

SISTER KATE'S HOME KIDS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION NEWSLETTER



ISSUE #04 DECEMBER 2018

CELEBRATING THE WOUNDED HEART HEALING *A Decade of Trauma Recovery 2008 – 2018*

The Kent Street Weir in Cannington came alive with the sound of the didgeridoo and cultural performance to open a day of celebrations for the collaboration event between Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation and the City of Canning, celebrating the SKHKAC 10 Year Anniversary and to launch the oral history publication *Celebrating the Wounded Heart Healing*; a decade of trauma recovery, healing and achievement 2008-2018, and where the City of Canning also celebrated launching their Reconciliation Action Plan.

The Event was a great success with over 250 people attending from the SKHK membership, government agencies, service providers and the wider community. There was a wide range of age groups participating in the activities on offer, ranging from the kids art corner, traditional tool-making demonstrations, wildflower healing, community volleyball as well as getting up close and personal with Indigenous animals and birds, including the carpet snake which was a favourite with children and adults alike.

The gathering was supported by a group of local and interstate Guest Speakers where Richard Weston, CEO of National Healing Foundation shared their history of supporting SKHKAC healing programs and launched the book with Glenn Pearson, SKHKAC Chairperson as Event MC. Professor Patricia Dudgeon shared memories of the Corporation's early days and the Milestones reached whilst she was the Responsible Person for the SKHK Trust – acknowledging and praising the commitment shown by SK Homees and their families over the last decade in reaching this point of the Corporation's development.

She further addressed the positive programs developed by Sister Kate's Home Kids around healing, empowerment and leadership, plus the achievements made as a Stolen Generations organisation for their families and the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait community towards their cultural, social and emotional wellbeing, adding that the programs are now inclusive of a conciliatory focus across the community to support sustainable practices of reconciliation for stronger community unity.

These points were reiterated by Paul Ng, Mayor City of Canning, where he elaborated on the programs delivered through community engagement initiatives by SKHKAC in the Canning region as well as the positive working relationship now developing between the two entities. He relayed that the City would work with SKHKAC to progress the divesting of the Bush Block to the Corporation from the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) and aid in building the Place of Healing on the site in the near future.

To also celebrate these Milestones there was a cake-cutting, where all participants sang Happy Birthday to the performing band's rendition coupled with a special RAP song written and performed by the SK Homee descendants' "Music is Healing" group.

The day ended with songs from the Kruize Control band, where people danced to the tunes of Credence Clearwater Revival, Bob Marley and the Wailers, Otis Reading, and ending with Joshua Eggington's rendition of SK Homee poet Graeme Dixon's (R.I.P.) poem, *Kya Kyana*, now a RAP song. Josh was accompanied by Scotty Optamus to wind up the celebration event to cheers from SK Homee families and the community.

Mili Mili Wangkiny - Gulluk Moort Kadicijini | Paper Talking - sharing news with our family



Above: Oral History publication; Celebrating the Wounded Heart Healing 2008-2018 - a highlight for SKHKAC and their families



Professor Pat Dudgeon getting up close and personal with the carpet snake



Cutting the Cake; Tjalaminu Mia, Richard Weston, Professor Pat Dudgeon, Aunty Margaret Culbong, Glenn Pearson, Cheryl Phillips and Aunty Mary Pearson



Cutting the Cake; Professor Pat Dudgeon, Richard Weston, Arthur Kyron and Paul Ng, Mayor of City of Canning



Mungart Yonga Cultural Group – a highlight of Opening the event, where our younger generations danced to the sounds of the didgeridoo



SKHKAC

Progressed Priorities present status 2018

Governance

- Corporation Operational Business Plan (near completion)
- Revenue Raising Strategy (progressing)
- Communications/Promotions Prospectus (completed)
- Feasibility Study and Business Case (progressing)

