

**They're young,
black, deadly
... and gorgeous.**

Stylin' Up

The recent international success of stunning young Aboriginal model Samantha Harris has brought the fashion industry's attention to the unique beauty of Australia's Indigenous people.

Samantha is certainly not the first Aboriginal model to find fame in the modelling industry – Miss Aboriginal Australia 1997 Delvene Parkin, 1960s catwalk model Lois Briggs and 1993 Vogue covergirl Elaine George are some of the best known Indigenous models to enjoy success in the last few decades – but Samantha's accomplishments both here and overseas are now opening new doors for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander models across Australia.

To capitalise on the growing interest in using Indigenous models in the fashion industry,

former model Evelyn Walley has started up a new agency exclusively for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people looking to break into modelling.

Brolga Model Management was launched earlier this year at a lavish party at the Wallaby Bar on Cockle Bay Wharf in Sydney. A host of gorgeous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women were in attendance to showcase the diverse and dazzling look and style of Indigenous Australian people.

The fashion industry is certainly a hard one to break into, but Evelyn hopes that by promoting Indigenous models through a specialist agency, she can increase the modelling experience and employment opportunities of many more young hopefuls who dream of following in the footsteps of Samantha Harris.



Main picture: Stunning Indigenous model Ashweeni Mason strides the catwalk for the launch of Brolga Model Management. Inset: Company founder Evelyn Walley.





PREPARATION BEFORE READING

The international success of Indigenous model Samantha Harris demonstrates the fashion industry's growing interest in using Indigenous models.

Former model Evelyn Walley has launched Brolga Model Management exclusively for Indigenous models wanting to break into modelling. Evelyn is hoping to increase the modelling experience and work opportunities for young Indigenous models.

ACTIVITY 1: READ STYLIN' UP ON PAGE 25

1. According to this report, what are two things Evelyn Walley hopes to achieve with her new modelling agency?

2. List four Indigenous models who have achieved success in the modelling industry over the last few decades.

At present: Samantha _____

1997 _____

1993 _____

1960s _____

3. What is Evelyn Walley's modelling agency called?

4. The fashion industry is difficult to break into.

TRUE

FALSE

5. Who is the former model pictured in this report?



6. In what order did these things occur?

- Delvene Parkin was crowned Miss Australia
- Elaine George was on the cover of Vogue magazine
- Samantha Harris achieved international modelling success

ACTIVITY 2: LANGUAGE

1. What is the correct way to order the words when describing Samantha Harris? Colour the bubble next to the correct answer.

- stunning young Aboriginal model
- young model Aboriginal stunning

2. Some parts of the sentence below have been left out. For each gap in the text, colour in the bubble next to the correct answer.

The _____ international success of
stunning young Aboriginal model
_____ Harris has brought the
fashion _____ attention to the
unique beauty _____ Australia's
Indigenous people.

- recent
- resent
- samantha
- Samantha
- industries
- industry's
- at
- of

3. In the sentence below there are four (4) mistakes. Cross out each word or punctuation mark that is wrong.

Evelyn hope that by promoting Indigenous models, she can increase them modelling experience and employment oportunities of many more young Indigenous models



ACTIVITY 3: AN INTERVIEW WITH SAMANTHA HARRIS



When were you born?

20 July, 1990

Where were you born?

Tweed Heads, NSW

Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Four brothers: Michael 26, Andrew 19, Isaac 12 and Christopher 4.

One sister: Natalia 10.

What's your favourite part of Australia?

The Gold Coast

Who is your favourite model?

Naomi Campbell

Favourite beauty product?

Lip gloss

What is your favourite colour?

Pink

Who is your favourite singer?

Delta Goodrem

Favourite TV Show?

Home & Away

Do you have a nickname?

Sam

First big break?

National finalist in 'Girlfriend' magazine's Model Search at the age of 13.



Who's real deadly in your eyes? Why

My mum. She's taught me to always believe in myself, that I can do whatever I want. I feel like I can talk to her about anything, and sometimes I'll go to her for advice, but not about clothes. We like very different things! She came with me on modelling assignments in the beginning, when I was a bit nervous. She still comes to some, but I don't really see much of her when I'm working because it's so busy.

Hardest thing about modelling?

It's not as glamorous as some people think. There are a lot of things to do and sometimes it's really tiring.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years' time? Do you have a plan?

Hopefully being Australia's first Aboriginal supermodel, travelling the world. I think if I am successful there will be more Aboriginal girls that will be trying to do modelling. Because I've done it, I might be a role model for them.

ACTIVITY 4: INTERVIEW SOMEONE YOU ADMIRE

Choose a person you greatly admire.

Make a list of three questions you want to ask that person - about their life, their achievements and their goals for the future.

Why not interview that person and record their responses or research the answers on the internet?

Question 1 – your life

Question 2 – your achievements

Question 3 – your goals
