

SISTER KATE'S HOME KIDS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #06 DECEMBER 2019

DJOOKANA DANDJOO WALBRININY (SISTERS TOGETHER HEALING)

Ngala Maat-bidi Yaanginy (Sharing our Journey)

SKHKAC was successful in applying for funding in collaboration with the Child and Adolescent Community Health Services in Belmont, to the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation for a women's healing, empowerment and capacity building for leadership program, where over the last nine months it has proven to be both a great achievement and experience for all participants.

The focus of the program was 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 wildflower healing and food for medicine workshops, where the women were introduced to a range of alternative healing practices and healthy eating plans.

The program was included as an introduction

to holistic healing, creative expression and application through art workshops. All their artworks and cultural objects produced were showcased in an Exhibition at the conclusion of the program.

There were over a hundred family and community members including the funding body and various government agencies and special guests who attended the cultural ceremony and exhibition opening. A 'live performance' by the women around SELF Empowerment and Pride in their cultural identity was presented.

A DVD was produced to document the achievements the women have made in their healing and wellbeing journey, where it also includes a series of interviews by the women, a cultural ceremony, dancing as well as their art exhibition which was a great highlight on the night for everyone.



"Dream Catcher" by Nardia Whitehurst



Cultural headdress Workshop; using wildflowers.



Cultural headdress Workshop; using gum leaves and their flowering seed pods.



Wildflower Healing Workshop where the women were introduced to healing practices.



Art and creative expression session in the program.



Acrylic on Canvas - "Fish" by Leanne Loo.



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

SKHKAC

Progressed Priorities present status 2019

Governance

- Strategic Plan (completed)
- Corporation Operational Business Plan (finalising)
- Revenue Raising Strategy (workshopping)
- Communications & Promotions Strategy (progressing)
- Feasibility Study Business Case (finalising)
- Concept Plan – Place of Healing (completed)

Bush Block

- Maintaining bush block with ILSC: quarterly security checks, and firebreak assessments, and other landcare/management objectives (continuous)
- Community Stakeholder Consultancy – sharing bush block concept plan (completed/ongoing)
- 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)
- Developing an Activity Plan (progressing)

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/launch in February 2020)
- Newsletter (ongoing)
- Fact Sheet (continually updated)
- SKHKAC Prospectus (updating)

Funding Opportunities

- National Healing Foundation (men and women's camps completed/RAP CD song workshops and 2 film clips completed/DVD progressing)
- WA Health Initiative – Bush Camps and a Regional Community Health Expo (2 Bush Camps completed/ regional Outreach Program progressing)
- Community Environmental Initiative to Steve Irons Office; weed eradication plan (successful)
- Funding Applications Lodged - Weed Eradication and Ecological Environmental Land Survey/ Limestone Pathways on site (unsuccessful)
- Perth Children's Hospital Foundation: SKHKAC/ Child and Adolescent Community Health Women's Healing and Empowerment Program (completed)

Programs (Delivered)

- SKHKAC/C&ACH Women's Healing & Empowerment Program (completed)
- SKHKAC 6 Track RAP CD & Film Clip (nearing completion/launch in February)
- School programs delivered (3), student teachers program delivered (1), NAIDOC Events delivered (4), Yonga Booka Workshops delivered (4), Men & Women's cultural healing bush camps delivered (2) art and creative expression workshops delivered (6)
- Worked on DVDs program (4)

Fee for Service

- WSP – Cultural Awareness Finale Event and Website Link (completed)
 - WA Main Roads CAT Program (half way through/ progressing), and where negotiations are in hand to deliver CAT to regional staff
- Note: SKHKAC have been approached to deliver our CAT program to WA Public Transport Authority in 2020, and to the City of Canning (negotiating)*

CHAIRPERSON'S UPDATE

Well, it's been another six months of heavy workloads for the Board and staff at SKHKAC with some amazing results across a multitude of areas that have moved us further along in getting the Bush Block divested to the Corporation.

Though there have been several major items on our plate to work through, where Directors and the CEO have handled these with strength of commitment and dedication on behalf of our members, bringing us to a major point now in our journey in realising our Place of Healing, which places the Bush Block at the centre of our endeavours for all our SK Homees, their descendants and the wider community.

