in policy at the Central Land Council, the Research Unit for Indigenous Languages at the University of Melbourne, Reconciliation Victoria, and the Foundation for Young Australians.

Going Digital: Closing the Digital Divide between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students in the age of COVID

First Nations students are extremely disadvantaged to online access with lower internet affordability and coverage, poorer access to devices, data instability and lower digital literacy. One in four First Nations households don't have internet access at home. For too many First Nations students COVID-19 school closures and move to online learning stopped their education altogether. COVID-19 has accelerated the digital revolution across many sectors, including education. There's an opportunity for governments and the private sector to work together with First Nations communities to ensure coverage, affordability and access.

Dr Scott Winch | World Vision Australia

Dr Scott Winch is Wiradjuri man and the First Nations Senior Policy Advisor for World Vision Australia. His work primarily focuses on First Nations child rights including education and justice. Scott has over 20 years' experience in Aboriginal affairs from local community development and advocacy to international research and projects.

Deadly Digital Communities

State Library of Queensland has partnered with Telstra since 2017 to help address the digital inclusion gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Queensland. The Deadly Digital Communities Program initiative is encouraging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to dream big through digital literacy to create and unlock new opportunities and new possibilities for themselves and their community.

Deadly Digital Communities is a community-based digital literacy and technology training program that is being delivered through Queensland Local Government Indigenous Knowledge Centres or public library services.

Lyn Thompson | State Library of Queensland

Lyn has been part of the State Library of Queensland team for 15 years and works with public libraries and Indigenous Knowledges Centres across Queensland to develop, deliver, and promote inclusive and accessible library programs, services, and collections for the whole community.

NBN Co - Addressing the Digital Inclusion Gap

In the session we will cover the 3 pillars of the nbn Indigenous Affairs strategy to address the gap; Connect, Engage and Digital Literacy

Sam Dimarco | NBN Co

Sam leads a team that is responsible for managing key stakeholder relationships across industry, business, special interest groups and regional Australia. He is also responsible for community engagement programs. Sam is a 25+ year veteran of the Australian telecommunications scene. Having started his career designing and building networks to later focus on marketing, sales and communications.

Securing and planning systems for our future

Leigh will present on the establishment of a national peak body for First Nations Technology. First presented in 2018 at the Perth Broadband for the Bush Forum the First Nations Digital Technology Council of Australia, would guide, advocate and ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities and organisations are secure in the ever-changing world of digital technologies.

Full presentation http://firstnationstechnologycouncil.com.au

Leigh Harris | ingeous studios

Leigh is a proud Gungarri & Kanolu man from South East and Central Queensland who is also proud of his Italian and Welsh heritage.

He has been active in the design, digital creatives and ITC space for over 20 years and owns and operates ingeous studios a multidisciplinary digital design studio.

In 2009 Leigh along with business partner Stephen Pelham developed Australia's first Indigenous developed app and more recently he was the developer that assisted Arrernte cultural advisors create the Indigemoji app which was an Honoree for a 2020 Webby Award and was a 2020 Prix Ars Electronica Honorary.

In 2020 he founded with the support of NorthSite Contemporary Arts and John T Reid Charitable Trust, IndigeDesignLabs (Indigenous Design Labs) an experimental Indigenous creative and technology learning lab in Cairns.
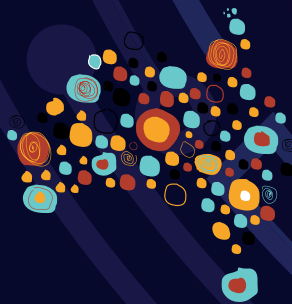
Mapping Digital Inclusion in Remote Indigenous Communities

People living in Australia's 1100 remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are likely to be among the most digitally excluded Australians. Yet there has been limited data collection to measure communications access and use in remote Australia, leaving a gap in the Australian Digital inclusion Index to date. This 4-year Telstra funded research project seeks to fill this gap in measuring Indigenous digital inclusion, map changes over time, and develop local strategies and policy recommendations to improve access, affordability and ability in remote communities.

Daniel Featherstone | RMIT University

Dr Daniel Featherstone recently began at RMIT researching digital inclusion in remote Indigenous communities. He was General Manager of First Nations Media Australia from 2012-19 and Archiving Projects Manager to April 2021. He previously managed remote media organisation Ngaanyatjarra Media in WA from 2001-2010.