

# ABOUT WHO WE ARE: BRAVE NEW CLAN

*“Who We Are: Brave New Clan (2014) celebrates diversity across Australia and we hope it inspires audiences to find out more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place names, peoples, languages and cultures in their own local area.” – Leah Purcell, director Who We Are: Brave New Clan*

*Who We Are: Brave New Clan* follows the lives of six exceptional young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who share stories about their communities, history and cultures in contemporary Australia.

*Who We Are: Brave New Clan* is the third instalment of the *Who We Are* series and was developed by Foxtel in partnership with Reconciliation Australia and CAAMA (Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association) Productions.

The *Who We Are: Brave New Clan* short films *People*, *Culture* and *Country/Place* are a suitable resource for primary school students in Years 4 – 6 to learn about contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

The three films acknowledge and celebrate the achievements and contributions of the individuals featured in the series, and are a starting point for discussions about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity. They allow students and teachers to examine the influences of family, kinship, community, Country/Place, culture, spirituality, history and modern Australian society on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



# USING WHO WE ARE: BRAVE NEW CLAN IN THE CLASSROOM

*The Who We Are: Brave New Clan* lessons are intended to build the knowledge and understanding of both teachers and students of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, contributions and ways of being. Teachers will be supported to confidently discuss and build knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories with their students. Students will be encouraged to respect and celebrate the contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and develop a deeper understanding of Australia's shared histories, identity and cultural diversity.

This guide contains scaffolded activities and discussion questions that explore the many themes covered in the films. These themes align closely with the Australian Curriculum's cross-curriculum priority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures. Activities are accompanied by relevant contextual information for the benefit of teachers and students.

Teachers are encouraged to watch the *Who We Are: Brave New Clan* short films before showing them to students. If possible, talk with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, staff, families or community members when planning to use the *Who We Are: Brave New Clan* learning resources in the classroom.

Due to the sensitive nature of some of the content in *Who We Are: Brave New Clan*, setting classroom ground rules with your students before viewing is an important step in creating a safe space and helping develop mutual respect and understanding between the members of your classroom community.

Encourage students to frame discussion comments as their own: use "*I think*" rather than "*you should*".

Possible rules could be:

- Be respectful: each person has their own beliefs and values
- Value diversity: each person has their own world views, experiences and opinions
- Listen politely: each person has a right to contribute without pressure or intimidation
- Act with honour and courage: be brave in sharing experiences, ideas and opinions
- Appreciate privacy: each person has the right to uphold their privacy
- Act responsibly: share feedback with thoughtful consideration and a positive attitude towards others

Teachers are advised to direct students to complete activities that are subject relevant and age appropriate. Activities may need to be edited to accommodate the reading levels of students. Activities can be implemented in ways that best suit the abilities of the class, the learning spaces and the available resources.

Allow adequate time at the end of each viewing session to debrief the content, associated activities and discussion.

# WHO WE ARE: BRAVE NEW CLAN – HOSTS

**Kim Isaacs** is a thirty-four-year-old doctor living in Broome, Western Australia. Kim works at BRAMS medical centre in Broome. She is Yawuru and Karajarri on her mother's side and Noongar on her father's side. She grew up on an Aboriginal settlement in Broome, a descendant from the local clans. Kim's mother was a nurse and her grandfather was a traditional healer so from a young age her family passed down knowledge about traditional medicine. Kim sees the many health issues facing the Indigenous community around her and wants to make a difference for future generations. She uses both western and traditional medicine to heal her patients and understands she needs to treat the spiritual and mental wellbeing of her patients, as well as the physical.



**Harrison (Harry) Sabatino** is nineteen years old, grew up on Sabai Island in the Torres Strait and is now studying to be an Engineer at the University of Queensland in Brisbane. Following his grandmothers guidance, Harry's family wanted him to have the opportunities that they never had. Harry's grandfather tells him stories about the islands and the rising waters. In the monsoon season, the tide now covers the whole of Saibai Island where it never used to. Harry wants to work on finding solutions to these problems and this was the motivation behind studying to become an engineer. He plans to set up his own Engineering business that employs local people when he completes his studies. He says that 'there is only one Torres Strait' and he wants to do what he can to protect it.



**Joshua (Josh) Toomey** is a twenty-eight-year-old Wiradjuri man from Dubbo. He now lives on the Central Coast and works as an electrical linesman with Ausgrid. He tells an inspiring story of his journey from a life spiraling out of control to the happy place he is in today. When he was 16, his mother took him to Centrelink and introduced him to government payments. He didn't know there were other pathways for him, like looking for a job or an apprenticeship. Following some hard life lessons Josh rose above his circumstances to apply for an apprenticeship. He struggled with math and literacy so found the course very hard. But through perseverance Josh finished his apprenticeship in 2011 and that same year was awarded NAIDOC Apprentice of the Year. His experiences allow him to reflect on the power people have to change their lives for the better.



# WHO WE ARE: BRAVE NEW CLAN – HOSTS

**Kaylah Tyson** is a twenty-six-year-old Meerooni woman of the Gurang nation, who grew up in Logan, south of Brisbane. She is a successful rapper who has recently launched her solo career after rapping with groups including the Poetic Murriz and the Impossible Odds crew. Kaylah recognises the power that music has to reach people and make connections. Kaylah's family, particularly her Nan, have always been strong in the political movement and taught her to fight for what she believes in. Kaylah knows the importance of telling the truth through her music so that others may learn from the challenges of the past. Kaylah also focuses on the importance of following your dreams.



**James Saunders** is a twenty-eight-year-old business owner who grew up in south-east Queensland and now lives in Sydney. He has recently set up his own digital PR agency and is a celebrated player with the Convicts Rugby Team, three time winners of the Bingham Cup (gay rugby world cup). Through his passion for rugby he challenges stereotypes of what it means to be a gay man in Australia. He is Gundtjmarra on his father's side from the Kilcare and Gilga clans, and Wiradjuri on his mother's side. James reflects on what it means to be a part of a 'new clan' in the urban community of Redfern, Sydney and the importance of staying connected with family and country.



**Miranda Tapsell** is a twenty-seven-year-old who knew that from a young age she wanted to become an actor. She joined NIDA after school and has been working in theatre, film and television ever since. One of the stars of the recent Australian hit movie *The Sapphires*, Miranda is currently filming Season 2 of the Australian TV drama, *Love Child*. Now based in Sydney, Miranda is a descendant of the Larrakia nation. Darwin is Miranda's traditional land and she feels a strong connection to the harbour there. Miranda believes that stories told in film, theatre and television can help to bridge the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Through her acting, Miranda is continuing a tradition of storytelling. She hopes her role in *The Sapphires* helps other Aboriginal women believe they can achieve whatever goals they have.



# USING WHO WE ARE: BRAVE NEW CLAN CREDITS

Directed by Leah Purcell

Written by Ernest Hariyanto, Leah Purcell and Larissa Behrendt

Production Manager: Kim Steblina

Producer: Alice Taylor (CAAMA)

Executive Producer: Nicolas Lee (CAAMA)

## Online resources

The following resources and organisation websites are useful to supplement further learning and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions.

- [Share Our Pride](#)
- [SBS: First Australians](#)
- [First Contact](#)
- [Reconciliation Australia](#)
- [The Healing Foundation](#)
- [Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies](#)
- [Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research](#)
- [National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation](#)
- [National Museum of Australia](#)
- [First Languages Australia](#)

