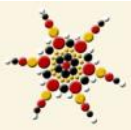
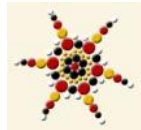


Mullum Mullum

Indigenous Gathering Place



July 2012 Newsletter



Website - www.mmigp.org.au



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Management Update



Welcome to the July 2012 edition of the Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place (MMIGP) community newsletter. I would first like to extend an apology to our members for the length of time between our last newsletter. I will ensure our newsletters are more frequent in the future.

As the newly appointed General Manager (2nd of July 2012), I look forward to the challenge of continuing the great work MMIGP has provided since its inception. Through the strategic direction of the MMIGP board of management, the dedicated staff at MMIGP and the ever reliable volunteers we are all very passionate and committed to servicing our Indigenous communities.

Over the last couple of months MMIGP have had a number of staffing changes. Many of our members and community participating in NAIDOC family day or school holiday program may have met some of our new staff. For those who haven't we are very pleased and excited to have the following staff on board

Georgia Harris - Wellbeing Team Leader, Corina Ritchie – Administration Support Officer, Danielle Williams – My Moola Facilitator , Bonnie Presley – Community Wellbeing Youth, Uncle Phil Ahwang - Community Wellbeing Men and Jason Mattlock and Gwen Mattlock – Business Development Officers (job sharing)

Each of their staff profiles, including mine are contained in this newsletter and on our website www.mmigp.org.au.

Enclosed with your newsletter are a number of events / programs flyer promoting our future activities and programs that will be running in the next few months. I strongly encourage and welcome you and your family's to join in with the many things we have on offer.

A reminder also to follow us on Facebook where we post weekly reminders of activities and also please check out our calendar of event on our website www.mmigp.org.au .

Kind Regards

Les Chessells
General Manager

General Manager - Les Chessells *email - manager@mmigp.com.au*

Hello, I am the current General Manager and a proud Aboriginal man. My Aboriginal heritage steams from my mother Jan Chessells (nee Combo) who was born and raised in a small NSW town of Collarenebri. I was brought up around Fitzroy and Brunswick areas and for the last 15 years I have lived in the Knox Region. My previous employment ranges from varies State and Federal government positions such as a Court Registrar, Solutions Broker, Policy advisor and as the Manager of Indigenous services for Centrelink's covering Gippsland and the Eastern and Southern regions. I have also work at Ngwala Willumbong at Galliable and the Koori Community AOD Recovery Centre.

My partner Kylie and I have four children at home. We are always kept busy with different sporting and family activities that include swimming, girl guides, tennis, Taekwondo and roller skating. Kylie has also worked at Ngwala Willumbong, Managing Koori Youth AOD Centre and at mainstream youth services. Between looking after our two youngest girls (12 months and 2 years) Kylie manages to teach Cert 4 in community development at night, and is in consistent demand to work weekend night shifts at Youth Residential centres. I don't how she does it all. Kylie is my hero.

I look forward to my time a Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place. I will be actively working to develop culturally appropriate strategies and action plans to ensure we meet our funding targets and our community obligations. Our strength is our community.

Please also welcome to the MMIGP team

Wellbeing Team Leader– Georgia Harris email - teamleader@mmigp.com.au

Hi, my name is Georgia Harris and I am the new Wellbeing Team Leader here at Mullum Mullum. Last year I worked for Worawa Aboriginal College Healesville, a secondary boarding school for indigenous girls from across Australia. For two years previous I lived and worked in Murgon/Cherbourg an Indigenous Community located 3 hours North West of Brisbane QLD. I worked for a small not for profit organisation funded to work with young people involved with or at risk of involvement in the Juvenile Justice system.

I love AFL and am a long suffering Melbourne supporter, I love sport and follow a friend who plays for the Parramatta Eels in the NRL. I love to camp and spend some of my time over the Christmas period camping with a large group of friends, currently in Eildon on the banks of the Goulburn River. I have spent time travelling in America both for work and travel, as well as Europe and a small part of the Pacific. I am looking forward to my role here at Mullum and hope I can be a support to the Men, Women, Children and Youth within the community.

Health Promotions Officer– Vanessa Scales email - health@mmigp.com.au

My name is Vanessa and I am an Indigenous woman who has recently joined Mullum Mullum as the Health Promotions Officer. In this role I oversee the Food Bank program and other Health related initiatives. I have been a stay at home Mum for the past 14 years, raising my two children: Dean and Ella, with my partner, Duane. I enjoy watching boxing because my son won the Australian National titles in his weight division. I also enjoy going to the movies. I look forward to meeting and working with families in the Community.

