Recently we have seen two events which have an impact on all our lives, these being “Close the Gap” and Harmony Day. These are perfect examples of the challenges in cultural diversity and communication. As a First Nations people we strive to do all that we can to ensure equality in all areas and that people have the opportunity to excel in life.

We are very pleased that both North Lakes and Pine Rivers celebrated Close the Gap Day, where staff came together with their colleagues in recognition of the importance of health equality. Our commitment is strong and we are determined to make changes for a better future.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit organised a morning tea on the 21st March to celebrate Harmony Day, to embrace multiculturalism, respect and understanding. We belong to one or more cultures, even if we don’t realise it. Our participation in shared culture helps us to bond as a society and understand each other. The way for us to move forward is to break down all racial discrimination barriers so that we may work together as one.

I would like to acknowledge the Cultural Capability Officers for organising these events and ensuring our health equality messages were promoted to all staff members. We look forward to hosting more key reconciliation and health events throughout the year.

Angela Scotney
Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit
Contact information

Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officers
Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital, Floor 5, Ned Hanlon Building
Fax: 3646 2284

Wendy Lewis
Ph: 3646 5612 or 3647 4173

Bernadette Bird
Ph: 3646 1696 or 3647 4171

Dell Hagan
Ph: 3646 7489 or 3647 4184

After Hours Service (RBWH)
Friday and Monday 12noon to 8.30pm
Saturday and Sunday 10am to 6.30pm

Enquiries (Hospital Switch)
Ph: 3646 4154 or 3646 8111

Aunty Janet Layton
Ph: 3647 4183

Tyler Lea
Ph: 3647 4178

Candice Simpson
Ph: 3647 4173

The Prince Charles Hospital, Ground Floor, corridor leading to the Coronary Care Unit
Fax: 3139 5810

Aleacha Hopkins
Ph: 3139 5062

Mark Budd
Ph: 3139 5165

Cabrillo Hospital, Allied Health Department, Ground Floor
Fax: 5433 8730

Stella Laidlaw
Ph: 5433 8249

Redcliffe Hospital, Safety Quality and Performance Unit, West Block
Fax: 3049 6767

Rox-Anne Currie
Ph: 3049 6791

Michelle Pieper
Ph: 3049 2312

Improving the Patient Journey
Email: improving_the_patient_journey@health.qld.gov.au

Manager: Gavin Tye
Ph: 0438 794 510

Rayna Cowburn
Ph: 3646 5612 or 0408 023 733

Pele Sebasio
Ph: 3646 5612 or 0428 110 425

After Hours Liaison Officer (RBWH)
Friday and Monday 12noon to 8.30pm
Saturday and Sunday 10am to 6.30pm

Robert Brown
Ph: 3646 5612 or 0409 583 967

The Prince Charles Hospital

Ronald Age
Ph: 3139 6623 or 0439 274 152

After Hours Liaison Officer (TPCH)
Friday and Monday 12noon to 8.30pm
Saturday and Sunday 10am to 6.30pm

Temilah Henaway
Ph: 3139 6429 or 0429 897 982

Indigenous Acute and Primary Care Team
Manager: Robyn Chilcott
Ph: 3492 1823

Sexual Health Team
Manager: Robyn Chilcott
Ph: 3492 1823

Indigenous Strategic Development Team
Manager: Isaac Simon
Ph: 3139 4117 or email Isaac.Simon@health.qld.gov.au

Executive Director Community, Indigenous and Subacute Services

Chris Seiboth
Executive Director, Community, Indigenous and Subacute Services
Metro North Hospital and Health Service

Dear colleagues,
Congratulations to the winners and nominees in this year’s International Nurses Day Awards. We care for many vulnerable people in our residential facilities, in their homes and in our clinics, and it’s excellent to see so many nominations for the nurse, unsung hero and team of the year.

CISS has been given the opportunity to play an important role in Metro North’s winter bed management strategy. This is a chance for us to strengthen our partnerships across the health service to ensure that when someone can be treated in a community or subacute setting, we’re ready to respond.

