

Mullum Mullum

Indigenous Gathering Place



December 2010 Newsletter



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Chairpersons Report



Welcome to our seventh edition of the MMIGP Newsletter. This past year has seen a significant increase in the number of activities delivered across all program areas.

In early 2010 the organisation undertook a review and participated in the development of a new business plan. This new plan, along with a new Managing Director has introduced a number of operational changes to include a restructure of programs and reporting. We believe this change will allow improved tracking of our progress and accountability, with an aim of strengthening our relationship with our primary funding bodies, stakeholders and the Indigenous community.

With a continued focus on health promotion in 2010/11, the organisation through recent planning will continue the ongoing delivery of programs that promote social engagement and good health within our community.

MMIGP continues to grow as we explore activities and projects that allow active participation of community members in determining their economic future. It is anticipated that social ventures will be explored further in 2010/11 and become an additional focus of the organisation moving forward.

Yours Sincerely

Karen Milward



Managing Directors Report



I am pleased to say that the Gathering Place now has a full complement of staff heading into 2011. All staff in late November were engaged in a two day planning session which has seen the development of 12 month forward plan to include the confirmation of keep dates and activities for 2011 that will be circulated to community in a monthly calendar format as attached.

The staff and management of MMIGP are looking forward to 2011 with a number of programs planned and key events to take place during Reconciliation and NAIDOC weeks in providing opportunities for the Indigenous and non Indigenous community to come together and share in our wonderful culture.

I am very pleased to announce the commencement of two new staff, Miranda Madgwick as the ITAR/ Womens Worker and Thomas Harrison who has returned to MMIGP as an Indigenous Wellbeing Worker. In 2011 Emma Dawson our Community Support Liaison Officer will be heading off to have her new baby, we wish both her and the impending delivery well.

Finally Merry Christmas everyone and I look forward to working with you all again in 2011.

Melissa Stevens-Managing Director



MMIGP Update

Please note that MMIGP closes for the Christmas period on the 22 December, this will also be our final Foodbank day for the year. We will re-open in the new year on 4 January 2011 and the first Foodbank will take place on 12 January 2011.

Please see flyer for upcoming youth activities in January.

Attached also is a list of emergency numbers for access during the Christmas period.

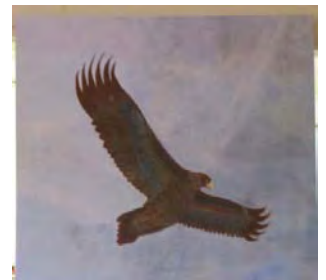


MMIGP Staff



Enterprise Update-Managing Director

I am pleased to announce the re-launch of our website in the new year. Carolyn Dawe has been working very hard in ensuring we have a functional website that will grow with the organisation. In early 2011 we will be launching our online Gallery for sale of local Indigenous Artwork and our Cultural Centre at Patterson Street with the launch of our cultural program targeting schools and community groups, with a versatile program to suit all groups and budgets. We are seeking community support to promote these projects amongst your networks and encourage any interested groups to contact the Gathering Place to find out more.



Painted by Aunty Faye Rodier



Christmas Family Day

The Family Christmas Day took place on the 4 December with over 80 children in attendance. MMIGP would like to thank the Department of Justice and their staff for donating all the presents on the day and for taking the time to coordinate delivery.

We are sure that we speak on behalf of all the children in saying thank you to the DoJ Santa and ask that you extend this thanks to the staff who generously donated the presents.

Thank You....

DoJ Staff with their generously donated Gifts





Christmas Family Day 2010



Health Promotion

The Aboriginal Health Promotion and Chronic Care program established by MMIGP over three years ago in partnership with Eastern Access Community Health (EACH), has seen a marked increase in culturally appropriate service delivery and community support by mainstream agencies in the region. In 2009/10 the staff and Directors were part of the process for planning health promotions themes and activities for focus in 2010/11. The Health promotion aspect for MMIGP remains a strong focus with an ongoing aim to continually engage with Indigenous community members in the EMR and to provide information, links and referrals to services that meet a wide range of community needs;