Administration Support– Corina Richie email - mmigp@mmigp.com.au

Hi, my name is Corina. I have just started working as Admin Support at MMIGP. I work Part-time Monday- Friday 9am-1:30pm and study Naturopathy part time. I previously studied photography and also work in retail. I'm passionate about the environment, health, art, music, cooking and social justice. I am a Yorta Yorta women and I look forward to meeting everyone in the community.

My Moola Facilitator–Danielle Williams email - mymoola@mmigp.com.au

My name is Danielle Williams and I recently started working at MMIGP, I have been appointed to the My Moola facilitator position which I look forward to getting underway soon. To be able to get to know the community and also work within it is a really big highlight for me. I am a Kalkadoon/South Sea Islander woman although have lived in the Eastern Suburbs my whole life. I will commence a Bachelor of Social Science Criminology and Forensic science later in the year through Swinburne online.

For the last two years I have been in the banking industry which has taught me a lot about wealth and financial hardships. I will be available at MMIGP to the entire community on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday's. I really look forward to being able to meet community and to tell you more about this new project.

Community Wellbeing Youth– Bonnie Presley email - youthworker@mmigp.com.au

Hi, my name is Bonnie Presley and I am an indigenous woman who has recently started working at Mullum Mullum as the new Community Wellbeing Youth Worker. I am currently in my third year at university, studying a Bachelor of Arts (Indigenous Studies) at Victoria University in St Albans. I will be working at Mullum Mullum Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays 9am-5pm. I have previously worked in Administration and Retail. I enjoy spending time with my friends and family, cooking, going to gigs and music. I look forward to being involved in Mullum Mullum as well as meeting and working with everyone in the community.

Cont....



New Staff continued.....

Community Wellbeing Worker – Uncle Phil Ah Wang

email - menworker@mmigp.com.au

'Which way' 'Someway' and a big 'Esso' (thankyou) to the traditional custodians of this land. On behalf of my father we say 'Seungpa' welcome to my land. On behalf of my mother we say 'Miam' welcome to my land, come share my food. My favourite food is steamed turtle and rice and I love fishing and getting stones with my Community to cook 'Kup—Mari' a traditional Torres Strait Islander feasting ceremony. My moto is No Tools, No Trade, No Choice. My tools are my Elders, my trade is my culture and giving me choice to live healthier, happier and longer. Your in unity Uncle Phil.

Business Development Officers Jason and Gwen Mattock

email - business@mmigp.com.au

Jason and Gwen have spent the past 12 years in Business Development, Government and Financial Services roles. Both bring a lot of experience in community development and business development programs and projects.

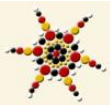
Some of the key responsibilities are to manage and maintain key relationships between the community, corporate entities, the wider community and Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place in order to arrange and maintain major fundraising projects and to coordinate the future direction of the organisation.

Our key focus will be:

- Developing the Building Fund.
- Arrange and maintain major fundraising projects
- Fundraising Initiatives
- Financial Management and Planning
- Working and developing relations with Government
- Accessing grants for projects and programs for the local community

We look forward to meeting the local community and assisting MMIGP vision which is committed to retaining, promoting and strengthening Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders cultural identity within the Eastern Metropolitan Region.

Please feel free to pop in anytime to meet our new team!



Burrai Program

Burrai is our playgroup which aims to give Indigenous children and parents the opportunity to build friendships and social supports and for children to learn and develop through play.

Burrai provides parents and children a safe and supportive environment to meet informally in a culturally inclusive setting.

Burrai runs every 2nd Tuesday from 10.00am – 12.00pm.

Dates for Term 3:

- ◆ 24th July 2012
- ◆ 21st August 2012
- ◆ 4th September 2012
- ◆ 18th September 2012

For more information regarding Burrai please contact Georgia – Wellbeing Team Leader
Phone 9725 2166 or teamleader@mmigp.com.au



Community Cultural & Dance Group

The Community Cultural Group continues to grow with new members joining fortnightly on Wednesday evenings.

