

# Koori Grapevine

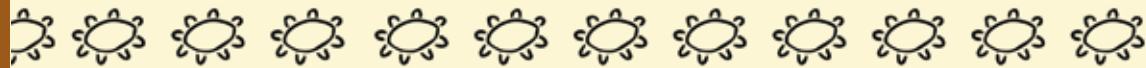
December 2012 – February 2013 | Edition #5

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Lake Macquarie Koori Grapevine newsletter.

We are currently looking for articles for our upcoming editions. If you have a good news story, local talent to showcase, or an event happening in the Lake Macquarie area we would like to hear from you!

Simply contact Council's Aboriginal Community Development Officer, on **4921 0333** or email **council@lakemac.nsw.gov.au**

Happy reading!



## Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Groups

What is a Sustainable Neighbourhood Group?

Sustainable Neighbourhood groups are made up of local residents who care about their neighbourhood, and are committed to working together to make it more sustainable. Each Sustainable Neighbourhood Group engages widely with their community to develop a Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP).

### The Action Plan includes:

- A long term **vision** for the neighbourhood
- Lists the things that people **value** about their neighbourhood
- Identifies challenges and opportunities for action
- Details the **actions and projects** that people in the neighbourhood will undertake to achieve their vision

Members of an established Sustainable Neighbourhood Group





## What do Sustainable Neighbourhood groups do?

Each Sustainable Neighbourhood Group will decide which sustainability issues they would like to focus on in their community. The group will then plan and implement activities and projects to achieve their goals.

### Some projects local groups are working on include:

- Organising local talks and workshops around sustainable living and environmental issues
- Building community gardens
- Joining or starting a new Landcare group
- Joining Council's community ecosystem monitoring program
- Holding local 'trash and treasure' events / clothes swaps
- Organising a bulk purchase of water tanks
- Community pride building projects focused on neighbourhood beautification including reducing litter and graffiti in the local area
- Conducting local energy audits to help people reduce their electricity usage

## How does Council support Sustainable Neighbourhoods?

Council staff support the development of the Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plans (SNAPs) by providing information to, and engaging broadly with community members to ensure the contents of the plan reflect the wishes and aspirations of the local community.

In addition, Council assists and supports Sustainable Neighbourhood groups to implement the activities in their plan through a range of processes including sustainability grants, creating partnerships with community and business groups, and supporting the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance, which is the peak body for the local neighbourhood network.

### In particular, Council supports groups by:

- Scoping broad neighbourhood interest
- Developing and producing promotional material
- Assisting with initial administration duties
- Organising community 'action planning' workshops
- Delivering community surveys
- Establishing connections within various networks
- Providing training to help groups become independent

## How can I get involved in my local Sustainable Neighbourhood Group?

Visit the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance website [www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au](http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au) to get contact details for the Sustainable Neighbourhood Group representative in your local area or phone Council on **4921 0333**.

# Local school prioritising Aboriginal Education

Swansea High School have been focusing on raising the profile of Aboriginal Education by developing and nurturing a strong culture of Aboriginal student leadership where students develop a positive Aboriginal Cultural Identity.

One of the recent initiatives of Swansea High School was to hold a Traditional Indigenous Games Training Day, where Aboriginal students from the schools six Galgabba Primary Partnership Schools attended a Traditional Indigenous games Training Day. The day was organised by Swansea High School PDHPE Teacher and Aboriginal Education Coordinator Lauren Coburn in conjunction with Gerald Bradshaw from the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation. The training allowed students to become competent and leaders in Traditional Indigenous games.

Swansea High Schools trained high school leaders then attended our Galgabba Primary Schools over five weeks and ran Traditional Indigenous Games activities for over 250 students from K-6 in the local area. The Primary School Leaders also helped at their own school.