To this end, we need to also make certain that the data we’re using and that other parts of the health service will use in their decision making is correct.

We are happy to work with our partners to ensure that the data being used is correct. We know that the data we’re using and that other parts of the health service will use in their decision making is correct.

Let’s Get PhyCISSical has been going well. We will be holding the first Reconciliation Shield on 27 May between our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit and the CISS All Stars. This is an important event for several reasons. Not only are we getting out and active together, it’s also a step towards our first Reconciliation Action Plan. CISS carries the responsibility for leading reconciliation within Metro North, but it’s something we do willingly and with pride.

I am extremely pleased to be taking part in this event, although I will say in advance it’s been a few years since I’ve chased a footy.

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Chris Seiboth
Executive Director, Community, Indigenous and Subacute Services

All staff and patients are welcome to attend

NAIDOC Celebration 2016

03-10 JULY 2016

Songlines – The living narrative of our nation

The 2016 theme, Songlines – The living narrative of our nation – will highlight the importance of Songlines to the existence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Supported by the MNHHS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit.

Featuring an acknowledgement to country, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dancing, art workshops, face painting and storytelling, and traditional food.

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Chris Seiboth
Executive Director, Community, Indigenous and Subacute Services

Hospital

Date

Time

Venue

The Prince Charles Hospital

Monday 4 July

10am–2pm

Outside Breeze Café

Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital

Tuesday 5 July

10am–2pm

Outside Education Centre

Redcliffe Hospital

Monday 11 July

10am–2pm

Garden Foundation Grounds

Caboolture Hospital

Wednesday 13 July

10am–2pm

Healing Garden

Kilcoy Hospital

Friday 15 July

10am–2pm

Hospital Grounds
The Indigenous Acute and Primary Care Team currently comprises three teams: the Adult Health Team; the Sexual Health Team and the Administration Team.

The Indigenous Acute and Primary Care Team aims to improve the health status of Indigenous people to a level equal to that of the rest of the population. Its activities currently include:

- Improving and increasing access to quality health services and support services
- Assisting clients to manage illness better through culturally appropriate advocacy, support and linking clients to access early intervention and treatments
- A focus on chronic disease and risk factors
- Promoting good health, to prevent illness where possible and to improve the management of existing illness

The Indigenous Acute and Primary Care Team currently comprises three teams: the Adult Health Team; the Sexual Health Team and the Administration Team.

May 27 marks the anniversary of Australia’s most successful referendum and June 3 commemorates the High Court of Australia’s landmark Mabo decision in 1992, which legally recognised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a special relationship to the land.

The Indigenous Strategic Development Team with Manager, Isaac Simon

This month we celebrate National Reconciliation Week (27 May – 3 June). This year is particularly momentous, with Reconciliation Australia celebrating a number of anniversaries—including 25 years of formal reconciliation in Australia with the establishment of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation in 1991. It is also 15 years since Reconciliation Australia was formed and 10 years of success in its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) program.

The theme “Our History, Our Story, Our Future” is particularly relevant for us at Metro North Hospital and Health Service as we reflect on our national identity, and the place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and rights in our nation’s story.

We are pleased the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital will once again host the annual Reconciliation Art Exhibition and Market Day. The event gives upcoming Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists the opportunity to showcase their artwork to our patients and consumers, and the Market Day allows local businesses to sell their arts and crafts.

Reconciliation Week is important for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. May 27 marks the anniversary of Australia’s most successful referendum and June 3 commemorates the High Court of Australia’s landmark Mabo decision in 1992, which legally recognised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a special relationship to the land.

I’d encourage you to all to get involved with the Reconciliation Week celebrations and further build on the respectful relationships shared by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians.

For more information, contact Metro North HHS Events
Tel 07 3646 1525 | Fax 07 3646 5177 | Email MetroNorth-events@health.qld.gov.au

The Sexual Health team had approximately 1,000 occasions of service providing support to at-risk groups and supporting education and clinical testing for clients of this service.

The teams look forward to continuing to support and advocate for the local Indigenous community to achieve better health outcomes.