It is with great pride that I acknowledge the efforts of our CEO and staff for their hard work, which has manifested in a wide

range of programs delivered over the last year especially these past six months with the development of several new initiatives that also include a range of Fee for Service programs that are now proving beneficial to local government, government departments and the corporate world: with our CAT (Cultural Awareness Training) Program held in country one of the initiatives resulting in a very successful program for these agencies.

SKHKAC has another full program in this next part of the financial year and we hope you all will keep supporting us to succeed in celebrating the divesting of the land in 2020.

Kaya

Glenn Pearson
SKHKAC Chairperson

CEO UPDATE

Kaya SK Homees and families

What an extraordinary past six months it has been with a heap of success factors aimed for and completed, boosting the morale and achievements by your Corporation's Board and staff on behalf of members.

As per usual, it has been a fast and furious time in getting over the line on all major workloads identified in our Forward Plan for 2019/2020, with some fabulous results to date and we can be proud seeing we are still in start up mode as a fledgling Stolen Generations Service provider organisation, and one of the youngest Aboriginal

agencies in the metro area and WA; so we can give ourselves a huge pat on the back for both what we have and are achieving across a multitude of KPIs in our funded programs and our collective all community engagement initiatives.

On behalf of myself and our staff, we hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year, and we look forward to seeing you all at our series of community events in 2020.

Stay Well and Safe.

Kaya for now

Tjalaminu Mia
CEO – SKHKAC

Sharing Culture, Connection to Country and the Stolen Generations

SKHKAC and the School of Indigenous Studies at UWA co-hosted Dr Stephen Campbell and a group of psychology students from Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA in an academia - cultural knowledge and healing sharing exchange, where their five day visit included a series of visits around a range of significant Noongar sites in the metro area including the SKHKAC Bush Block and the Queens Park Primary School.

A major highlight of their visit was going to Wadjemup (Rottnest Island) where Dr Glen Stasiuk (Murdoch University), Greg Grabasch - BC Consultancy (Concept Consultant for the Aboriginal Burial site on the island) and Ron Ronan (SKHKAC staff member and a Whadjuk man) toured the

group through several sites including the island's museum.

The USA visitors were also informed of the Stolen Generations and the fall out of the inter-generational trauma causing many of the problems both the Noongar and the wider Aboriginal community are experiencing today.



Glen Miller – SK Homee sharing with students, various cultural perspectives on healing, land care and what the bush block meant to him whilst living at the SK Home.

SKHKAC NAIDOC WEEK Programs 2019

School of Indigenous Studies University of Western Australia Artwork Hand Over Event



Smoking Ceremony on the banks of the Derbal Yirrgan, UWA.



Title: Healing Colours in Country 2019.

SKHKAC was a centre piece of the 2nd National and 2nd International Suicide Prevention Conferences held in Perth in 2018, where the Healing Hub and Art Expression Workshops were a big hit with

presenters and attendees alike; resulting in a collective triptych artwork being started by many hands from many cultures, producing an art piece that depicts Noongar Boodjar and the healing colours of country.

During NAIDOC Week 2019, the School of Indigenous Studies at UWA staged a cultural ceremony where the artwork was gifted to the school by SKHKAC for pride of place in the new to be built POCHE Centre of Excellence at the University.

City of Canning Art Work Hand Over

The relationship between SKHKAC and the City of Canning has grown strong in a very short time and the appreciation of CoC around our Corporation's Vision of building our Place of Healing on the Bush Block has both opened up a wide range of possibilities for both agencies across a multitude of endeavours. In support of our Corporation with our programs especially our wider community engagement initiatives, a great admiration has developed around our cultural healing and art expression programs. This has resulted in a commissioned triptych artwork by our staff for the City's Shire Offices, which was handed-over to Mayor Paul Ng during their Canning Community NAIDOC Week event held at the Manning Library.



City of Canning Mayor Paul Ng with SKHKAC CEO Tjalaminu Mia in front of the artwork, Manning Library.

