

# SISTER KATE'S HOME KIDS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #05 JUNE 2019

## WALKING THE BUSH BLOCK *Talking Country and Healing*

What a great opportunity our Corporation and members were offered just before the Easter break this year; being able to walk the bush block with Federal Minister Ken Wyatt and a range of stakeholder supporters, sharing what the site means to SK Homees and their families, and how it can play a major role in our trauma recovery and all who need healing as a collective when we get the Place of Healing built on the land.

To be able to have the Minister walk around the site, talking with him about our early lives as children when we all sought out this place to connect back to Country and a sense of freedom it gave us from the restricted lives we lived in the Sister Kate's Home, and to share this place as a future Healing Hub, that unbeknown to us back then in those early years, would bring us all back together as a Stolen Generations group, to develop a great concept plan to provide healing for everyone.

We shared wonderful memories with the Minister as well, he participated with us and our younger generations in several cultural ceremonies to commemorate the visit, heightening a warm, supportive and empowering moment for SK Homee members and all who attended the event.

SKHKAC have been awarded funding from the Ministers department in Canberra, to hold a series of cultural healing bush camps on the site over the next 12mths, which will also include producing a DVD documentary of the SKHKAC journey which will have a range of both historical and contemporary focuses and our collective Vision around the Place of Healing.

*Note: For Media coverage of the event, go to: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/xu7v9uarx6hmqu1/Story%20on%20Ten%20News%20First.mp4?dl=0>  
(Credit: Ten News First).*



Minister Ken Wyatt, aunty Margaret Culbong, Cheryl Phillips, aunty Roma Winmar, Koodah and Delvene Cornwall and SK Homee descendants.



The Minister being interviewed on the Bush Block by 10 News First.



Tjalaminu Mia, Minister Ken Wyatt, aunty Roma Winmar and guests walking the Bush Block.



Traditional Noongar Smoking Ceremony to start Minister Ken Wyatt's visit to the Bush Block.



Cheryl Phillips, SKHKAC Deputy Chair Welcoming the Minister and guests to Country.

# SKHKAC

## Progressed Priorities present status 2019

### Governance

- Strategic Plan (changes/progressing)
- Corporation Operational Business Plan (finalising)
- Revenue Raising Strategy (workshopping)
- Communications & Promotions Strategy (progressing)
- Feasibility Study (started/progressing)
- Business Case (started/progressing)

### Bush Block

- Maintaining bush block with ILC: quarterly security checks, and firebreak assessments, and other landcare/management objectives (continuous)
- 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 (on-going)

### Operations

- Administration (continuous)
- Office (shared space/working well)
- Art Studio (space working well)
- Counselling Services (space working ok for now)
- Website and Facebook Page (finalising)
- Newsletter (ongoing)
- 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 (contract nearing completion)
- National Healing Foundation: Cultural Healing Bush Camps (successful/progressing)
- WA Health Initiative – Bush Camps and a Regional Community Health Expo (successful/progressing)
- Funding Applications Lodged - Weed Eradication and Ecological Environmental Land Survey/ Limestone Pathways on site (progressing)
- Telethon Funding Committee: SKHKAC/Child and Adolescent Community Health Women's Healing and Empowerment Program (successful)

### Programs (Delivered)

- SKHKAC/Boodjari Yorga Family Care Services, Armadale Hospital – Commemoration Wall Project (completed)
- SKHKAC/CfC Aboriginal Voices of Armadale 2nd Edition Publication (nearing completion)
- SKHKAC/C&ACH Women's Healing & Empowerment Program (underway/progressing)
- SKHKAC 6 Track RAP CD & Film Clip (started/progressing)

### Fee for Service

- City of Canning Reconciliation Community Film Night Event - Guest Speaker (completed)
- Department of Communities (DOCS) Sorry Day event (completed)
- WSP – series of staff cultural awareness workshops (completed)

# CHAIRPERSON'S UPDATE

Kaya All – hope everyone is well and looking forward to NAIDCO Week!

