

# MINGALETTA PROGRAM COORDINATOR



## **MINGALETTA Program Coordinator Aunty Di O'Brien**

Dianne O'Brien, or Aunty Di, as she is more well known, has held many senior positions in government organisations and has also worked in legal services and as a drug and alcohol counsellor. Aunty Di is currently the Program Coordinator of Mingaletta Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation community hub in Umina Beach and the Aboriginal Health Project Worker for Coast and Country Primary Health Care.

Aunty Di is a proud Wiradjuri and Yorta Yorta woman, dedicated activist and passionate about bridging gap regarding disadvantages faced by her local Aboriginal community. She was removed from her mother as part of the Stolen Generations, and faced tremendous adversity and hardship as a young mother. As the granddaughter of one of Australia's greatest human rights advocates, William Cooper, Aunty Di was a fearless activist for Aboriginal people in the 1970s and 80s, even breaking through rough-handling security at Parliament House to hang the Aboriginal Flag!

Aunty Di's many generations of lived experience, inspired her to write and release in 2021, 'Daughter of the River Country', to high critical acclaim. Named NSW Grandmother of the Year in 2017 and recently receiving the Primary Care Quality & Innovation Award 2023 for the Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network, Aunty Di remains an active member for some of the most important Central Coast Aboriginal organisations. As a respected Elder, Aunty Di is committed to supporting the families, seniors and the young emerging Leaders in her community, to ensure the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of the Central Coast continue to have better outcomes for: education; employment; housing; health and wellbeing.



# MINGALETTA BOARD MEMBERS & LIFE MEMBERS



## **MINGALETTA Chairperson**

Tracey Burraston is a proud descendant of the Kamilaroi People. A respected member of many local community boards and former Early Childhood Educator, Tracey now works within the Department of NSW Educations corporate structure.



## **MINGALETTA Treasurer**

Mark Champley is a proud descendant of the Kamilaroi and Wiradjuri Peoples and a respected community leader. He is a Churchill Fellow 2022, a member of Darkinjung LALC and Babana Aboriginal Men's Group. Mark manages the Aboriginal Career Development and Mentoring Program, in partnership with UNSW AGSM, for Transport NSW and is Manager Aboriginal Employment and Development People & Culture, Transport for NSW. Mark is also Indigenous adjunct Faculty with UNSW AGSM.



## **MINGALETTA Secretary**

Rhyanna Gorst is a proud descendant of the Wiradjuri and Dharug peoples. As a former young Mingaletta Didge and Dance attendee, Rhyanna has just graduated from Macquarie University and now works as a high school teacher for the NSW Department of Education. As well as being a long time member of Mingaletta, Rhyanna also dedicates time volunteering to support the Mingaletta School Holiday program and loves to inclusively connect community to our culture.



## **MINGALETTA Public Officer**

Louise Parker has studied in traditional healing practices of shamanism, mainstream nursing, art as medicine and been honoured to receive Aboriginal Lore Teachings. She works as an Expressive Arts Therapist helping individuals and groups providing a safe place to explore and experience practices that can assist them with knowledge & healing.



## **MINGALETTA Director**

A proud Wiradjuri man, Steven Collins, is an Education Professional at NSW Department of Education. Central Coast and current School Principal for Kulnura Public School. Steve has been formally recognised for working tirelessly for Aboriginal students in the school system as well as in the outside local community.



## **MINGALETTA Director**

Michelle Garrett is a proud to be a descendant of Torres Strait Peoples who later grew up from Year 5 Primary School on the Peninsula & Central Coast. Michelle relocated to Alice Springs NT in 2007 and returned to the Central Coast from 2017 and has been involved in multiple Indigenous & non-Indigenous projects & activities both on the Peninsula & Central Coast & Alice Springs NT based.



# MINGALETTA BOARD MEMBERS & LIFE MEMBERS



## **MINGALETTA Life Member**

Aunty Robyn Reid is a proud descendant of the Wiradjuri and Dharug peoples. Aunty is an Elder & life long member of the Mingaletta, Treasurer & member of the local Koorana AECG, Toastmaster of 25 years and Treasurer for other boards like the Woy Woy Labor branch. A well respected and passionate local advocate, Aunty Robyn tirelessly volunteers for her local community.



## **MINGALETTA Life Member**

A proud Wiradjuri women, Aunty Anita Selwyn at aged 71 completed a degree in Community Management so she could do more for her people. As an Elder who works closely with Mingaletta, she has run a creative arts cultural group for school children and shares culture at AECG schools and preschools. Aunty is also member of the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council and Central Coast Multicultural Society.



## **MINGALETTA Life Member**

Ray McMinn is a proud descendant of the Dharug and the Waka Waka Peoples. Ray is a founding member and Elder of the Mingaletta Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation and now retired, still belongs to the Naval Submarine Association Australia. Ray previously studied at the University of Newcastle and is a passionate upholder of Aboriginal traditions on the coast.