Bush Block

- Maintaining Bush Block with ILC: quarterly security checks, and firebreak assessments, and other landcare/management objectives (ongoing)
- Concept Plan – Place of Healing (completed/networking for sponsorship)
- Community Stakeholder Consultancy – sharing Bush Block concept plan with SK Homees and families, major support groups/Aboriginal organisations/aged care facilities, schools and wider community members and partnerships (completed/progressing promotion)
- Developing Networks/Professional working relationships with other Stolen Gens Groups, Aboriginal and non-Indigenous organisations, Health and Mental Health Services, Shire Councils, Aged Care facilities and Schools (progressing)
- Bush Block Fire Plan and Site Environmental Survey aided by the City of Canning (near completion)

Operations

- Administration (progressed)
- New Office (space secured; Home Base for duration until move to new admin site on Bush Block running the Accredited Course Holistic Counselling; Mind Body Medicine from SKHKAC, with 25 enrolled students from SKHK membership, Aboriginal organisations and the wider Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander community) (ongoing)
- Art Studio (identified site at Home Base for healing activities and revenue raising)
- Counselling Services (identified site at Home Base – progressing)
- Website (revisiting)
- SKHKAC Communications Prospectus/Newsletter/Fact Sheet (all completed)

Funding Opportunities

- SKHKAC/Communities for Children (CfC): successful outcomes program delivery (secured 2018–2019/concluded by end of financial year)
- National Healing Foundation: Cultural Healing Bush Camps and start of the SKHK Oral History publication (completed)
- WA Health Initiative – Bush Camps and a Regional Community Health Expo (discussions continuing with Canberra)
- National Healing Foundation: Bush Block Environmental Data Collection and film program (waiting)
- Child and Adolescent Community Health Team Program (approved/seeking sponsorship) (WA Health Department) Women's Healing, Empowerment and Leadership project (successful)

Programs (Delivered)

- SKHKAC Communities for Children (CfC), Armadale and metro area (progressing)
- Wanslea Child and Youth Care Services - SKHKAC Share-Up
- SKHKAC/Boodjari Yorga Family Care Services, Armadale Hospital – Commemoration Wall Project (progressing)
- SKHKAC/CfC Publication – Kids Engaging in Activities They Like Doing 2019 (progressing)
- 2nd National and 2nd International NATSISPC/WISPC Suicide Prevention Conference - SKHKAC Components (completed)
- Healing Our Spirit Worldwide Conference - SKHKAC components (completed)

Fee for Service

- NAIDOC Week Guest Speaker for WSP Australia (completed)
- WSP Cultural Awareness – Engaging with Aboriginal People Walking Country Series (progressing)
- HeadSpace SKHKAC Guest Speaker (completed)
- NAIDOC Week City of Canning – Acknowledgement to Country and Opening Proceedings Women in Canning Forum and Services Expo (completed)

ANOTHER AMAZING YEAR FOR THE SISTER KATES KIDS CORPORATION

Kaya

As we look to take our shoes off for a while and dangle our feet in the water, I wanted to thank the huge team of workers and supporters who have helped carry the Sister Kate's Kids Corporation closer to its dream to establish our place of healing. We are a small organisation with a huge heart and like a duck on the pond while we look like we're just floating on water our feet are going flat out.

Firstly, I'd like to thank the Sister Kate's Homees for your support. Contributing to the Celebrating the Wounded Heart Healing Book and turning up at the launch at the Kent Street Weir lets us know that you value what we do and support us.

I'd like to thank the growing team of supporters who provide the critical connections to make our dream come true. Richard Weston from the National Healing Foundation, Greg Grabasch and his team at UDLA and Arthur Kyrone and the team at the City of Canning.

TJ and her team drive the huge range of activities and outcomes from healing camps to cross cultural training, to making sure the Corporation ticks along each day. On behalf of the Board, I'd like to thank TJ for taking on this responsibility and leading with love for the Homees and their children and in everything she and her staff do.

Finally, I'd like to thank the Board. We say at our Board meetings that the most precious gift you can give anyone is your time. It can't be recycled, it can't be slowed down and its finite. Your Board give their time to support me and TJ keep this heading in the right direction, so thank you for your gift, support and wisdom.

2019 is a crunch year for us as we're aiming to have the land divested by 2020, so we will keep you all up to date as this progresses.