- Set up in 2006 as previously local community had to go to city or outer EMR to access Aboriginal services
- Not a Health Service – Neighbourhood House Model. Partnerships needed with mainstream services to help community access health services
- Elders, Women’s, Men’s, Youth & Burrai Playgroups; Food Bank & OpShop; Community Support Service and Housing
- HACC HALO and AHPACC program



Christmas Family Day 2010



Christmas Family Day 2010



Christmas Family Day 2010





Youth Activities

The MMIGP Youth Network is for Indigenous young people 5 to 19 years of age. The programs for these ages include School Holiday Programs, Cultural Camps, Cultural Excursions, Youth Drop-In program and the Deadly Leaders Project. Programs are broken up and delivered according to age appropriate activities.

Deadly Leaders Project– Department of Justice:

The MMIGP Deadly Leaders Program is for Indigenous young people aged 16-19 years old to come together to learn, grow and become future leaders in the community. The program is about identifying the key qualities in developing the future leaders in the community. The participants in the program will be guided by mentors who will offer support, experience and guidance to continue on their growth and development. This program will begin in January 2011. A steering committee has now been established to support the delivery of this program.

MMIGP Youth Drop-In Centre:

The MMIGP Youth Network – Drop In Program is a designed for Indigenous young people between the ages of 12-15 to come and meet other young people, relax and participate in programs/activities such as; Pool/Snooker, Listen to Music, Play Board Games and watch Movies.

The program will run 5.30pm to 7.30pm, every second Friday evenings @ 47 Patterson Street, Ringwood East.

See you in the New Year
Thomas Harrison



Front-line

MMIGP and Box Hill Institute of TAFE developed the national accredited '*Certificate IV in Frontline Management*' course that was delivered in 2009-2010.

Congratulations to the 7 Indigenous students whom graduated in December 2010.





Burrai Playtime

Just a short update to let everyone know what has been happening in the Burrai playgroup program and what we can expect in the New Year. During term 4, 2010, the Burrai playgroup has been running on a fortnightly basis and the participating families have found this to be much easier to attend.

A parents committee has been formed which has been meeting once a month and discussing ideas and planning future activities. MMIGP was successful in funding from the Melbourne City Council that have provided some fantastic outings such as the trip to the Aquarium, trip to Ace Space where all the children had a awesome time and it was a great seeing some dads show up and enjoy the day. The Melbourne Zoo was the last of the outings and with the weather being in our favor turned out to be a relaxing fuss free excursion which all enjoyed thoroughly.

The parent committee meetings are proving to be a positive approach in addressing issues and concerns with what families are wanting and expecting their children to benefit out of participating in the Burrai playgroup. Some planned ideas for Burrai playgroup in term 1, 2011 will be Water awareness/play, Fire safety tips and plans, and suggestions of fundraising ideas to purchase outdoor equipment for our children to use in the upcoming outdoor area. The Department of Education, Early Childhood and Development has provided funding to have a Burrai playgroup fence installed at Patterson St.

I feel very proud of the families' efforts in attending playgroup and all the positive suggestions and involvement in making the playgroup program a successful activity, attending playgroup in a relaxed setting is the first step in inspiring confidence and knowledge in our children which will help prepare them for future education and social activities.

I hope you all have a very merry Christmas and a happy safe new year.

See you all soon!

Shannon Johnson.

childrensworker@mmigp.com.au





Indigenous Tentants at Risk (ITAR)

I started at MMIGP in October 2010 and I am employed in the ITAR position. The ITAR position is funded in partnership with Wesley Mission Melbourne and MMIGP. The position is for 4 days per week and my role is not as a case worker but to advocate on behalf of public housing and transitional housing or community managed housing tenants where their tenancy is deemed to be at risk as to alleviate and retain their housing to prevent eviction and risk of homelessness. I have been undertaking training with Wesley and networking with relevant housing networks in the region.



I will endeavour to assist community members in maintaining their current public housing needs by linking into other community assisted programs as at Wesley Mission. Promotional material will be produced in early 2011 and I will be available at 47 Patterson St, East Ringwood for community to visit me and have a chat.

Further information will be provided in 2011.

See you all next year.

