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Warrawong celebrates young First Nations filmmaking talent

Illawarra's next generation of filmmakers will be celebrated at a screening of new films about culture, identity and belonging this week in Warrawong as part of National Reconciliation Week. The Gala Cinema will host a packed house on Tuesday 2 June where audience members will be the first to watch films from the Tides Project, produced by young people from Warrawong, in partnership with local First Nations Elders and culturally diverse community leaders

This four-year project supported by Multicultural NSW's COMPACT program, gives local young people the opportunity to develop filmmaking skills while receiving mentoring and support. The young filmmakers work with Elders, artists and community members to explore one powerful question: "How did we get here?"

Tides Co-ordinator Melissa Andrews, "We've had a massive response to this event. I'm so thrilled to know the community is coming out to support the next generation of talent and hear important local voices explore some fundamental questions about community."

This exciting project is the next chapter in Warrawong's proud history of youth filmmaking, which has taken young people and their stories interstate and across the globe. The Tides Project is led by Barnardos Australia, Gawura Aboriginal Corporation and CoEqual.

The screening includes:

- Early sneak peeks from three new TIDES stories, including a Filipino family story across three generations, a story of care and community from Peru, and a local story of students standing up for their Aboriginal support teacher.
- *Nhandi* – a moving, intergenerational film about arrival and colonisation, created with South Coast Elders and young people.

Barnardos Australia has been supporting children, young people and families in Warrawong and the Bundaleer Housing Estate since 1999 through a range of programs including playgroups, breakfast and homework clubs as well as other child and family activities.

For more information or to arrange interviews with the filmmakers, contact: Melissa Andrews 0427 119 348 melissaa@barnardos.org.au or Megan O'Neill 0404 038 733 moneill@barnardos.org.au.
barnardos.org.au/the-tides-project/

About Barnardos Australia

Barnardos Australia is here because every child needs a champion. We listen, we act, and we advocate for the safety of children at risk of abuse and neglect, providing family support programs and services that empower children to reach their full potential. When it comes to protecting vulnerable children from violence, we never give up. We are dedicated to the prevention of trauma in children, and support families to grow strong in their community.
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