



## REAL FILM FESTIVAL 2019

### SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH FILM ENGAGES LAKE MACQUARIE COMMUNITIES

Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Maitland and Port Stephens celebrate the very best of non-fiction cinema as part of the eighth Real Film Festival. Turning the Hunter region into a documentary-lovers paradise and a place to celebrate diverse real stories and storytellers, the Real Film Festival has attracted a range of film making talent in 2019.

Join us in Lake Macquarie as the Real Film Festival holds skills building workshops and screens two films of remarkable stories which have global, national and local significance.

In response to the PhD studies of Uncle Pat Lock on Aboriginal Leadership with the University of Newcastle, Awabakal elders and community gathered for a traditional 'yarn up' at the Macquarie Life Church in Cardiff, NSW in March 2019, to discuss and share unique cultural knowledge specifically relating to the water crisis, seismic testing in our oceans and skilful use of fire to manage and care for country.

With a deep concern for the preservation of unique cultures and the climactic chaos we are experiencing worldwide, Indigenous elders from around the globe are rising to navigate the path forward in these unprecedented times.

*It's Time* short film Director Bridget Ninness will be joined by Awabakal elders and community at Warners Bay Performing Arts Centre from 6pm on Thursday 21 November, to discuss their warnings raised in the film, which serve as a palpable reminder that #it's\_time! to come together and remember our connections the earth.

*The Final Quarter*, is the feature film which tells the story of the last three years of the career of AFL champion Adam Goodes, and has sparked powerful reactions. On the eve of the film being premiered at the Sydney Film Festival in June 2019, the AFL Players Association's Indigenous Advisory Board said: "We want *The Final Quarter* to be seen by school kids across the country, and we urge all Australians to commit to watching it.

"It is a time for us all to be open, not to be fearful, or defensive and look to shift blame or promote hate. We want it to start a conversation about what we can ALL do to promote reconciliation."

In the final years of his career, Goodes became a lightning rod for a heated public debate and widespread media commentary that divided the nation. He publicly called out racism, was named Australian of the Year, was accused of staging for free kicks, and performed an on-field war dance celebration. The cheers became boos as football crowds turned on him. Using only archival footage aired at the time, the film holds a mirror to Australia and is an opportunity to reconsider what happened on and off the football field.

Thanks to the support of Lake Macquarie City Council's Community Funding Program, the Real Film Festival expertly combines unique offerings for industry and audiences alike with fresh events in Lake Macquarie to watch, learn, create and connect.

"The workshops on offer this year are delivered by the highest level of screen industry professionals and we are thrilled to bring this calibre of industry to our own growing regional screen sector." said Real Film Festival Director Annette Hubber.

Tickets are now on sale for Lake Macquarie workshops *Film like a Pro on a Smartphone* and *Building Virtual Worlds* 9am - 1.30pm and the Film Screenings 6 - 9pm at Warners Bay Performing Arts Centre on Thursday 21 November 2019.

The Real Film Festival 2019 starts Friday 15 November and concludes on Thursday 5 December in Port Stephens. The full program, which includes screenings, Q&As, masterclasses and workshops with leading screen practitioners – as well as tickets and multi passes, can be accessed at [realfilmfestival.com.au](http://realfilmfestival.com.au).

For media information and further exclusives via approval please contact:

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