

# SISTER KATE'S HOME KIDS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION NEWSLETTER



ISSUE #02 DECEMBER 2017

## WOMEN'S CULTURAL HEALING BUSH CAMP

SKHKAC held a Women's cultural healing bush camp, to aid in healing and strengthening of cultural values; providing a positive space to enable women to connect as sisters, share their life experiences and empower them as primary carers within family structures.

The camp also provided a series of opportunities that both reconnected women to cultural healing practices, protocols, and knowledge where they engaged in a campfire yarning circle, art workshop, life-skills discussion, and a Bibbulmun Wildflower Pit Ceremony.

The event was a successful cultural initiative for women and the Stolen Generations including supporters (Friends of the Sister Kate's Home Kids), where there has been a number of requests to hold further same-like bush camps both in the metro area and regional WA.



Younger generations enjoying the art workshop, being creative working together



Campfire Yarning Circle family gathering



Water and Wildflower Ceremony, preparing for the healing pits

### THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTURAL HEALING AND IDENTITY

...."I have supported the cultural programs SK Home Kids put on for families over a number of years now and the cultural healing bush camps have been a wonderful way to help our younger generations to culturally know who they are, connect to country and learn

important protocols of respect. I was very proud to see the little coolungars show cultural pride when they participated in some of the camp activities; they seemed to understand without being told, the importance of cultural silence needed in the ceremonies, and it was very good

to see. We need more of these types of bush camps for our families and younger generations as I think they help with our people's cultural identity"...

**Beryl Dixon (91 years)**  
*Senior Noongar Elder and a surviving mother of SK Home Kids*



### Cultural Connection: *sisters together strong*

The experience on this particular camp was absolutely phenomenal as we had over 50 people participate in the gathering, staged by SKHKAC. We had a number of women and children in the camp who are members of the Stolen Generations, with a large number who also happen to be from the Sister Kate Homee's group. Everyone introduced themselves while having a yarn and a cuppa, where many were in the Home together as children or related to each other, - women connecting with each other from the past, (which was great to see). As a SKHKAC facilitator, I was very humbled to be a part of this camp, as I had family members who attended the gathering, so for me, it was also a wonderful experience

for my family to see me working in a professional and cultural capacity. At this gathering, I had 3 of my aunts attend and also 5 female first cousins and 6 nephews (all under 12 years of age - a cultural protocol for a women's business gathering) and 3 nieces.

I would like to add that this cultural healing camp is probably the first experience most of my family have had, and to be able to participate in it was very enlightening to see. During the camp, I observed cultural pride and a sense of belonging within participants, especially the ones who haven't had opportunities like this before - it was very powerful to see the in-ate cultural knowledge where during the ceremonies

of the wild flower healing pits, the young people and older women showed this cultural and spiritual silence like they have been doing this every day, when in fact, this was their first cultural experience. So this tells me that this is engrained within us at a deeper cultural level than we are aware of - and, as Aboriginal people, given the right opportunities and place to practice our cultural knowledge, we can bring ourselves and our communities more closer together for healing and help empower them for a more positive future.

~ In Unity As One ~

**Dezerae Miller**  
*SK Homee Descendant*



### Governance

- ACNC Registration confirmed
- PBI confirmed
- Tax Exempt confirmed
- Strategic Plan/Feasibility Study/Business Case (60% completed)

### Bush Block

- Maintaining bush block with ILC: firebreaks and other land management objectives
- SKHKAC Board Workshops: EWBs, UDLA, ILC; developing a concept plan for a sustainable economic enterprise
- Discussions – City of Canning (progressing)
- Developing local, regional, national and international links around Health Research
- Developing networks/professional working relationships with other ACCHOS, Health Services, non-Indigenous Operatives/Shire Councils

### Operations

- Administration (developing)
- Policies/Procedures (completed)
- Office Space (seeking new premises)
- Pro-Bono Lawyers (secure legal advice for Corporation)
- Discussions – Lotterywest (progressing)

### Funding Opportunities

- SKHKAC/Communities for Children (CFC): secured a further 2year funding contract 2017-2019
- ConnectGroup for Mental Health Commission: contracted for one-off funding project; women's cultural healing bush camp (completed)
- National Healing Foundation: SHKAC Oral History Publication/International Cultural Exchange (waiting response)
- Department of Corrective Services: SKHKAC Healing and Wellbeing Inside/Out Prison Program (waiting response)
- Department of Social Services: Health and Mental Health Care Program (waiting response)