There has been a fair amount of activity over this first part of 2019 with some great achievements and positive outcomes by the Board and staff for our members, with several major initiatives implemented which will gain us some wonderful opportunities as we progress our Operations and Business Development Strategic Plan. The Corporation is presently undertaking a Feasibility Study that is a major consideration in aiding the land (Bush Block) to be divested to the Corporation hopefully by the end of the year, where we will inform our members and stakeholders in due course, finalising this with an invitation to a community celebration.

What I would also like to say, is though we have been hard at work progressing in our endeavours on behalf of our members, we would not be able to get the land or to deliver the range of programs we have to date without the support of our members, stakeholders and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and wider community, so thank you all for your belief in our Corporation as a valued Stolen Generations organisation and service provider where your continued support is very much appreciated.

It's been a wonderfully productive six months achieving the successes we have, and I look forward to reporting on further progress in our next newsletter.

**Glenn Pearson**

**SKHKAC Chairperson**

# CEO UPDATE

## Kaya SK Homees and families

It seems just like a moment ago, preparing to send out our last newsletter for December, proving that time flies when your busy undertaking the work that needs to be done in pretty short timelines, but which has resulted in some great outcomes with a range of achievements through the hard work and commitment of both the Board and staff over these past six months.

Once again, we are happy to report on several major initiatives in the healing, empowerment and leadership domain as well as high level recognition in the services SKHKAC provide for our SK Homee families and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wider community.

We have also been applying ourselves in the development of our Place of Healing on the Bush Block as well as negotiating a series of Cultural Competency Awareness Training packages for a range of

government departments, service provider agencies and corporate bodies for their Executive Teams and staff, adding further credibility to major focus areas in our Corporation's Strategic Plan, which will also aid our Feasibility Study and Business Case presently being undertaken.

At the moment, we are now forward planning across quite a few programs for our SK families as well as developing several new programs: Music is Healing, Art Culture and Environmental Educational Teaching/Learning and our Schools Cultural Sharing program which are progressing and are about to be delivered across the metro area.

I hope you all have a great NAIDOC Week and till next time – keep well and kaya for now.

**Tjalaminu Mia**

**CEO – SKHKAC**



# DJOOKANA DANDJOO WALBRININY (SISTERS TOGETHER HEALING)

## Ngala Maat-bidi Yaanginy (Sharing our Journey)



Several women participating in the art and creative expression session in the program.



Sitting on Country - Sharing Culture: C&ACH Staff and Health Worker's pre-program workshop, Mills Park, Beckenham.

The Child and Adolescent Community Health Unit in Belmont approached SKHKAC to especially develop a program for AB&TSI women with a focus on healing, empowerment, capacity building and leadership, which came out of the great work our Corporation was doing for our families in the Armadale area for the Communicare/SKHKAC Communities for Children Program 2012-2019.

The focus of the program is to heal and empower our women via a range of cultural knowledge components including language teaching/learning sessions shared by several Noongar Elders, as well, to participate in a series of walk/talk country at a range of significant sites in the metro area.

The program will also include an introduction to holistic healing, creative expression and application through art workshoping, resulting in all artworks and cultural objects produced by the women that will be showcased in an Exhibition at the conclusion of the program.

A further highlight will be the production of a DVD, which will document the achievements the women have made in their healing and wellbeing journey.

The program will run for nine months as a pilot and has been funded by the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation, where on completion, will be assessed for further funding to continue based on the success of the program.



## National Sorry Day

"It is important to remember what our ancestors and our old people went through in the early years of white control of our families and countries, and though those times were very hard and sad for us all as I was there and remember some of the things that happened along the way, I feel we need to keep moving forward in a positive way because that's the only way we can go, and I also feel that if everyone extended a positive hand in friendship to all those who they come into contact with from other cultures who have now made our countries their home, then this will make the journey easier for us and help to regain our place of belonging in the scheme of things"

**Beryl Dixon (SK Homee parent of the Dixon family)**

**92yrs: Senior Noongar Elder - Menang, Goreng and Wardjari people, South-West Great Southern WA**

**Note:** Tj and Ron were interviewed on site by Noongar Radio presenters Jim Morrison and Jodi Hoffman, where they shared what Sorry Day means to them, concluding the segment with Ron sharing a couple of verse in the upcoming song for the SKHKAC 6 track EP RAP CD being launched early 2020.