Glenn Pearson

SKHKAC Chairperson

CEO UPDATE

Kaya SK Homees and families

Well! What another great year it's been, progressing a truckload of deliverables for our Corporation, our members and the wider community which has seen the Board and staff run to ground on a couple of items but resulting in several major Milestones; with fabulous outcomes, especially our Oral History publication Celebrating the Wounded Heart Healing and the Launch event at the Kent Street Weir to wind up the year.

The SK Homee and descendant families who attended out of the 250 on the day were very happy and proud that our Corporation held the event to celebrate our collective achievements and showcase the solidarity of SK Homee members' support and their commitment to community engagement initiatives, especially working alongside several major stakeholders and government agencies who in turn support our programs and future Vision of building our Place of Healing on the Bush Block in the very near future.

Also in attendance at the event to support the Milestone were the National Healing Foundation, University of Western Australia, Indigenous Land Corporation, Black Russian Productions, Urban Design Land Architecture and the City of Canning, who are working closely with SKHKAC to progress further major development on the block over these next 12 months – where we are hoping to announce further Milestones in our next Newsletter.

I would like to take the time to thank everyone who participated in the Book and have supported SKHKAC over the last decade and continuing to support our programs and Vision. We as a Stolen Generations organisation and survivors of past oppression sincerely appreciate the time you have given and we hope to see you all at the programs and events we plan to hold during 2019.

Till my next instalment, keep safe and well - Kaya for now.

Tjalaminu Mia

SKHKAC CEO

2nd National and 2nd International NATSISPC/WISPC Suicide Prevention Conferences 2018

SKHKAC were approached by Professor Patricia Dudgeon at the Poche Centre, University of Western Australia (official Host of the Conferences) to participate in and deliver a series of cultural and healing components, which were seen as major components to the gathering's success.

The SKHKAC art workshops, wood burning and traditional tool making, wildflower healing sessions and the wonderful cultural Welcome to Country ceremony on the Scarborough beachfront aided the gathering in a multitude of positive ways and was observed by the high number of conference attendees as incredibly beneficial.

SKHKAC CEO Tjalaminu Mia also participated in further components of the conference as Key Note Speaker Panelist and Chaired a breakaway session; also ending with delivering a SK Homee and descendant group's Stolen Generations session, sharing perspectives on impacting issues on young people that included personal Stories around Suicide in their families. This was reiterated with the voices of several Elders in the Ngullak Moort – Malitj Moorditj; Our Mob Grows Strong DVD that SKHKAC produced from working with the National Empowerment Project (NEP) and Aboriginal families.

A highlight of the international conference was the Healing Stone Handover presentation at the conference dinner, where Noongar Elder and SKHKAC Director Aunty Roma Winmar officiated by passing the Stone on to the Canadian High Commissioner, who confirmed that Canada will host the next International Conference in 2020.



SKHKAC Chairperson Glenn Pearson holding the Aboriginal flag with pride as the Sister Kate's Home Kids men dance to the didgeridoo on Scarborough beachfront; 2nd NATSISPC/WISPC International Suicide Prevention conference.



Tjalaminu Mia, Koordah Cornwall and a representative of the First Nation's People of Canada at the 2nd International Suicide Conference Cultural Sharing Session.



SK Homee descendant Amy Groves preparing the art workshop for the conference participants.



Aunty Roma Winmar going Country in search of the Healing Stone.



SKHKAC younger generations descendant supporting the cultural Welcome to Country ceremony on Scarborough Beach.

Healing Our Spirit Worldwide 2018

The Eighth Healing Our Spirit Worldwide Conference was hosted by the National Healing Foundation and the University of Sydney from 26–29 November at the Sydney Exhibition Centre Darling Harbour, where over 1,200 people attended from around the world to share in a range of initiatives and research being delivered and undertaken in their organisations, families and communities.

The conference provided a smorgasbord of innovative sessions that showcased a wide range of both Elder and youth-led initiatives, including cultural healing workshops and de-stress spaces, which conference attendees welcomed.