Swansea High School has also ran a Transition Program for Year 6 Aboriginal Students who will be attending Swansea High next year. Students participated in Aboriginal painting and craft activities ran by our older Aboriginal students. The Hunter Sports High School's Minimbah Dance group also attended and ran a girls Aboriginal dance workshop, meanwhile our boys attended Hunter Sports High for a Didgeridoo workshop.

Students learnt about Aboriginal culture, healthy living, respect and had a great time!



Children participating in Traditional Indigenous Games



# Interested in joining the Lake Macquarie Interagency?



Read on to find out more about the role of the interagency and how it can help your services progress!

The Lake Macquarie Interagency is a bi-monthly open forum for community service providers and community stakeholders to meet and share information about issues of importance for the community services sector in Lake Macquarie. A broad range of stakeholders attend the meetings including government department representatives, local member staff, service providers, volunteers and students. All are welcome.

The Lake Macquarie Interagency meetings remain as informal as possible but also follow up on issues that have been raised by workers and organisations who attend the meetings. This includes advice about funding opportunities, latest child protection information, reporting on local trends and research.

Each meeting usually includes two guest speakers who give short presentations on new services and/or issues that are relevant to the Lake Macquarie area. There is also time for brief information sharing by all who attend the meetings and a time for informal networking over morning tea.

In recent times, the Interagency has hosted training for service providers and community stakeholder on topics such as: Partnership and Collaboration; Service Planning, working with families and the impact of domestic violence.

Meetings are usually held at The Place, Charlestown Community Centre on the first Thursday of every second month from 9:30am until 12noon starting on 7th February 2013. For further information, please contact Council's Community Development Officer Tony Ellitt on **4921 0333**.

The Interagency also operate a fortnightly e-bulletin service. The e-bulletin which is sent out in an email format, provides the opportunity to share information about funding, programs, events, training, job opportunities and a range of other new items to approximately 350 contacts across the Lake Macquarie and Newcastle areas. This service is free of charge and anyone can join the e-mailing list by sending an email request to **tellitt@lakemac.nsw.gov.au**.

## Looking for Quality Education and Care?

Lake Macquarie Family Day Care is the service for you!

Lake Macquarie Family Day Care is a service that provides education and care to children throughout the Lake Macquarie City area in the residence or venue of registered educators. Services are provided with the support of Family Day Care's Coordination Team, which is sponsored by Lake Macquarie City Council. The service operates under the requirements of the National Quality Framework and is funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

The aim of Lake Macquarie Family Day Care is to provide a caring, fun and stimulating family atmosphere for children in which they can broaden their life experiences.

Educators have a wide range of qualifications, skills and experience in education and caring for children and participate in ongoing training.

Educators and staff work closely with parents to ensure a high quality education and care opportunity is available to all children. Individual attention and educational activities are provided for children in small, mixed age and family groups.

Family Day Care Services do attract subsidies under the Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate entitlements, which some families are eligible to receive. Interested families are encouraged to contact the Family Assistance Office to see if they are eligible for subsidies.



Children participating in Family day Care activities

Interested families must complete a Waiting List Application Form and will be contacted when a vacancy arises. To obtain a Waiting List Form or for more information please contact Family Day Care on **4921 0156** or visit Council's website: **www.lakemac.com.au**

## NAIDOC Week Grants 2013

In 2012, Council launched the Lake Macquarie NAIDOC Fund which provides funding to applicants to run activities, programs or events to celebrate NAIDOC Week. NAIDOC Week is a national celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander History and Culture and promotes Cultural Awareness and Reconciliation.

The Lake Macquarie NAIDOC Week Fund was established to increase public awareness of NAIDOC Week in the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area. The fund enables organisations to apply for funds for up to \$750 to implement a project or activity or hold an event to celebrate NAIDOC week. In 2013, NAIDOC will be held from Sunday 7 July to Sunday 14 July.

Applications open early December and close on Friday 8th February. For more information, please visit Council's website or contact Council's Aboriginal Community Development Officer on **4921 0333**.



## Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Sunday 9 December 2012  11am (movie), afternoon bands and the evening concert commences at 6.30pm	<b>Carols by Candlelight</b> Movie on the big screen, local talent on stage throughout the afternoon and Carolling program begins at 6.30pm. Entertainment includes Casey Donovan, Jenny Morris and Joe Moore, followed by a Fireworks Finale at 9pm	Speers Point Park	Lake Macquarie City Council <b>4921 0333</b>
Sunday 9 December 2012 4-6pm	<b>Windale Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan Launch</b> Displays and activities in conjunction with the Windale Karaoke Carols and Twilight Markets	Hunter Barnett Football Oval, South Street, Windale	Lake Macquarie City Council <b>4921 0333</b> or email <b>kjack@lakemac.nsw.gov.au</b>
Tuesday 11 December 2012 6pm-8.30pm	<b>Community Workshop:</b> Helping you create the neighbourhood you want	Blacksmiths Surf Life Saving Club, Ungala Road, Blacksmiths	Lake Macquarie City Council <b>4921 0333</b> or email <b>tleahy@lakemac.nsw.gov.au</b> RSVP by 7 December 2012
Saturday 26 January 2013 11am (movie), afternoon bands and the evening concert commences at 5pm	<b>Lake Macquarie Festival on Australia Day</b> Movie on the big screen, local bands on stage throughout the afternoon and the evening concert will feature Adams Eckersley and Chris Sebastian, followed by a Fireworks Finale at 9pm	Speers Point Park	Lake Macquarie City Council <b>4921 0333</b>
Thursday 7 February 2013 9.30am-12pm	<b>Lake Macquarie Interagency Meeting</b> Open forum for community service providers and community stakeholders to meet and share information about issues of importance for the community services sector in Lake Macquarie	The Place, Charlestown Community Centre. Corner Frederick and Pearson Streets Charlestown	Tony Ellitt Lake Macquarie City Council <b>4921 0333</b> or email <b>tellitt@lakemac.nsw.gov.au</b>

## 15 Minutes of Fame- Paul Mason

**NAME:** Paul Mason (yaama or maso)

**WHERE ARE YOU FROM:** Kamilaroi nation born and raised in Dirranbandi, Southwest Queensland (near QLD/NSW border) with a population of almost 500. Growing up in such a small town with the laid back lifestyle and Mob still there is something that I really do miss but I enjoy living in the Hunter Valley and it has offered my Family and I better educational and career opportunities.

**ORGANISATIONS YOU WORK FOR/ROLE:** I am employed as the Aboriginal Client Services Officer with Corrective Services NSW providing case management support to Aboriginal Offenders attached to the offices of Lake Macquarie (Cardiff), Newcastle, and Maitland. Prior to my current role I had been the Aboriginal AOD Worker at Cessnock Gaol for 12 years.

**WHO'S IN YOUR FAMILY:** Partner Lisa and 3 children – Merinda, Kiarnah and Djnarli

**FAVOURITE BUSH TUCKER:** Definitely bigibila (echidna) with thagaay (yellowbelly) a very close second.

**FAVOURITE SPORT:** I played all sports growing up preferring outdoor sports of Cricket, Golf and Rugby League. I am back into Golf now (too many footy injuries) and I play regularly with my son, Djnarli as we are both members at Stonebridge Golf Club, Cessnock.

**AMBITIONS IN LIFE:** I don't have any major ambitions in life but to be a positive Role Model for my children and within the community.

**WHAT SERVICES CAN YOUR ORGANISATION PROVIDE TO ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN LAKE MACQUARIE:** As the ACSO, I provide culturally appropriate support for Probation and Parole Officers with Aboriginal Clients to assist in the successful completions orders such as Parole, Good Behaviour Bonds and Community Service Hours. I am also a member of the Local Reference Group for The Toronto Aboriginal Child and Family Centre and a member of the 'Awabakaba Ngariliko' mens group and NAIDOC Committee Member for both Eastlake and Westlake.