### Programs (delivered)

- SKHKAC Communities for Children (CFC), Armadale and metro area
- SKHKAC Healing and Wellbeing, Empowerment and Leadership Program
- SKHKAC – HIPPY Cultural Teaching/Learning and Reconciliation Collaboration Program
- SKHKAC/CFC and Communicare Community Partners Forum Collaboration Workshop
- SKHKAC/CFC Partners Art Work Project (PMH art collection)
- Women's Health Expo: Champion Centre, City of Armadale
- SKHKAC/School Mates Children's Cultural Teaching and Learning Workshop Collaborations (4)
- SKHKAC/Boodjari Yorga Family Care Services, Armadale Hospital (Commemoration Wall – continuous project into 2018)

### Fee for Service

- NEP/UWA National Empowerment Project (NEP) Cultural, Social and Emotional Wellbeing Program Evaluation Report (Queensland: Kuranda and Cherbourg communities)
- SKHKAC/NEP – UWA NEP Program Evaluation Paper - Te Mauri – Pimatisiwin, Volume 2, Issue 2, Article 3 – Mia et al.
- SKHKAC/NEP/UWA Ngullak Moort Malitj Moorditj (Our Mob – Grow Strong) Community Reengagement DVD Production
- SKHKAC Stolen Generations Women's Cultural Healing Bush Camp

Dear SKHKAC Members

Well, we can't believe that we are in the later part of November and heading into Christmas for the much needed time to stop and be with our families to celebrate the year that was and plans for the one ahead.

The Board and the Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation Team are also looking to the end of the year, to catch our breath as we consolidate all the hard work to take us into the home stretch to get the land divested from the Indigenous Land Corporation and back to us in 2018. We had hoped that this would occur in the early part of the new year but it is more likely to happen closer to October 2018 which seems a long way off but there is still plenty for us to do to not only keep this process moving forward but continue to build the Corporation to take on the responsibility of the land, as well build our means to generate an income to build and operate our Place of Healing.

We had a number of big achievements this year, with each building on our strength as an Organisation such as the development of our first ever Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan sets out for us the aims and objectives of SKHKAC over the next five years and actions that we have committed to that, will ensure our long term sustainability as an Organisation to deliver not only healing and wellbeing services to the Homees and their descendants but also a viable business that will generate income to enable us to look after the property and the place of Healing for us and all of the kids to come.

Of all of our big achievements, the one that really has helped us pull this altogether has been the discovery of Engineers Without Boarders (EWBs) who introduced us to Greg Grabasch and his team at Urban Design Landscape Architect (UDLA). Greg worked with the Directors and took them through a short (3 months) but very thorough process to really test our thinking on the use of the block and our aim to establish a Place of Healing. Through these sometimes sensitive discussions, Greg was able to create a space for our thinking to consider the use of the land for something more than just the Healing Centre but the means for a viable business to not only generate income but one that was consistent with our aims and objectives as the Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation. We recently

held a General Meeting to present to our members this new Bush Block Concept Plan which was unanimously supported and we are engaging Greg and his team to assist us with a broader consultation strategy as there are a lot of people and organisations that we need to check in with to get their support for our new Concept Plan. I would on behalf of the Board of Directors and the Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation acknowledge the support and thank Engineers Without Boarders (EWBs) but especially Greg and his Team at UDLA, who did all of the work to develop the Concept Plan pro bono.

A brief snapshot of the Concept Plan is in this newsletter but if you would like a full copy of it please contact TJ and her team who will make a copy available to members who could not attend the GM.

In addition to these two major achievements, we have worked through what seems to be an endless list of more boxes to tick and forms to fill in and more people to consult with – and at the same time to deliver on a range of programs and activities such as the ones listed here in the newsletter. So as we come to the end of another highly successful year, I'd like to thank the Board Directors who are there at every turn and at all the meetings and workshops and teleconferences that are needed to keep this juggernaut moving in the right direction. We have shared stories and created new ones so thank you for your love, support and commitment throughout this year.

I'd also like to thank and acknowledge the effort of TJ and her small team to keep the wheels spinning, we are small but the workload is big and the demands are constant but I want to thank you all for being the energy and driving force when needed to get us to where we are today.

Finally I'd like to thank our members for your support and commitment over what seems to be forever. We are so close to getting the land divested and while this is in motion, we will be continuing to build the capacity of the Corporation to take on the running of the Place of Healing.