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Our History, Our Story, Our Future

Our History, Our Story, Our Future

Reconciliation Art Exhibition

4th May - 6th June

RBWH Art Space, ground floor. Walkway between the Ned Hanlon and Joyce Tweddell Buildings

Opening Market Day Wednesday 1st June 10am - 2pm

The annual RBWH Reconciliation Week Market Day will once again be held on level 1 Atrium and will feature stalls selling various traditional and contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and crafts.

For more information, contact Metro North HHS Events
Tel 07 3646 1525 | Fax 07 3646 5177 | Email MetroNorth-events@health.qld.gov.au

Indigenous Acute and Primary Care Team with Manager, Robyn Chilcott

Indigenous Strategic Development Team with Manager, Isaac Simon

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- Promoting good health, to prevent illness where possible and to improve the management of existing illness
Patient experience
Russell Age and Bridget Riley from Camooweal

Indigenous Hospital Services
with Program Manager, Natasha White

The Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officers (IHLO) have been involved in the Royal Brisbane Women’s Hospital (RBWH) Patient Experience once again. The outcome from these surveys will help the hospital implement effective changes in patient care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers.

We are currently evaluating the cultural appropriateness of our IHLO room at RBWH, Level 5 Ned Hanlon Building. This office is available to patients, escorts and their family members as a place to find sanctuary from the hospital setting. If you have been to the office and would like to provide any feedback or suggestions on how we can make it more comfortable to patients and their family members, please send an email to A_TSHILO_MNHHSQ@health.qld.gov.au.

The IHLO room at the Regional Hospital and Medical Centre Redcliffe is available for patients, escorts and their families to go and relax while they are at the hospital, so go down to Level 5, Ned Hanlon Building and say hello to the staff.

Hours Office is open: Monday to Fridays 8am – 5pm

Thursday: 8am – 5pm
Wednesday: 8am – 6pm
Tuesday: 8am – 5pm
Monday: 8am – 8.30pm
Sunday: 10am – 6pm
Saturday: 10am – 6pm
There is also an outreach service provided to Kilcoy Hospital on the first Wednesday of each Month:
9am – 1pm

IHLO services at RBWH continue to deliver a comprehensive extended hours service to patients:
Monday: 8am – 3.30pm
Tuesday: 8am – 5pm
Wednesday: 8am – 5pm
Thursday: 8am – 5pm
Friday: 8am – 8.30pm
Saturday: 10am – 6pm
Sunday: 10am – 6pm

All other Hospitals – The Prince Charles Hospital, Redcliffe and Caboolture operate:
Monday to Fridays 8am – 5pm

Russell Age (escort) and his partner Bridget Riley (patient) recently attended the Prince Charles Hospital. So, Bridget could have a pacemaker fitted. Both live in Camooweal, 1929 kilometres North West of Brisbane, and close to the Northern Territory border.

Russell and Bridget were not aware of the IPJ program before coming to Brisbane, but were very happy the program exists. Both were very pleased that IPJ Coordinator Ronald Age was able to show them around the hospital and escort them to Bridget’s appointment, as they didn’t know where to go.

This support assisted Bridget to not feel as anxious about her pending surgery.

Russell and Bridget called into the IPJ demountable office to say “thank you” for all the IPJ support before they left the hospital, after Bridget was discharged.

In the great “circle of life” we have seen many new babies born, and its great to see they are getting the best start in life. Sadly at the other of life’s journey some families have lost loved ones, which means a period of “Sorry Business”. Our IPJ team members have been there to provide direct and indirect support with the immediate and extended family members, as well as provide Community support.

Improving the Patient Journey Aim:
Provide culturally appropriate advocacy and support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients, outpatient, their escorts and carers before, during and after they access services at Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital (RBWH) or The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH).

The IPJ service encourages everyone to access the right health care in a timely manner, and by doing this early enough, you may not need to come to Brisbane for treatment.

The IPJ Service has a wide range of initiatives and support to ensure you are all cared for, as if you were one of our own family.