Our focus over the beginning of the year has been on creating a community Possum Skin Cloak to be displayed shortly. Families have been invited to create their own designs to go upon their possum pelt to create the cloak. Please feel free to pop in during Cultural group to put your own design on a possum skin and thank you to all who have been involved in this project.



With a new Youth Worker and Men's Worker the team are building a cultural program for Term 3. Please feel free to come along and join in with Cultural Group, we encourage all Community members to be a part of the program, whether you are a grandparent, aunty, uncle, child or parent, all are invited



For more information in regards to the Community Cultural Group and Cultural Dance Group, please contact MMIGP on 9725 2166.



"Don't forget that the Op Shop is open to every community member, on foodbank days and during any of our other programs"



Indigenous Community Links (Formerly Community Support Service)

Mullum Mullum's Indigenous Community Links workers are here to support Indigenous Community members and their families, by providing links and referrals to a range of mainstream and Indigenous services, such as welfare and social support, employment, family violence, health (including drug and alcohol services), legal, child care and housing.

If you need help, support, assistance or advice please do not hesitate to drop by and talk to Mullum Mullum's Indigenous Community Links worker.

We also can assist you with your computer needs and please feel free to pop in and use the internet for any of your resumes, job hunting, research etc....

Or alternatively you can contact us on PH: (03) 9725 2166

Or email us on indigenouslink@mmigp.com.au

Come by and find out how we can help link you to a range of services.



Youth Network

Youth Health and Wellbeing Event

MMIGP and EACH ran a very successful 'Aboriginal Youth Health & Wellbeing' event on Friday 18th May.

The event featured the Indigenous Hip Hop Projects, Wild Caving, Camping Adventures, Cash Prizes and Show bags for participants.

We were very fortunate to feature two community guest speakers, Ben Harney talking about his

experience with violence. His inspirational story and his confidence in speaking to our young people was very powerful.

We also heard from Dean Scales about his journey as a young boxer, the choices he has made to pursue his passion and the results he has been able to achieve already at such a young age.

A big thank you Ben and Dean for talking to our youth on this night, it was very much appreciated.



School Holiday Program

Over the July school holidays we provided many of our young community members with some different and very enjoyable activities including,

- ◆ Movie day
- ◆ Auskick
- ◆ Ten Pin bowling
- ◆ Laser Tag
- ◆ Legal Street Art Workshop

If you are interested in any of our Youth programs please contact our Community Wellbeing—Youth Worker 9725 2166 or youthworker@mmigp.com.au





Women's Network

Tidda's Day In

Friday 8th June was a day focused on Aboriginal Women's Health and Wellbeing. The women in our Community were treated to massages from students at Box Hill Tafe, hairdressing, nails, tarot reading, gift bags and a fantastic shared lunch. A relaxing day was had by all.



Women's Lunch

Women's Lunches continues to run every 2nd Thursday with lots of exciting guests and activities as well as a shared lunch. Please note that these lunches will now go back to their original time of **12.00noon to 2.00pm**; please mark this in your diaries.



Elder's Network

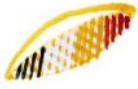
MULLUM MULLUM & HEALESVILLE ELDERS TRIP TO PHILLIP ISLAND

Day 1: We left Patterson Street at 10am in the bus 8 elders and 2 staff (Bron & Jackie), and about 10 elders from Healesville our 1st stop was at Caldermeade Farm for a yummy lunch, then left for Cowes, we arrived at Kaloha Holiday Resort where we all unpacked our bags and rested up for dinner.

Day 2: We all left for Maru Koala & Animal Park, they had of course koalas, wallabies, (even an albino wallaby), lyrebirds, (and an albino lyrebird), kangaroo's, dingo's, a golden possum, parrots, and a lovely morning tea, a couple of the elders went to the Vietnam War Museum, then we enjoyed a nice lunch at Westernport hotel. Some Elders went onwards to Nobbies beach to walk off their lunch, others came op-shopping, then it was time for dinner and relax .

Day 3: We went shopping and a walk before lunch, we made sandwiches and fruit for lunch, most of the elders went on a 2 hour boat cruise out to seal rock, the others came to Rhyll trout and bush tucker farm, we managed to catch 4 deadly trout which the chef was lovely enough to clean and prepared the fish for us to cook back at the motel which we gladly shared them with everyone, we had dinner and after a big day we settled in for an early night.

