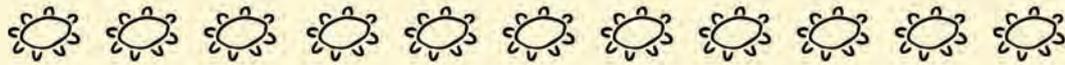


Koori Grapevine

September – November 2013 | Edition #8

“Music is a good place to go when you’re feeling a bit down.” ~ Archie Roach ~

Spring has sprung! Please enjoy the eighth edition of the Koori Grapevine. We welcome contributions to include in the quarterly Koori Grapevine. Contact Maree Edwards on 4921 0441 or email medwards@lakemac.nsw.gov.au



NAIDOC Week and signing of the Statement of Commitment

NAIDOC Week is always a big event nationally and especially in Lake Macquarie. This year Lake Macquarie City Council’s annual flag raising ceremony was combined with the signing of the Statement of Commitment between Council and the three Local Aboriginal Land Council’s representing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Aunty Zelma Moran delivered an Acknowledgement to Country before lighting a candle of remembrance and the rain was no deterrent to the large gathering at the official ceremony. As mentioned by key note speaker, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community member, Anni Cockburn, “The rain will cleanse and revitalise everything within the community and enhance long term Reconciliation.”

To the sound of Mick ‘Didge’ Davidson’s didgeridoo, five symbolic flags were raised by community and council representatives. The Aboriginal flag by Uncle Ken Goodwin, the Torres Strait flag by Anni Cockburn, the Australian flag by Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Cr Jodie Harrison, the NSW State flag by Jacob Taylor and the City flag by Director Community Development, Morven Cameron.

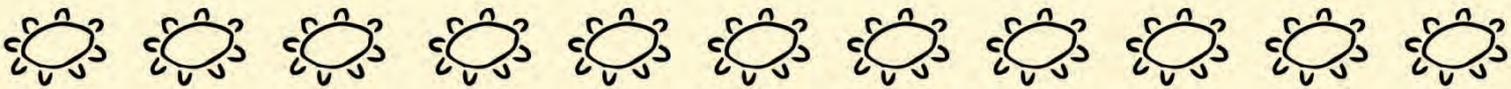
Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Cr Jodie Harrison, spoke about the significance of the Statement of Commitment from Council’s perspective and reiterated that this is not just a piece of paper but a firm commitment to build on the strengths and relationships Council already upholds to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Lake Macquarie City. Michael Green, CEO Bahtabah Local Aboriginal Land Council, who has had a long-standing relationship with the community and Council, responded to the Mayor’s words and anticipates the continuing commitment Council has bestowed to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

It had been just over 8 years since the Statement of Commitment had been revised and it was through a great deal of consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community that the final version was adopted by the community and Council. Aunty Laurel Williams completed the morning commemoration at Council as she and Cr Jodie Harrison cut the cake before the majority of the crowd ventured to Toronto Courthouse for their flag raising ceremony and the Westlakes NAIDOC march and Family Fun Day.

Westlakes and Eastlakes NAIDOC Family Fun Days

These two annual community and family events attract regional and state visitors to each side of Lake Macquarie, bringing together a diverse blend of many cultures to celebrate NAIDOC Week and the achievements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within our community.

Congratulations must go to the tireless effort of the Westlakes and Eastlakes committee’s who meet regularly and work hard to organise these events, ensuring they are successful and benefit the entire community. Big thanks also to Nicole Charlesworth of Mantis Event Management for her effort and contribution to the Westlakes event. (Photos and articles overleaf).



Westlakes NAIDOC Family Fun Day – Tuesday 9 July 2013

The rain for the Westlakes event was never going to wash away the affectionate atmosphere created from the morning's flag raising at Toronto courthouse which began with a warm Welcome to Country, spoken in Gattang, then translated into English, by Uncle Jim Ridgeway. Subsequent to Keith Cochrane and his colleagues raising the Aboriginal flag at Toronto courthouse, a peaceful march followed down The Boulevard to the stalls and events at Toronto foreshore. NSW Police highway patrol, mounted police and an Elders bus commenced the walk, which included a wide range of marchers, young and old, from various backgrounds, cultures and locations.

The crowd gathered around the rotunda for Uncle Gerry Edwards' Welcome to Country, followed by Anni Cockburn speaking on the NAIDOC theme, We value the Vision: Yirrkala Bark Petitions 1963 and then Pastor Belinda Simon's blessing of the Aboriginal flag before raising it to the heavens. Indigenous Learning hosted cultural tours on board the Solar Sailor and land lovers were entertained by music from Uncle Ceddy McGrady, PJ Gordon, Rod Smith and Sharnee Fenwick. A moving presentation to the winners of the community awards was heartfelt when Selina Archibald was announced as the winner of 'The Uncle Bob Sampson Award' and perpetual trophy for her continuous and unselfish commitment to the community for over 10 years. Other recipients of community awards were; Youth of the Year, Ebony Dunn; Community Female of the Year, Renee Lydiard; Community Male of the Year, Allan Williams and Community Worker of the Year, Craig Hammond. Congratulations to all winners and all who were nominated for these honours.