SKHKAC were approached to participate in several components as well as the Stolen Generations Key Note Speakers Panel to Open the Conference; following the opening address from Dr Helen Milroy. The panelists were made of representatives from a range of Stolen Gen survivors of several past government Aboriginal child institutions from

around Australia including Sister Kate's, where we were asked to share some of the experiences that have impacted on our lives and that of our families, and what we are individually and collectively doing to address trauma recovery.

The opening panel focus proved to be a great success, enabling speakers to share some parts of their own Story where their enriching sharing provided a deeper focus on cultural, social and emotional wellbeing as well as opening up lines of communication and sharing circles as the conference progressed.

SKHKAC appreciated the opportunity to share what our Corporation provides to members and the wider community around trauma recovery and community engagement, and would like to extend our thanks to the Host organisations for this opportunity, having further strengthened SKHKAC's strategic positioning at state, national and international levels for further support of our Place of Healing.

FLASH BACK

Women in Canning Forum 2018

The City of Canning held a Womens Forum where over 150 women came together to share what their roles were in both private enterprise and government agencies, and what their services offered to the benefit of the collective community in the Canning region.

The gathering's focus was to share and discuss a range of issues that affect families and the community as a whole, and to devise a strategic plan of collaboration where organisations become part of a joint support system enable positive outcomes that benefit families across the community.

SKHKAC as a Stolen Generations group and one of the few Aboriginal organisations in the region, were asked to participate in the Official Opening and to hold a Sharing Session around the SKHKAC history and the types of healing, empowerment and leadership programs our Corporation develop and deliver to our clients and the wider community, which was informally delivered by staff in a meet, yarn and paint activity with many of the women sharing whilst working on an art piece, that celebrates the connection of women and the important role they play in their families, the community and the Canning area.



SKHKAC CULTURAL AWARENESS INITIATIVE 2018

Our Corporation has developed a new initiative around cultural competency to sit beside the programs we already deliver, which is proving to be a success across various fronts both in the community and now in the corporate world.

SKHKAC are at present working alongside WSP delivering a range of cultural awareness workshops in country to their 200-strong Executive and general staff members, which is also enabling their management to revisit their national Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

The workshops are held at different sites in country where SKHKAC provide a series of cultural experiences and sharing – yarning circles including access to various Elders and cultural facilitators that are either not available in programs being delivered by other service providers, resulting in a range of positive outcomes for WSP.

SKHKAC are soon to participate in a series of discussions with WSP and several major corporate organisations who work in partnership with them on a range of projects in the metro area and throughout regional Western Australia, around possible development of a same



Smoking Ceremony in Country to initially start the series of Cultural Awareness programs where WSP Executive Management staff attended July 2018.

type cultural awareness workshop for their staff, which will in turn further cement our Corporation's ability to be seen as multi-purpose in its approach to working with a range of clients, and this will also build our organisation's reputation as a service agency enterprise that is multi-faceted, enabling SKHKAC to further develop stronger links in the wider community and to build-up credibility with a wide range of agencies and corporate organisations.

SKHKAC and Communicare Up-And-Coming Events

SKHKAC has been delivering a series of Cultural Healing Programs as a Community Partner organisation with Communicare Communities for Children in Armadale from 2012–2019, which have resulted in a range of positive outcomes that have benefited Aboriginal families and the wider community in a variety of ways.

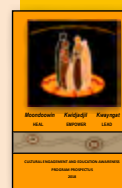
To further establish this success, SKHKAC are planning several events over the next six months that are Aboriginal family and community unity focused and once again,

will be delivered around holistic community engagement, as outlined below:

- Kids Engaging in Activities Book Launch and Community Gathering, Armadale, March 2019
- Commemoration Wall Unveiling Ceremony and Morning Tea, Armadale Hospital, March 2019
- Aboriginal Youth Forum and Cultural Sharing – Healing Day, Armadale, June 2019

Note: Further information will be provided closer to the events.

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD



- **Roeland's Mission Reunion and Community Open Day**

For more information, contact:
info@roelandvillage.com.au

- **SKHKAC Prospectus**
- **SKHKAC Wounded Heart Healing publication**

If you require a copy of the two items, contact:
amy@skhkac.org.au