Cultural Capability Officer, Elwyn Henaway, collected signatures at the North Lakes event for the “30 for 2030” challenge. The purpose is to collect 30 names and contact details in support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equality by 2030.

At the Pine Rivers event, Jarrod Parter gave an acknowledgment of country and Robyn Chilcott facilitated quiz games to help educate staff on close the gap issues.

We were invited to participate once again at the Homeless Connect event held in May 2016 at the Eagle Farm Race Club. Last year we saw over 122 people who participated in our health survey and attended our stall for health information and resources, and we anticipate more this year. The event enables attendees to see what services are available to them across the Brisbane region.

We continue to provide outreach services to other venues in the Brisbane region where we access homeless people and other marginalised populations. We also undertake regular agency visits across Metro North Hospital and Health Service to meet the needs of marginalised groups such as youth, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and others as requested.

The Police Citizen Youth Club (PCYC) in Caboolture approached us to provide education/health promotion sessions. We will run these sessions alongside other organisations including the Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts (ACPA), North West Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Association (NWAICA) and Dakabin State High School, for the year 11-12 students.

OUT&ABOUT
Close the Gap Day
Staff at North Lakes and Pine Rivers celebrated Close the Gap Day on March 17th with a special morning tea.

Cultural Capability Officer, Elwyn Henaway, collected signatures at the North Lakes event for the “30 for 2030” challenge. The purpose is to collect 30 names and contact details in support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equality by 2030.

At the Pine Rivers event, Jarrod Parter gave an acknowledgment of country and Robyn Chilcott facilitated quiz games to help educate staff on close the gap issues.

Left to right: (Phil) Ansell, Jo Watters, Liz Power, Elwyn Henaway and Robyn Chilcott.

Some of the latest Art Creations from the participants.

Left to right: (Phil) Ansell, Jo Watters, Liz Power, Elwyn Henaway and Robyn Chilcott.

Staff at Pine Rivers Community Health Centre celebrate Close the Gap Day.

Left to right: (Phil) Ansell, Jo Watters, Liz Power, Elwyn Henaway and Robyn Chilcott.

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Staff at Pine Rivers Community Health Centre celebrate Close the Gap Day.
Harmony Day

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit hosted a morning tea at the Chermside Community Health Centre as part of Harmony Day celebrations on the 21st of March.

Harmony Day is held every year to coincide with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Staff bought along their favourite dish from a different country and had the opportunity to learn about and celebrate all the different cultures working within Community, Indigenous and Subacute Services.

Identification Campaign

As part of the Identification Campaign, consumers were invited to submit a 30 second video explaining “Why it is important to identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person when you access Health Services?” Each participant received an Identification T-Shirt as part of the promotion. If you would like to get involved, submit your video to A_TSIHU_MNHHS@health.qld.gov.au or phone (07) 3139 3235.

Jessie Kirby

“I’m proud to be Aboriginal as we are beautiful and the most generous people in the world.”

Jason, Bundaberg

“My name is Jason from Bundaberg. I’m so proud of our people as we are the natural landowners.”

Sandra Taylor

“I identify as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person. I’m very proud of my heritage. I think it’s important that we all identify especially when you go into hospital, prisons and schools. Come on you fellas, let’s be proud, loud and identify all the time!”

Elwyn Henaway

“Identification is important for me as chronic disease now accounts for 30 per cent of indigenous death rates. Chronic disease runs in my family and I have to make sure we get the screenings to check my children. As they are fair skinned children, I have to check they don’t get the chronic diseases my father had.”

Gene Blow

“It’s my heritage, my culture and I’d like to be able to improve the status of our mob so when they do come into hospitals they tick the box to say they are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander to receive the appropriate care.”

Staff Farewell

Staff gathered to farewell Sharni MacNeil on her final day with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit. Sharni spent the past four years in the role of Program Manager of Indigenous Hospital Liaison Services and was integral in managing staff across all hospitals and establishing the After Hours Service at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital. We wish her all the best in her new role at the State Health branch.
Get involved in Reconciliation

Community, Indigenous and Subacute Services (CISS) is developing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to help close the gap of disadvantage between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

The CISS RAP represents a public commitment by us to undertake practical actions with the intent of building strong relationships and enhancing the level of respect between ourselves and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and also providing opportunities for Indigenous Australians through employment and business development.

