

# SISTER KATE'S HOME KIDS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION NEWSLETTER



ISSUE #03 JUNE 2018

## SKHKAC STAKEHOLDERS COMMUNITY GATHERING EVENT *Sharing Our Bush Block Concept Plan*

Following on from our last update of the Corporation's Vision for the Bush Block outlined in our last newsletter, there has been a high level of activity; sharing our concept plan with a wide range of SK Homees and descendants starting with the General Meeting for members in 2017, and then other Stolen Generations groups, community stakeholders in Queens Park, Cannington and the metro area, Aboriginal and non-Indigenous organisations, local government,

City of Canning and SWALSC, which resulted in positive comments from everyone.

SKHKAC in collaboration with Urban Design Landscape Architecture (UDLA) have completed a community stakeholder's consultancy which produced great results – and feedback was shared at a community and cultural gathering at the Queens Park Primary School, with the Hon. Ken Wyatt, AM MP opening the event as the SKHKAC Patron.

There were over 140 people who attended the event, who engaged in the cultural ceremonies, a Q&A around the concept plan, winding up the event with lunch, yarning circle, and family catch-ups. SK Homees and community members alike enjoyed the gathering, and the feedback was overwhelming positive, with everyone happy they celebrated this major Milestone with the SK Homee families, and look forward to the next milestone.



Yonga Boys Cultural Group – dancing to celebrate the SK Home Kids Milestone, a highlight of the Community Gathering.



Minister Ken Wyatt, Noongar Whadjuk Elder aunty Margaret Culbong and Tjalaminu Mia, CEO, SKHKAC.



Glenn Pearson, Chairperson SKHKAC addressing participants on the bush block concept plan at the Community Share-Up.

*SKHKAC would like, on behalf of the SKHKAC Board to acknowledge our Elders, who have supported SK Homees and their families over the last decade in their healing journey and we sincerely thank you all for your time and tireless efforts to empower our families and to progress our Vision.*

**Senior Elders supporting SKHKAC initiatives: Beryl Dixon, Margaret Culbong, Roma Winmar, Liz Hayden, Lindsay and Bettina Caylan, Uma Wright, Cetana Colbung, Mary Pearson and Rita Moody.**



### Share – Up SK Homee Descendant's Perspective

I am a younger generation of the SK Home Kids family – my mum was in the Home with her brothers and sisters, there were seven of them all together, and the family was one of the biggest in number at the time, late 1950s–1960s.

As a descendant of a Stolen Generations group, my family support and celebrate the concept plan that our Corporation

has developed for the Bush Block, and I am happy that the plan also offers healing for everyone, which I think is a positive thing because others need healing too, especially the young people, if we all are the future leaders of our peoples.

**Yagan Dixon**  
**SK Homee Descendant**



Concept plan for the Bush Block.

### Governance

- Strategic Plan (completed)
- Corporation Operational Business Plan (progressing)
- Revenue Raising Strategy (workshopping)
- Communications & Promotions Strategy (progressing)
- Feasibility Study (still to start)
- Business Case (still to start)

### Bush Block

- Maintaining bush block with ILC: quarterly security checks, and firebreak assessments, and other landcare/management objectives
- Concept Plan – Place of Healing (completed)
- 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 (completed)
- 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)

### Operations

- Administration (progressed)
- New Office (space secured; Home Base for duration until move to new admin site on bush block)
- Art Studio (identified site at Home Base for healing activities and revenue raising)
- Counselling Services (identified site at Home Base – progressing)
- Website (near completion)
- Newsletter (established)
- Business Cards (completed)
- Fact Sheet (updated)
- Office Signage (completed)
- SKHKAC Events Promotional Banner (completed)

### Funding Opportunities

- SKHKAC/Communities for Children (CfC): successful outcomes program delivery (secured 2018 – 2019)
- National Healing Foundation: Cultural Healing Bush Camps and start of the SKHK Oral History publication (successful)
- WA Health Initiative – Bush Camps and a Regional Community Health Expo (lodged)

### Programs (Delivered)

- SKHKAC Communities for Children (CfC), Armadale and metro area, Calendar Project 2018 (completed)
- SKHKAC/School Mates Children's Cultural Teaching – Learning workshops (3) (completed)
- SKHKAC/Boodjari Yorga Family Care Services, Armadale Hospital – Commemoration Wall Project (progressing)
- SKHKAC/CFC/NHF Women's Healing Event for Apology Day – 10 Year Anniversary Gathering (completed)
- SKHKAC/CfC Publication – Kids Engaging in Activities They Like Doing 2018 (progressing)