Miranda Madgwick



Mens Network

Cabbe mela mung'il, Gantanwarr, Wunman njinde.... HELLO. Since starting in August 2010 the men's group has run a number of activities with attendance growing at each meeting. So far we've been Tenpin bowling, played golf, attended the Marngrook Footy show and participated in the White Ribbon March in the city.

The purpose of the Men's group is to establish a base for Men to meet and plan community activities with a focus on recreation, health promotion and culture. There will be a pool and dart competition in the New Year so if you're deadly with a cue or a dart then register your name! There will be prizes and trophies on offer as well as the mantle of representing the MMIGP Men's group against some of the other regional men's groups in an inter-community challenge.

I wish all the community a wonderful festive and safe break and look forward to seeing all you deadly men in the New Year.

Wuurruk, Yarrabee, Naarkan, goodbye
Jamie Thomas- Wellbeing Team member





Women's Network

I started at MMIGP in October 2010 and I am one day a week in this position. The "Tiddas Health & Wellbeing Gathering Day" was held on the 26/11/2010 and was a great success. The activities on the day were great and the women welcomed the chance to be pampered and there were guest speakers from Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention & Legal Service Victoria and Rights yarn Up Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission.

MMIGP would like to thank the following who were involved in supporting the day; Centrelink, Relationships Australia Victoria, Care Connect, Regional Indigenous Family Violence Action Group, Local Indigenous Network.

A group of women attended the Koorie Heritage Trust for the "Create Your Own Linocut Print" workshops. Due to limited placement we were only able to take nine women. The women enjoyed the hands on learning environment and were able to obtain credited units in 'Apply techniques to produce prints'. We will be using some of these new skills in future Art day workshop in 2011.

A Women's Christmas Craft Day was held that focused on different Christmas craft activities such as the Aboriginal coloured round reefs were a big hit and many of the women were able to place them on their front doors. The other crafts were all wonderfully designed and made with the women able to keep all that they made.

The Women's Cooking Sessions will be held during the day and evenings on a fortnightly basis and will start in February 2011. This program will include watching the series of the "Women of the Sun" and also the "Return to the Women of the Sun" series and have conversation session on these series. If you are interested in attending the Women's Network then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Miranda Madgwick - Womensworker@mmigp.com.au



Food bank key dates

The final dates for Foodbank for 2010 are the 15th and 22nd December, and will return on 12th January 2011.

Please note that Foodbank will run on THURSDAY 27th January due to a public holiday on Wednesday 26th.



Thomas Harrison our new Indigenous Youth Worker

Thomas has returned to MMIGP in October to undertake the Youth and Volunteer Coordinator position in the Indigenous Wellbeing Team. Thomas Harrison is a Yorta-Yorta/Wotjobaluk man and has been raised in the Eastern region of Melbourne.



Thomas coordinated the MMIGP Youth Network from 2006 to 2008 and has some bright plans for young people in the region for 2011 and is currently planning projects to kick off early in the New Year.

Thomas is a well respected role model amongst the younger youth within community and MMIGP is very pleased to have him return to the organisation with a new set of skills that enables him to coordinate the delivery of the Deadly Leaders and youth Network.



School Holiday Program

School Holiday Program:

Once again the MMIGP School Holiday Program was a huge success.

Over the school term break the following programs were featured including a Movie Day at Eastland Shopping Centre with young people seeing Toy Story 3D and Shrek 3D. Following the Movie Day was a Traditional Sports Day at Cheong Park which was attended by many young people.

To finish off the break was a Fancy Dress

Party at Patterson Street which was well attended and enjoyed by all.

The future activities for the School Holiday Program will include a Cultural Day Out at the Koorie Heritage Trust in January and 2 camps will also be occurring targeting Males and Females aged 10-15 years of age.