Critical to the success of the CISS RAP will be the establishment of a RAP Working Group that will oversee the development, endorsement, launch, and ongoing implementation of the plan. The CISS RAP Working Group will have responsibility for:

- Development of a CISS RAP within the context of CISS core business and Reconciliation Australia’s RAP Framework;
- The establishment of a process for engaging staff across CISS so that all CISS staff can contribute to the development and implementation of the RAP;
- Developing a project plan and timeline to develop, launch, and implement the RAP;
- Regularly liaising with key stakeholders across CISS to review progress of RAP commitment and actions; and
- Developing a new CISS RAP when the inaugural plan expires.

Nominations for the RAP committee will be sent out in the upcoming months.

Cervical cancer screening rates among Indigenous women show no improvement study

There has been no improvement in screening rates for Indigenous women in the 25-year history of the Australian National Cervical Cancer Screening Program (NCSIP), a study shows. Research also showed Indigenous women were twice as likely to develop cervical cancer and four times more likely to die from the cancer than other Australian women.

Indigenous middle ear disease: New 10-year plan launched to help children in Queensland

Queensland health authorities have launched a new 10-year plan to try and tackle middle ear disease which plagues Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Australia and is linked to a raft of social problems. As part of the plan, over the next year 500 health workers in Queensland will be up-skilled to better identify middle ear disease.

Indigenous leaders urge health priority

Indigenous leaders say government funding cuts to health services will reverse any efforts to Close the Gap in life expectancy. They are urging political leaders to make Indigenous health funding a priority, warning failing to do so will result in Indigenous people continuing to die 10 years earlier than other Australians.

Cultural message: ‘Personals Before Business’ a way to help Close the Gap, by Gene Blow, Cultural Capability Officer

A way to help assist Closing the Gap is to make Indigenous patients feel comfortable to access our hospitals and facilities. We are promoting health care workers to start to build a rapport process when first contacting an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander patient in one of the MNHHS facilities. We call this ‘Personals Before Business’. In other words, develop rapport first with an Indigenous patient before addressing any health business. By doing this you are developing trust with that patient which is identified as respect in a culturally appropriate manner.

Simple rapport can be developed by talking about:

- Where the patient comes from;
- How they came into the health service facility on the day; or
- Even talking about sport – especially rugby league teams and personalities.

The strategy is to keep asking ‘open’ questions and this way the patient will see that you have a genuine interest in them as a person and not ‘just a patient’.

Try it next time you come into contact with one of our mob.

Word of the Month:

“Gammon”

Term which refers back to the original game of Backgammon and taken by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander as a pretence or fake movement.

Example:

When a person uses big words to explain a situation, a typical response could be ‘That fulla only gammon!’
Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People and adopted ‘Partnership for action and dignity’ as its

In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly decided that the International Day of the World’s Indigenous People will be observed on 9 August.

An annual event established by SNAICC in 1988 to highlight the significance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. SNAICC encourages

This is a particular day of significance for Torres Strait Islander Australians. It marks the day the London Missionary Society first arrived in the Torres Strait. The missionaries landed at Erub Island on 1 July 1871. Religious and cultural ceremonies are held by Torres Strait Islander Christians across the Torres Strait and on the mainland to commemorate this day.

1 July: Coming of the Light
This is a day of significance for Torres Strait Islander Australians. It marks the day the London Missionary Society first arrived in the Torres Strait. The missionaries landed at Erub Island on 1 July 1871. Religious and cultural ceremonies are held by Torres Strait Islander Christians across the Torres Strait and on the mainland to commemorate this day.