SKHKAC staffers; Tjalaminu Mia, CEO and Ron Ronan, Mental Health and Holistic Counsellor Mind Body Medicine facilitator at the Sorry Day AFL Indigenous Round footy game between the Brisbane Lions and Fremantle Dockers, Optus Stadium Perth 26th May 2019.



Leza Radcliffe, Jim Morrison, Patrick Egan, Deanne Tann, Ron Ronan, Tjalaminu Mia, Patrick Ryder and Michelle Andrews – sharing personal perspectives and Stories at the DOCs Sorry Day Forum, Perth.



Australia Indigenous Hibiscus flower; adopted by the Stolen Generations as a symbol for National Sorry Day, as it is found widely across Australia and because it is a survivor.

## FLASH BACK



SKHKAC produced a range of calendars over a number of years, where SK Homee families collaborated with other AB&TSI families living in the Armadale area for the Communicare/SKHKAC Communities for Children Program; a creative expression and caring for country initiative, resulting in some wonderful artworks by the families that were both the main body content in the calendars which framed the team work to achieving these great outcomes.

### Commemoration Wall Unveiling

SKHKAC worked in collaboration with the Boodjari Yorga Family Care Unit at the Armadale Hospital to produce a Commemoration Wall art piece that acknowledges our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and their children.

The Unveiling Ceremony commenced with a Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremony and a special cultural dance on a sand painting which honoured our mothers, fathers and their children in both the happiness they feel when they bring a new baby into the world as well as their loss of their children who have passed away.

The ceremony was conducted by Nigel Wilkes and Alice Kearing and the Mungart Nyoongah Yonga Arts Enterprise Group, where all who attended were moved emotionally by the group's performance in honouring all our families loss, grief and happiness.



A special commemoration dance to honour all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents and their children; dance at the event; lead by Alice Kearing.



Commemoration Wall in the Healing Garden, Armadale Hospital - Boodjari Yorgas Family Care Services and SKHKAC collaboration; to honour our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents and their children.

### Bassendean Anzac Day Event

SKHKAC attended the Town of Bassendean ANZAC Service held at the War Memorial Park adjacent to the Bassendean Shire Offices with over 400 people attending, which included Noongar Elder Beryl Dixon and several SK Homee descendants, who laid a Wreath in remembrance of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who fought in War Theatres around the world since the Great War/WW1 (1915-1918).



SKHKAC Wreath - Laid at the Bassendean War Memorial



Noongar Elder aunty Beryl Dixon, Yagan Dixon, Jamaine Whitby - SK Homee descendants and Gerry Pule Deputy Mayor Town of Bassendean

### SKHKAC Up-And-Coming Events

SKHKAC will be delivering a range of healing, empowerment and capacity building/ leadership programs over the next six to twelve months, see below outlined:

- SKHKAC families Back to Country Cultural Healing Bush Camps (men, women and children).
  - Producing several DVDs that focus on cultural healing and cultural teaching/ learning of our SKHK men, women and younger generations.
  - Producing a 6 Track RAP CD with film clip of one of the songs.
  - Delivering a Community Out-Reach regional cultural healing and health Expo
  - program including visits to significant Noongar sites in the South-West, Great Southern region.
  - WSP Cultural Competency Program Cultural Finale.
  - Artwork Hand-Over events at the School of Indigenous Studies at UWA, and at the City of Canning Bentley Library.
- We will send members an event Flyer for each program in due course, closer to the date of all programs.

### COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

- **NAIDOC Week 7 - 13 July 2019**
- **Official Opening** Sunday 7 July 2019
- **Crowning of Miss NAIDOC** 25 May 2019
- **Town of Bassendean NAIDOC Family Day Event**, Ashfield Reserve 11 July 2019
- **NAIDOC Ball** 13th July at the Perth Crown Casino

**Note:** SKHKAC will be participating as a Stall Holder at the Ashfield event so drop by and say 'hello' and experience some wildflower healing.