So on behalf of the Board and the Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation, I wish you the best for you and your family as we head to the festive season and look forward to your support in 2018.

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

## CEO UPDATE

### Kaya SK Homees and families

Since our last newsletter there has been a high level of work completed to achieve a series of set goals over the last six months, as outlined in the Chairperson's Update, which include a range of identified objectives that have produced some great outcomes.

We have delivered a range of community engagement programs with several milestones achieved, with other initiatives in progress, including possible collaborations with the Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH), Fiona Stanley Hospital, Armadale Hospital, and several Aged Care facilities in the metro area, including the Sister Kate's Childrens Aboriginal Corporation (SKCAC); our older Homees and their families.

As a SK Home Kid, who has been working hard for a number of years towards our collective vision for our Place of Healing coupled with our Corporation being seen as a credible Aboriginal service provider organisation that provides programs to aid our families and the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in their healing journeys, I am pleased with the progress we have made for members so far, and look forward to the next six months in our development.

Till our next newsletter – keep well and safe.  
Kaya for now

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

# SKHKAC

## DEVELOPING THE BUSH BLOCK

### CONCEPT PLAN



Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation (SKHKAC) Healing Centre (place of healing; accessible to all) Concept Plan 2017

#### VISION

To provide a 'Place of Healing' for former residents of Sister Kate's Home, their descendants, all members of the Stolen Generations and the wider community.

#### VALUES

- Connecting People with Culture & Country
- Healing People & Country
- Maintaining Mental, Physical & Spiritual Health
- Homee's Healing Homee's
- Memorial & Archive

#### MISSION

The SKHKAC 'Place of Healing' will be supported and funded through the delivery of healing and cultural service programs based on the 'bush block' attributes, aligning with our Vision and consistent with our Values.



Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation (SKHKAC) Vision, Values and Mission

Note: This information is copyrighted to SKHKAC

### SKHKAC Bush Block Master Plan: cementing the Sister Kate's Home Kids vision.

There have been a number of success factors that were outlined by the ILC that are considered dependencies for divesting the land to the Corporation. The Board, CEO and staff have worked diligently over the last 15 months to progress this vision, with great progress and outcomes to date.

SKHKAC have been workshopping a Master Plan facilitated pro bono with Engineers Without Borders (EWBs) and Urban Design Landscape Architect (UDLA) since the beginning of the year and this has resulted in a sound economic sustainable enterprise concept plan that has been shared with members at a General Meeting, including the ILC and Canning Shire, who are very impressed with the design layout, creative use of the land and the services that it will provide to Stolen Generations groups, to wider A&TSI families, and the general community in the Queens Park Canning and metro area. The plan is all accessible, meaning is it designed to be accessible to all, and saves 90% of the land which was a deal breaker for SK Home

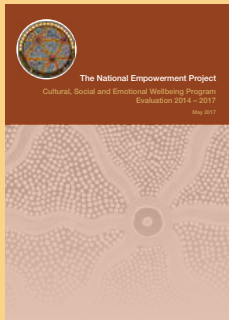
Kids and their families due to wanting to keep a large percentage of the bush in its natural form, resulting and embracing adhering to cultural and environmental protocols and purposes, and further to this, including the early childhood memories of the SK Homees as a place of healing for them.

As with the vision of the Board, the development of the bush block has heightened their resolve to complete their mission of providing a space that both personally engages SK Home Kids and their families in healing activities as a Stolen Generations group on the land as well as providing services of healing and empowerment to other A&TSI families including the wider community.

The personal and collective passion and commitment by SKHKAC to this end, is strong and seen as achievable, and it is hoped with further hard work around the next lot of success factors and outcomes, a celebration is eminent of launching and implementing the Plan in the very near future.



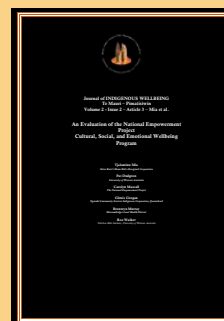
### SKHKAC/NEP Research: National Empowerment Project: Cultural, Social and Emotional Wellbeing



Following a two year period of the National Empowerment Program (NEP) rollout in Queensland 2014 - 2016, SKHKAC were approached by Professor Pat Dudgeon from NEP/UWA to undertake the program evaluation, which entailed interviewing 30 individual participants from the Kuranda and Cherbourg communities in Queensland who completed the course,

which resulted in a series of concrete outcomes for families in those regions. Due to the success of the program, it has been re-funded by the the Queensland Mental Health Commission.