3–10 July: National NAIDOC Week
NAIDOC originally stood for ‘National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. It has since taken on the acronym NAIDOC and the celebrations begin on the first Sunday in July and run for one week. See http://www.naidoc.org.au

1 July:

4 August: National Aboriginal and Islander Children’s Day
An annual event established by SNAICC in 1988 to highlight the significance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. SNAICC encourages all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations, mainstream child and family services, government and early childhood services, schools and any other key stakeholders to celebrate this day.

5. You are currently involved in the planning of the A&TSIHU Identification campaign. Why is it important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to identify when accessing our health services?

6. What is one of your proudest moments working with the A&TSIHU?
Not giving up on a client who was very sick and missed a lot of specialist appointments as well as some in the community. It took me six months for this client to have trust in me that I was there to help her and not there to take anything or judge.

7. Tell me about your family history and where you grew up?
I have the best of both worlds. My Dad is a Torres Strait Islander and my Mum is an Aboriginal. My Mum’s maternal people are the Birri Gubba clan from the Mackay and northern area and paternal people are the Yidinjdji clan from the northern Gordonvale area. My Dad’s maternal people are from Rosig and paternal people from Thursday Island. I spent some of my early childhood years growing up on Thursday Island and Prince of Wales and the most of my school age years growing up in Babinda south of Cairns. Most of my immediate family live in the Cairns and surrounding area. Prior to moving to Brisbane, I lived in the Tully Mission Beach area for almost 15 years.

8. Finally, what do you enjoy doing outside of work?
I love spending time with my family whether it’s camping, playing sports or stuff around the house. I enjoy going to any shopping centres and bargain hunting, especially for shoes and handbags. You can always find me at Health Works Gym in Redcliffe five days a week.

27 May – 3 June: National Reconciliation Week
National Reconciliation Week is held annually and celebrates the rich culture and history of the First Australians. National Reconciliation Week began in 1996 to provide focus for nationwide reconciliation activities. National Reconciliation Week coincides with two significant dates in Australia’s history which provide strong symbols of the aspirations for reconciliation. May 27 marks the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum and June 3 marks the anniversary of the High Court’s judgment in the 1993 Mabo case. http://www.reconciliation.org.au/
RECIPE

Bunya Nut Pesto

INGREDIENTS

- 100g Bunya Nuts, de-shelled
- 1 bunch Basil
- 50g Parmesan Cheese
- 1 clove garlic – finely chopped
- 250ml Macadamia Nut Oil
- 2 tspns ground Pepperberry

Gently heat the Pepperberry in 100ml of the Macadamia Oil. Finely chop Bunya Nuts and mix nuts with the garlic and 100ml of the Macadamia Nut Oil. Roughly chop Basil in a food processor or blender with the 50 ml of the Macadamia Nut Oil. Process for one minute, and then add the Bunya Nut mix and the Pepperberry mix. This works best if the oils are poured in a steady stream. Do not over-process. This should keep in the refrigerator for a week – if it lasts that long!

ABOUT BUNYA NUTS

The bonyi (Gubbi Gubbi word for the bunya pine) is a distinctive tree, native to Queensland. It once only grew in the Bunya Mountains and the Blackall Ranges. The Bunya (Araucaria bidwillii) tree grows to a height of 50 metres or more with the trunk often reaching one and a half metres across in width. The trees produce large cones (about the size of a football) which contain 60 or more nuts. These flavoursome and nutritious nuts, rich in oils and carbohydrates, can be eaten raw or roasted and ground into flour.

In the past nuts were harvested by climbing the trees using a strong vine looped around the tree and the climber’s waist. Cones could also be found on the ground after they broke off and fell from the very top of the tree.

Once every three years between December and March a bumper harvest of nuts is produced. It was during this time that the Bunya Gatherings occurred, with invited Aboriginal groups travelling from all over Southeast Queensland. At these gatherings groups conducted business:

- items, food, information and new knowledge were traded and shared;
- cultural, social and kinship obligations were observed and arranged;
- disputes and complaints were resolved;
- ceremonies were conducted and future events organised; and
- songs, stories and dances were swapped between groups to be taken home to their own people.

Groups attended other events with different groups and continued the cycle. Through this trading and exchange of information, songs, stories and material culture trade routes were established across Australia.