Top left: Selina Archibald - proud recipient of the Uncle Bob Sampson award
Top right, bottom left and right: PJ Gordon performs following the Toronto Courthouse Flagraising and Peaceful March

Eastlakes NAIDOC Family Fun Day – Friday 12 July 2013

The weather Gods were kind for the Eastlakes Family Fun Day held at Pelican Foreshore Reserve on Friday 12 July. People of all age and backgrounds, turned up in droves to visit approximately 20 information stalls from various organisations and were entertained by funny man Sean Choolburra, who thrives on audience participation with his moves and grooves. When the children were invited on stage, Ruby the Clown got the youngsters and the crowd going with her high powered Gangnam style shakes! The Minimbah Dancers put on a fabulous culture dance performance as did the Kare Yarn Torres Strait Islander song and dance recital and the Aboriginal Dance troupe.

Uncle Mick Green's idea of the traditionally dressed Torres Strait Islander group, Kare Yarn arriving across the lake by boat to be welcomed onto the mainland by culturally clad Aboriginal dancers, playing didgeridoo and clap sticks and featuring a cultural smoking ceremony, was a truly memorable highlight of the day and symbolic to our Ancestor's traditional greeting.

Deadly MC duo Nigel Welsh and Jacob Taylor displayed professionalism with the microphone and Rosie's School of Rock brought in a number of budding young bands to showcase the work of several talented young rockers. Youth band, Odd One Out, stole the show with their powerful performances and were brought back on stage at the end of the day for an encore act. Central Coast musicians, Change Duo, put on a terrific routine and local solo artist, Elisa Kate, sang a few of her own songs from 3 CD's she has created. Her angelic voice, backed up by her keyboard skills, sent tingles down the spine. (I highly recommend to Google her).

Activities for the children ranged from a jumping castle and slide, story telling on the Naruta-Ka-Wa (The Great Sky Lizard of Pulbah Island) quilt, Ruby the Clown and her twisted balloons, Honey Fairy the face painter, NSW Police and PCYC van, NSW Fire Brigade and a visit from several Knights players! Cancer Council's healthy food options and Swansea Lion's Club BBQ kept the troops well fed and the JobFind Coffee Cart was delightful! Many praises have been sung about this fabulous event and it is with thanks to Bahtabah LALC and the Eastlakes planning committee that the entire community benefitted from all that was on offer.



Odd One Out perform to the large crowd at Pelican



2013 NSW Local Government Aboriginal Network Conference

WARAMI NGALLAWAH MITTIGAR
- Hello, Come in, Sit down, Friend

Whenever our mob comes together there are such strong feelings of connection; to our culture, to each other, to our Ancestors and to Mother Earth. I have often titled this connection as **"The Invisible Umbilical Cord"** and is beyond words to many mainstream Australians.

Hosted this year by Blacktown City Council, Rooty Hill was the location where NSW Local Government Aboriginal employees and Local Government Councillors and Elders came together with some mainstream staff to discuss topics relating to Aboriginal concerns within the workforce and in society and develop ways we can work together to conquer these issues. Many ideas were put forward to the executive panel from the diverse group and will be actioned when and where possible.

We were treated to a variety of keynote speakers, from youth through to Elders and who came from a range of cultural, personal and vocational backgrounds. A few of these private yarns and 'Interviews with Elders' reduced some in the crowd to tears of joy and tears of sorrow and the puppetry performance featuring The Yarramundi Kids (on NITV) was a highlight, as were the young cultural dancers.

A bus trip to the nearby Blacktown Arts Centre for the Mayoral welcome, introduced us to the exhibition, The Native Institute, (5 July-21 September) and features work by respected Aboriginal artists such as Leanne Tobin, Daniel Boyd, Robyn Caughlan, Karla Dickens, r e a and Jason Wing. The Native Institute relocated from Parramatta to the corner of Richmond Road and Rooty Hill Road North, Blacktown in 1823, and was established to 'educate' and 'reform' Aboriginal children during colonisation. The now vacant block next to the M7 motorway, represents the origins of institutionalisation of Aboriginal people in Australia.

I commend the LGAN Executive panel, the host council Blacktown, and all who brought this conference together and I look forward to meeting up with my new connections at the next conference in Narrandera, if not before.

15 Minutes of Fame - Owen Craigie



NAME: Owen Craigie

WHERE ARE YOU FROM: Tingha NSW.

ORGANISATIONS YOU WORK FOR/ROLE:
Gambling Counsellor, Mission Australia.