DAY 4: We had breakfast then it was pack our clothes and pack the bus for our trip home, first we stopped at the Koala Conservation Centre for morning tea, we went for a walk to see some koalas and buy some goodies to take home, then we went out for a deadly lunch, then it was time to go home.



Reconciliation Cultures Event



On Sunday 20th May we held a very successful Reconciliation Event. Around 150 local community people came out to help celebrate our Cultures.

The Mullum Mullum Dancers and Nga Manu Waita dancers were a huge hit with the crowd and provided a diverse look at different cultures.

Those featuring in the market stalls had a successful day while the children were entertained with face painting, jumping castle and the hit of the day balloons.

Lunch which featured a range of Kangaroo, Emu and plain sausages provided guests with a chance to broaden their taste range and the now infamous aboriginal flagged cupcakes were a huge hit with both the young people and young at heart.

Thank you to all involved in making this day a huge success.



My Moola



My Moola is a financial pathways program that empowers Aboriginal communities to increase their understanding of how to break poverty by setting goals, showing there is choice and making well-informed decisions to secure their family's wellbeing.

My Moola was developed in the strongly cultural Yorta Yorta Aboriginal community of Shepparton; it is developed to explore different attitudes to money without any judgement and will be a confidential environment.

Rather it being like a formal lecture, it's seen more as a family discussion around the kitchen table. It's built around conversation and we want to make it as inviting as possible.

Through the program each individual forms decisions about what their goals are. For some it will be saving for a car or getting a deposit together to buy a home and some, it will be developing tools to budgeting to make a low income last the whole fortnight, avoiding debt.

If you are interested in the My Moola program please contact Danielle Williams 9725 2166 or email mymoola@mmigp.com.au



NAIDOC Family Day



In celebration of the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples Mullum Mullum hosted its annual NAIDOC Family Day.

Although the weather wasn't on our side the Community turned out to support such an important event. Fun and

entertainment was provided for the whole family, from Black Snake Productions, to design your own boomerang, jewellery design, flag making, canvas painting and badge making. The children were keep occupied with face painting, jumping castle and the hit of the day the balloon man.



Congratulations to all those who received a NAIDOC Award for your outstanding support and contribution to our programs, Community and or your family.

Adam Dawe

Anthony Green – Cooper

Bianka Green - Taranto

Charlise Morgan

David Farrall

Emily Mancell

Jackie Harney

Jamaine Morgan

Jerri Lansche

John Baxter

Laila Morgan

Matthew Clare

Noreen Pettet

Rob Pettet

Tahlia Pyke

Alan Harrison

Anthony Mancell

Callum Clare

Ebony Lansche

Jacob Farrall

Jayden Dawe

Jesse Lansche

Kayn Milward

Lyla Kiesha

Nathan Harrison

Rebecca Green

Robynne White

Thomas Harrison

Val Scarratt





Home and Community Care (HACC)

(HACC) Home & Community Care can support you to remain independent to live in your community by providing services to the Elderly and their carers or a young person with a disability and carer

- Respite Care
- Home Care
- Property Maintenance
- Arrange Community Transport
- Food Services
- Personal Care
- Home from Hospital



MMIGP HACC Aboriginal Liaison Officer provides;

- Assistance for HACC clients to link into other services
- Support while receiving medical treatment
- Family support linking into services
- Personal Introduction to HACC services

Contact: HALO Bronwyn Scott Ph. 97252166 Mobile 0400053810



MMIGP Computer Lab

The MMIGP Computer Lab is up and running. If you are interested in learning computer skills then please let us know. If there is a large number of Community members interested then we will look at setting up a computer course.

Expressions of interest to Georgia—Wellbeing Team Leader 9725 2166 or email teamleader@mmigp.com.au



Volunteer Network

During National Volunteer Week we honoured the hard work and dedication of those people who continually volunteer, helping out all our Mullum programs (especially foodbank). The staff at Mullum hosted a lunch for the tireless often unthanked gems of the Mullum Community and we hope you enjoyed the day and we will be having more of them throughout the year.

So a Huge thank you to all those people who give up their time to make our Mullum programs a huge success.

And if anyone else would like to Volunteer at Mullum Mullum please contact Georgia—Wellbeing Team Leader teamleader@mmigp.com.au.

Remember if you are new to the area or you just haven't yet come to any event, Volunteering is still a great way to get in and help our/your community, it's also a great way to get familiar with the community.