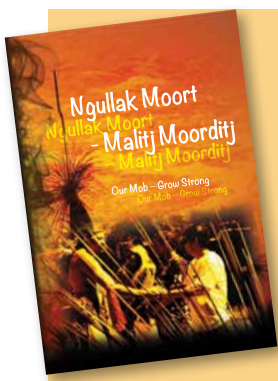
### Program Evaluation Research Paper



Following the program evaluation, and further to the success of both the community support of it and the evaluation report, a further collaboration produced a Paper: An Evaluation of the National Empowerment Program - Cultural, Social and Emotional Wellbeing Program 2017, which was included in the Journal of Indigenous Wellbeing, Te Mauri – Pimatisiwin, Volume 2, Article 3 – Mia et al.

Authors: Tjalaminu Mia - SKHKAC, Pat Dudgeon - University of Western Australia, Caroline Mascall - The National Empowerment Project, Glenis Grogan - Ngoonbi Community Services Indigenous Corporation, Queensland, Bronwyn Murray - Murrumbidgee Local Health District, Queensland and Roz Walker - Telethon Kids Institute, University of Western Australia.

### Community Reengagement Gathering



An important component of the SKHKAC/NEP - UWA research collaboration, SKHKAC was again approached to undertake and deliver a community reengagement gathering as part of a NEP Forum held in Fremantle, where over 80 people attended from both the 11 NEP sites across Australia as well as local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, including representatives from a wide range of both Aboriginal and non-Indigenous organisations and funding bodies who participated in a cultural healing and empowerment exchange. Further to this a group of Nyoongar representatives from Northam (SKHKAC NEP site) attended, who made up Elders, senior community members and a group of young people, all supportive of the NEP program and who shared their Stories in a series of filmed interviews on how they are addressing a range of issues including suicide prevention in their town. This community produced a DVD: Ngullak Moort - Malitj Moorditj (Our Mob - Grow Strong), where it can be seen on the SKHKAC website in 2018.

# FLASH BACK

This section is for events that SKHKAC have held since becoming a service provider agency so that members and a wider community can both remember some of the programs they attended and participated in, as well, to inform those who have not had the chance to support SKHKAC in its programs, but are privy to what we have staged for SK Homees and their families, including other A&TIS families and the wider community.



Sister Kate's Home Kids and the wider community celebrating the Inaugural Launch of their cultural healing programs – NAIDOC Week, Cannington, 2011



Sister Kate's Home Kids – coming to share in the Christmas Festive Season of Good Will, Armadale 2012



*The essence of Aboriginal spirituality is in the strength and connection to your family  
Knowing who you are and where you've journeyed strengthens your sense of cultural belonging*

**Nyoonak Noongaral wirn moordawin moortang dandjoo koorl  
Kaadadjiny noonadar maat-bidi baalang djinang noonook nyin**

*CHERYL PHILLIPS & CARMEL CULBONG  
SISTER KATE'S HOME KIDS*

## SKHKAC UP-AND-COMING EVENTS

SKHKAC hold a wide range of events throughout the year delivering our programs across the metro area and throughout regional WA, as well as special events just for our Sister Kate's families.

These programs and social gatherings have been very successful with many of our families and their younger generations in attendance – celebrating reconnecting with other SK Home Kids, sharing aspects of their lives through family-friendly yarning circles, art workshops and sporting activities – with the events proving to be both rich in personal stories and inspirational in hearing some of the adversity Homees have faced whilst securing their achievements in life.

The next event we are planning to hold that will again hopefully get a big response in attendance are:

### The SKHKAC Family Fun Day & Membership Drive

**Time:** 10.30am to 2.30pm **Date:** Sat, 20 Jan 2018 **Venue:** Tomato Lake, Belmont

As the date gets closer, we will send you an Invite Flyer which will have all necessary details - hope to see you at the event.

## COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

- **People Who Care**  
Aboriginal Elders HACC Program  
48 James Street, Guildford  
**Contact:** David Bell on  
(08) 9379 1944
- **Noongar Radio** - Saturday Night  
www.noongarradio.com  
**Email:** info@noongarradio.com  
**Contact:** (08)92280606
- **Fiona Stanley Hospital**  
Aboriginal Liaison Unit  
Patient/Family and  
Employment Opportunities  
**Contact:** (08) 6152 5521