WHO'S IN YOUR FAMILY: 9 in my family, Mum, Dad, 4 Sisters and 2 Brothers I'm the Oldest.

FAVOURITE BUSH TUCKER: Yabbies.

FAVOURITE SPORT: Rugby League.

AMBITIONS IN LIFE: To make a change today for a greater tomorrow for all Australians.

WHAT SERVICES CAN YOUR ORGANISATION PROVIDE TO ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN LAKE MACQUARIE: We provide Gambling Counselling, Emergency Housing, Disability, Health, Mental support in the community Sector.

ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD? Education is the key for Aboriginal Communities & families so we can live longer lives & help our grass roots to become stronger & wiser with making the right choices in life.

Awabakal

Supported Aboriginal Playgroup

Gateshead

Monday 9-11

Wiripang Public School,
Pacific Highway, Gateshead

Edgeworth

Thursday 9.30-11.30

Edgeworth Public School
Minmi Road, Edgeworth

Raymond
Terrace

Tuesday 9:30-11:30

Port Stephens Family Support Service,
3 Phillip Road, Raymond Terrace

Blacksmiths

Wednesday 9:30-11:30

Bahtabah Lands Council
44 Pacific Highway, Blacksmiths

Contact Emma on
0419604174

AWABAKAL
NEWCASTLE ABORIGINAL CO-OP LTD ABN 93 865 911 384



Events - More events can be found at www.lakemac.com.au

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Thursday 12 September 8.30am- 1pm	YAKKA Day 2013 is for young Aboriginal people to come and find out about careers, speak to employers and participate in 'hands on' job skills as well as learn about pathways leading to an apprenticeship or traineeship.	The Canopy Cameron Park	Anne Molloy 4953 7099 or 0434 925 015 Anne.Molloy@careerlinks.nsw.edu.au
Thursday 19 September 10.30am - 11.30am	Medicine Management - This is an informative session to assist seniors in becoming more active in managing their medicines. All participants are provided with a Medicine Record Card to assist them to keep track of their medication. Bookings essential.	Belmont Library	4945 4329
Friday 20 September 10am - 12noon	Telling Stories - This workshop provides practical skills and tips to make an oral reading of personal memories, a life story or a special event. Topics covered include: How to develop interview questions; interview techniques; use of photographs and/or special objects and equipment. Bookings essential.	Morisset Multipurpose Centre Activity Room 2, 143 Dora Street, Morisset	4921 0517
Wednesday 25 September 10am - 11am	Lake Macquarie History Online - This website is a fantastic resource for people searching their family history as well as for community history. Find out how to explore the website and discover records relevant to your family, suburb or area of interest. Bookings essential.	Toronto Library	4959 2077
Wednesday 25 September 10am - 4pm	Hunter NAIDOC Family Fun Day All welcome to come along and/or participate in this fun day. Entertainment and information stalls, sport tournaments including netball, touch footy and soccer.	National Park Newcastle	Alan Mounsey 4925 7043 or 0422 278 258 alan.mounsey@services.nsw.gov.au
Friday 27 September 9.30am and 11.30am Duration: 1.5hr	Aboriginal Culture and Heritage Workshop Have fun and learn at the same time at this amazing workshop presented by Indigenous Learning! Learn the importance of Aboriginal dance and art and decorate your own boomerang to take home. Taste some bush tucker and learn about traditional tools and weapons.	Toronto Library	4959 2077 Cost: \$12 Ages :5-12 years
Saturday, 28 September 8am- 2pm	Living Smart Festival - Council's biggest eco event is back and promises to be the best to date. Learn to live smart while having fun shopping at eco stalls, listening to live music, feasting on yummy foods and entertaining the children with free activities. Council also provides free transport to and from the event so leave your car at home and check out the best way for you to get there. 2013 festival highlights: The Lorax Farm animals and reptiles, free games and activities, solar powered Wii, eco stalls and markets, workshops, ask an expert tent, native plant giveaway*, free transport, food stalls, live entertainment, farmers markets. * Bring Lake Macquarie rates notice or rental receipt to collect 2 free native plants.	Speers Point Park	www.lakemac.com.au 4921 0333
Friday 4th, Saturday 5th, Sunday 6th and Monday 7th October	New South Wales 43rd Annual Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout.	Lakeside Oval, Raymond Terrace	www.newcastleowies.com.au
Friday 25 and Saturday 26 October Friday 5pm and Saturday 8.30am	Koori Netball Tournament Cost \$250 (incl. GST) per team Team registrations close Wednesday 23 October.	Charlestown Netball Complex, Bula Street, Charlestown	4926 1633 or visit www.dsr.nsw.gov.au

Significant Dates

DATE	EVENT
Wednesday 4 September	Indigenous Literacy Day
Sunday 20 October	National Graffiti Action Day - www.graffitiremovalday.org.au