Bassendean Ashfield Oval NAIDOC Event

Once again, the Bassendean Shire staged a fabulous event with the many Aboriginal organisations set up on site to share their agency's services with the many Aboriginal families and the wider community who support the event - which has grown in strength over the years. It was SKHKAC's first year to participate in the community gathering, where we set up a Yarning space where staff shared our Corporation's focus in providing healing and counselling services to our SK Homees and our collective families both in the metro area and regional WA and the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.



SKHKAC marque at City of Bassendean NAIDOC Week Event, Ashfield Oval

CELEBRATING MEN - WOMEN'S BUSINESS AND CULTURAL IDENTITY

(cultural teaching and learning bush camps)



Cultural headdress Workshop – a major component of the women's gathering.



A younger SKHK member – wearing her cultural headdress.

As part of major cultural healing KPIs in our funded programs, SKHKAC delivered several men and women's bush camps, both on the Bush Block and in other parts of Noongar country, which were supported and seen as a valued initiative by both SKHK Islander families and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and the wider community. Men, women and younger generations gathered to share cultural knowledge, healing practices and protocols generating a sense of connection to culture, country and cultural identity.

Cultural Identity and Pride

A major highlight for SK Homees and their families was an outcome of the cultural healing bush camps with the cultural name and totem giving ceremonies, where this was delivered by our Elders and was completed by giving everyone a Yonga Booka to wear in future cultural ceremonies and community events.

Following the camps and ceremonies, SKHKAC held a series of four Yonga Booka design workshops, where everyone produced wonderful designs on their Bookas that reflect their name and totem and connection to their place of belonging.



Some great designs on the series of Yonga Bookas which were completed by participants of the workshops.



SK Homees and descendants Yonga Booka workshop.



Noongar Elder Koodah Cornwall sharing cultural knowledge with younger gens – bush camp held in country at Mariginiup.



Tjalaminu Mia - SKHKAC CEO, Julie Loader - Queens Park Primary School Principle and City of Canning Carley Robbins, Maddie Boe, UWA Community Engagement Officer and their staff – with Dr Stephen Campbell and his students from Nova University, Florida, USA on a cultural exchange with SKHKAC and the school.

Back To Queens Park Primary School

To help celebrate the school's annual art program exhibition event, SKHKAC CEO and our Mental Health Counsellors were invited to do a Welcome to Country at the school Assembly to open proceedings, which was both an honour and a wonderful journey back to be on the school's grounds again.

Both Tjalaminu Mia and Glen Miller, who as SK Home Kids went to the school in their primary years and were happy to re-visit and be part of the Special Guest Delegation.

A highlight for Glen was to meet again after 20 years, his teachers still working at the school from his primary years.

A further highlight at the school was the visiting students from Nova University, USA – where a focus on universal cultural diversity was a major topic of the exchange.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY AWARENESS TRAINING WSP

Though SKHKAC has been delivering a wide range of cultural healing, empowerment and capacity building programs to our members and their families including other Stolen Generations groups and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community - we have now added to our Program Prospectus by developing a Cultural Awareness Training (CAT) Program package for both Aboriginal organisations, government departments/agencies and the corporate world.

This new initiative is proving to be a growing success with our staff delivering our first program to WSP (major construction company who work with WA Main Roads) in 2018, where 100 of their Executive Management and staff have completed the training.

To finalise the training and to complete their program, a cultural gathering was held on the SKHKAC Bush Block, where the art work produced by the WSP staff during the creative expression component was unveiled and handed over to Alan Rimmer WSP Managing Director, where he relayed it would be showcased on their organisation's reception wall so visitors can see the efforts of his staff in their appreciation of Noongar Boodjar.

The event ended with a cultural dance performance with all WSP and SKHKAC staff and dignitaries celebrating the conclusion of the training with the Njumbi dance.



Smoking Ceremony of WSP staff, at one of their CAT workshops held at Yagan Memorial Park, Swan Valley.



WSP staff group photo completing one of their CAT workshops.



Cultural Ceremony at WSP finale event held on the SKHKAC Bush Block, Queens Park.

WA Main Roads Cultural Competency Training



WAMR's staff completing one of their CAT workshops in country - Mariginiup.