Community Support

Hello everyone,

What an amazing year 2010 has been. I have had the honour of spending time with many of you, getting to know and work with you. If you have any feedback or ideas on how the Community Support Liaison Officer (CSLO) can assist you better, please give me a call or pull me aside for a yarn when I see you at a community event. I am having my first baby in February so Traysy Kay will be filling in for me for part of 2011 as

MMIGP's CSLO. If you need support, advice, information, a referral or want to ask or chat about anything, give me a call. I am here to link you in with community services, whether they are Aboriginal specific, mainstream and culturally friendly, or mainstream with an ALO. If you want to know more about services or support in any area or just want a referral let me know. Also, if you want to use the internet, it is available for you to use in a private and safe environment with assistance if required

through the CSLO. Use the internet to update your details at Centrelink, research family history, look for a job or a course, or anything else.

Kindest regards

Emma Dawson (CSLO)



Emma Dawson



Elders's Network

The Elder's Network is for Indigenous Elders and eligible HACC Aboriginal clients and their families who reside in the eastern metropolitan region (EMR).

An Elder's In-House luncheon was held that included a guest speaker John Price from Alzheimer's Australia who spoke about Alzheimer's and living with dementia. There was a sigh of relief when John said ' *Losing your keys is not a*

sign of Dementia. It's when you forget that you own a car you have a problem". Everyone had lots of questions and the information was very informative.

The Elder's attended a 3 day trip to **Phillip Island** and everyone had a wonderful time on the trip. Some of the highlights included dinner each night at the RSL. The Penguin Parade was a great success, it was a beautiful warm night and

1,679 penguins came ashore. Wednesday included Churchill Island Heritage Farm, ice-cream on the beach and a walk around Nobbies lookout. Thursday a stroll through the Koala Conservation Park then down to watch the Pelican feeding before heading home.



Dates for Elders

14th December XMAS lunch at the Aborigines Advancement League

MMIGP bus leaves Patterson St at 10.30am. REMEMBER TO BOOK YOUR SEAT as seating is limited

27th January Elders lunch at MMIGP

Indigenous Eye Care Research will be attending the Elders luncheon on the 27th January, 2011 and Elders are invited to participate in a survey and a gift voucher will provided on completion of survey. Please contact Bronwyn if you are interested in participating in survey.



News headlines

Operations Program Coordinator—MMIGP is sad to announce the departure of Violet Harrison from her role as Operations Coordinator in mid January. The position is currently advertised and a position description is available by contacting the Gathering Place? We wish Violet well in her future endeavours and thank her for her ongoing contribution to the Gathering Place and the Indigenous community of the EMR.

Community Support Officer Emma Dawson will be finishing up with MMIGP at the end of December for a period of 6 months Maternity leave. Traysy Kay will be commencing in the role in the new year and will be available to the community to assist in the same way that Emma has in the past.



MMIGP Staff Profile

Name	Position	Name	Position
Melissa Stevens	Managing Director FT	Thomas Harrison	Youth Officer FT
Violet Harrison	Operations Coordination FT	Rebecca Green	On leave
Jenni Swindon	Administration Manager FT	Shannon Johnson	Burrai Playtime Coordinator PT
Carolyn Dawe	Project Assistant PT	Bronwyn Fenn	HALO-AHPACC
Nicole Everitt	Grants Coordinator	Miranda Madgwick	Women and ITAR
Emma Dawson	Community Liaison Officer FT		
Jamie Thomas	Indigenous Wellbeing Program Team Leader		

Website Launch

In late January MMIGP will launch its newly developed website. This will include an online gallery and information about our upcoming programs.

Cultural Centre

In 2011 the Gathering Place will commence a cultural education program targeting schools and other groups. This is aimed at raising funds towards the eventual purchase of a building for community to further develop enterprise projects.

Fundraising—In 2011 the staff at MMIGP will be involved in the development of a number of projects that are aimed at raising funds for the Building Fund—these will be ticket sale events targeting the mainstream community and possible corporate partners. We strongly encourage community to volunteer their support to the delivery of such events with all proceeds going towards the building fund, with an aim of purchasing a property on behalf of community.

Community Events—along with our major community events in 2011 we will also continue to deliver our usual Indigenous community focused events—once again we will be seeking communities support to get on board with the coordination of our NAIDOC family and Christmas days, after all many hands make light work, if you are interested in getting involved in 2011 please contact Thomas.

“Social enterprise is about community working together for community”