### Fee for Service

- Reconciliation Week Guest Speaker for WSP Australia Pty Ltd (completed)
- Relationships Australia – requested 30 SKHKAC Affirmation Booklets as a resource for their programs/clients
- Child and Adolescent Community Health Team (WA Health Department) Women's Healing, Empowerment and Leadership project (progressing)
- PMH Kids Program (stalled)
- Malvern Springs Early Learning – series of staff cultural awareness workshops and series of children's cultural inclusion activities (progressing)

## CHAIRPERSON'S UPDATE

Kaya All – it's been a huge start to 2018 so can't believe that we are already half way through it. As mentioned in our last newsletter, this year has been focused on working through a series of steps that we need to take for the divestment of the Bush Block from the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC). Simply, we need to clearly demonstrate that we can take care of the land, and through it, provide a cultural healing service to our members and their families, and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families including the wider community.

A big part of this, has been to undertake a community consultation process which gave us the opportunity to talk to a large cross section of stakeholders about our concept plan for the Bush Block. This was a hugely successful process culminating in the lead story of this newsletter – the community and cultural gathering held at the Queens Park Primary School.

As a consequence of this process, we the Sister Kate's Home Kids Corporation and our plans to establish a Place of Healing

is well and truly out there and we have been incredibly touched by the amount of support and interest that people have for what we are doing. Like us, they are very excited about not only what is being proposed on the Block but the chance to work with us as we look forward to make this all happen.

This has taken an amazing amount of effort to meet this critical stage of the divestment process so I'd like to thank Tj and her small Team who worked with Greg and his crew from UDLA; working through a list of people and organisations that we needed to share our concept plan with, which has now been drafted into a communication report to go to the ILC, and this will aid our next steps towards getting the land divested to the Corporation.

On closing, we will keep you all updated as we progress from here and especially where we need your support in the year ahead.

**Glenn Pearson**  
**SKHKAC Chairperson**

## CEO UPDATE

### Kaya SK Homees and families

Once again, it's been a fast and furious time over the last six months for the Board and staff, with a high level of activity and positive outcomes around progressing our Vision for the Corporation, delivering our programs and development of the Bush Block – with a number of milestones reached and completed.

SKHKAC has grown ten-fold in its capability, delivery, presence and status as a major Stolen Generations service provider organisation with our cultural healing engagement and leadership development initiatives, resulting in a high level of productivity and success factors for our SK families and wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

The Bush Block is a high level focus for the Board and staff over the next six months, where it is envisaged that the land will be divested to the Corporation in due course, another major milestone reached – when this happens, SKHKAC will hold an event to mark the occasion, where members, stakeholders and all our supporters will be invited to celebrate this event with us in the SKHKAC Events Calendar.

Until my next instalment of achievement – keep well, stay safe.

Kaya

**Tjalaminu Mia**  
**SKHKAC CEO**

## Community Stakeholder Comments

'Ngung Juripen Noongar Mataranka Koorliny Kadidjiny Yeye – I was a happy Noongar man attending the event that day.' **Glenn Stasiuk – Murdoch University**

'The plans for the Bush Block are fabulous, great ideas encompassing a broad range of components that include the whole community.' **Caroline Mascall – Relationships Australia**

'The community gathering held by SKHKAC was a great success and the concept plan for the bush block will be beneficial for everyone, and our cultural history will continue through this initiative – well done SK Homees!!' **Margaret Culbong – Whadjuk Noongar Elder**

'I would like to thank everyone who attended our community gathering event to share what we Homees are planning for the Bush Block – it was a great turnout and a fabulous day.' **Cheryl Phillips – SK Homee and SKHKAC Deputy Chairperson**



# SKHKAC APOLOGY DAY – WOMEN’S GATHERING

To acknowledge the Apology Day 10 Year Anniversary, SKHKAC held a women’s gathering and CfC Day in the Park to both celebrate and discuss a range of outcomes over the last decade associated with the history making gesture.

Through a yarning circle, and though there were a number of interesting world views – some collaborative in nature, some conflicting – this part of the gathering enabled sisters to share their opinions in a safe space which strengthened even further the sound relationships formed between the sisters over a number of years whilst supporting and participating in our SKHKAC community engagement and empowerment programs.

The day was a great success where grandmothers, mothers, aunts, sisters and their children and grandchildren engaged with each other in both cultural, healing and creative activities.