Following on the heels of the WSP successful CAT program, SKHKAC have engaged the WA Main Roads for a similar program for their Executive Management Team and their 850 staff in the metro area - where 400 have already completed the training to date, with another 450 to complete it in March and April 2020.

On conclusion of the metro area, there is a strong possibility that SKHKAC may also pick up a further 400 staff at various main areas in regional WA.

The SKHKAC CAT program is proving to be a great success in our program service and delivery and this has been garnered via the evaluation component by both WSP and WA Main Roads staff, highlighting both the effectiveness of our cultural knowledge sharing focuses, creative expression with group art sessions and working collectively to develop high level outcomes within these organisations Reconciliation Action Plans (RAP), to better prepare staff to work with Aboriginal traditional owners in country.

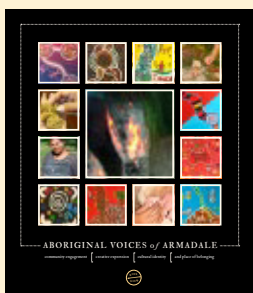


Ochre face painting of women staff members - Main Roads.

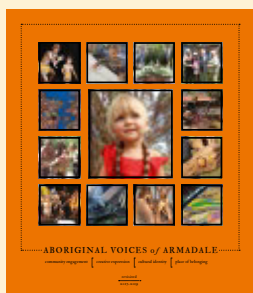


Staff working on their collective art-piece.

FLASH BACK



Book 1. 2012 – 2014



Book 2. 2015-2019

SKHKAC has produced a number of Program outcome products like DVDs, calendars, artworks and publications with our latest book that is both a follow-on from the last program we have delivered for the Communities for Children in Armadale, where our concluding booklet resulted in a major outcome of working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in the area - showcasing family bonding and healing, empowerment and wellbeing focuses.

SKHKAC Schools Cultural Teaching & Learning Program

There has been a strong interest in our School's program with a range of full day workshops and half day sessions delivered over the last six months at several primary schools in the metro area, where students and teachers alike engage with our staff in a variety of cultural and creative expression activities including Yarning Circles and Sharing Story where the children also share aspects of their cultures as well as their views around land care issues and what they feel are immediate and future responsibilities by all parts of the community.



SKHKAC facilitators; Tjalaminu Mia, Alta Winmar, Jess Lister and Tamara Hardingham / Camboon Primary School, Osbourne Park Osbourne Park.

The SK Homees Rapping to their own Beat!



Ron Ronan and the Group in Murdoch Sound Studio working on tracks for the RAP CD.

Various SK Homees and descendants were part of a National Healing Foundation funded program, where they workshoped a series of RAP songs that reflect their world views around culture, connection to country, reaffirming their place of belonging and rising up out of the negative life-styles they have fallen into from the trauma fall out of being Stolen Generations.

The group hit the Sound Studios at Murdoch University with several experienced Muso's and the Media Unit, to lay the 6 Track RAP CD under the watchful eye of Dr Glen Stasiuk, who was also the Film Director for the two film clips produced for the tracks The Risen and Blackfeet.

As the project proceeds, SKHKAC will inform members and SKHKAC supporters of the Launch details.

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 - City of Canning Celebrating Cultural Diversity and Community Unity Family Fun Day
- Finalise a number of DVD Programs
- Complete the SKHKAC Younger Generations 6 Track RAP CD and Film Clip's with a major Launch Event
- Complete the WA Main Roads Cultural Contecpancy Training Program in the metro area and start the WA regional program
- Launch SKHKAC Website & Face-Book page
- Produce several commissioned art works for local government agencies
- Finalise the SKHKAC Documentary - an historical, environmental and future Vision for the Bush Block Place of Healing
- SKHKAC - Katanning Shire Community Regional Outreach Celebrating Cultural Diversity and Community Unity Program for National Reconciliation Week

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

- **SKHKAC/City of Canning Family Fun Day**
Event - Kent Street Weir
10am - 2pm
Saturday 1st February 2020
- **3rd WISPC International Suicide Prevention Conference**
Manatoba, Ontario, Canada 2020

Note: For further information, contact Amy Groves on 0400900958