**LOVE!**

*When the tears fall down in silence,  
and there’s no-one to see your pain.  
When your voice is meek when it cries for help  
your strength has left and there’s only shame.  
When you’re stifled by the darkness as the walls come closing in.  
The loneliness is the ghost that walks amongst the crowd  
where no-one talks. When you’re longing for the journey  
to end arriving at your home.  
But there’s no such home, no land, no place.  
You’re home sick for an empty space.  
For your yearning for connection.  
To be part of something more.  
One small word consisting of only letters four.  
**LOVE!**  
To give, receive, respect, hold dear. It fills your heart.  
Repels all fear.  
It makes you strong, it makes you brave,  
it’s something that you want to save.  
So let go of the loneliness that dwells within your soul.  
Let down your walls, open your heart, invite love in,  
it’s time to start.  
Start loving you, believe your worth,  
see the perfection gifted at birth.  
This love will free you from these prison walls.  
Created to protect you, from fear, from hurt, from falls.  
This life is such a precious gift – more value than we can  
comprehend – but life will never be complete,  
without experiencing love from foe and friend  
But it’s the love you create inside for you, infinite,  
powerful and healing too.  
Capable of creating whatever you dream.  
An unexplained joy bursting from every seam.  
Its faith, belief, its light, its home – its God living within and up above.  
It’s simple, it’s pure, creation of all – the answer to life is just simply,  
**LOVE!***

**CANDY WINMAR (SKHKAC SUPPORTER – STOLEN  
GENERATIONS DESCENDANT OF MOORE RIVER  
AND BAJJALLING MISSION).**



## SKHKAC Calendar 2018 Update

The calendar project has been running for a few years and has produced, since its inception, some great outcomes for our families – generating a sense of achievement for them and their children.

Past calendars have focused on bringing to the surface the creative expressions by collaborating beautiful artworks by families that showcase various perspectives of the natural world and the immediate environments they live in.

This calendar however, showcases a range of programs SKHKAC has initiated in the last seven years whilst being the only Aboriginal Stolen Generations organisation as a Community Partner organisation for the Communicare Communities for Children program in the Armadale and wider metro area.



## FLASH BACK

### *Sister Kate's Home Kids Community Cultural Day Boodjarri Yorgas Family Care Services DVD Launch 2014*

This initiative was a collaboration project between SKHKAC and Boodjarri Yorgas Family Care Services at the Armadale Hospital, where families were introduced to a range of elements of cultural healing, reconnecting to country and strengthening of family bonds that SKHKAC were sharing with the Aboriginal families in the metro area.

The BYFCS families were happy to participate in the community engagement initiative due to the cultural healing and empowerment focus with a range of successful outcomes as various components progressed, which were highlighted in a series of individual and family interviews that were the basis of the DVD on conclusion of the project.

A major focus highlighted in the DVD were both the shared experiences of the families who participated in the cultural healing components with their children - and a further feature on the hard work and commitment of the BYFCS staff and Mid-Wives, who also participated in a number of the cultural activities and shared their experiences around the successful outcomes of the initiative.

The Launch consisted of a community cultural day to celebrate the journey – where all the families who participated came together to share the success and enjoy the celebration.



Photo: Courtesy of Community Newspapers Ltd. WA

### *ANZAC Salute: Remembering Our Soldiers Lest We Forget*

2018 is the 100th year since the Great War; a war to end all wars – where many of our Aboriginal men from across Australia enlisted to fight for Freedom. Since then, there has been many of our peoples who have laid their lives down to do the same, and we acknowledge them for their sacrifices to keep our country and people safe and free.

WW1: The four Farmer boys from Katanning; Augustus, Larry, Lewis and Ken – two buried in France, two came home (uncles, great, and great, great, great uncles of several SK Home Kids and descendants).

Sister Kate's Homees;

- Sporty Jones (WW2) • Ken Colbung (Korean War) • Lenny Culbung (Vietnam War)

**Photo:** Beryl Dixon, 92 years – Noongar Elder and SK Homee's mother, two of her sons Chris and Lindsay Dixon – SK Home Kids, and Noongar Elder Roma Winmar, SKHKAC Director – laying the SKHKAC wreath at the Bassendean War Memorial, ANZAC Day 2018.



### *SKHKAC Up-And-Coming Events*

SKHKAC are planning a pre-Christmas Picnic in the Park event to get together as a SK Homee family with our supporters and various Aboriginal and non-Indigenous organisations to launch several small booklets we are working on over these next 6 months that focus on some of the programs we will be undertaking with our Homee families and the wider community.

One of the booklets will be to celebrate the 10 Year Anniversary of the Corporation highlighting our progress and achievements.

Event Flyers will be sent out to members and Friends of the SK Home Kids closer to the date of the event.

**Event Details:** 10:30am to 2:30pm, 19 December 2018, Tomato Lake Belmont.

### COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

- **Healing Our Spirit Worldwide Eighth Gathering** (conference held in Sydney, 26–29 November 2018). For more information: Facebook: facebook.com/HOSW  
Twitter: @hosw2018  
Instagram: @hosw8
- **NATISPC/WISPC national and international conferences** on Suicide Prevention to be held in Perth, 20–22 November 2018. For more information: ispc2018.com