



Welcome to the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated Newsletter.

If you have any educational or interesting news that you would like to share with the community please let us know and we will be able to distribute it to the community in our next newsletter.

## Life Membership

# Life Memberships



This year we Honoured 5 life members that have shown more than 15 years of service or dedication to VAEAI. We honoured these members by having a dinner and presentation at the Aboriginal Advancement League.

Life members that were nominated where:



Geraldine Atkinson (President), Melva Johnson, Lillian Pettit, Alf Bamblett, Laura Bell, Mary Atkinson & Lionel Bamblett (General Manager).

### Dates of Interest:

Croc Festival - Swan Hill,	10th-12th September
Early Childhood Conference,	4th-5th October
VAEAI Youth Forum,	7th August, Melb. 14th August, Bendigo 21st August, Ballarat 28th August, Morwell 29th August, Bairnsdale
Alfred Felton Bequest Scholarship Koorie Mentor Scheme	6th September, Warrnambool 25th September, Shepparton 26th September, Robinvale 15th&16th August, Mecure Hotel, Melbourne

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## Mid Year "In Service" (Children's Services)

The Early Childhood Unit held its mid year **In Service** for Koorie early childhood services in June. This year we had representatives from the LAECG's, Sponsors, MACS, Playgroups, KECFOs and KPSAs around the table. Guest speakers included the DHS Acting State Co-ordinator for the Koorie ECH Education Program, as well as representatives from the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS), State Department of Human Services (DHS), Children's Services Resource and Development Officers (CSRDOs) Association, and Community Child Care (CCC). A range of issues was discussed- all in all a very productive meeting.

The Early Childhood Unit facilitated a series of training sessions for the MACS last financial Year. The sessions were conducted by the University of Ballarat and by Playworks. They were held on a regional basis at Berrimba, Lidje, Gunai Lidj and Bung Yarnda MACS and were very successful. More are planned in 2002-03.

## "Planning for the Early Childhood Matters conference on 4 and 5 October 2002 is proceeding."

Angelina Tabuteau-Moore is the new Indigenous Liaison Officer at the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS). She will be contacting the Koorie Early Childhood services in the very near future.

The VAEAI is on the reference group for the Koorie Early Childhood Education Program Review, which will look at the roles and responsibilities of the KPSAs and KECFOs and will propose strategies to increase their effectiveness. Community consultations will start soon and the process is due for completion towards the end of August 2002. The Consultancy Team has been appointed and is the Institute of Koorie Education (Deakin University). They will contact services soon.

"Planning for the **Early Childhood Matters conference** on 4 and 5 October 2002 is proceeding. This conference for staff working with children from 0-8 years will be held at Monash University, Clayton Campus, where there is plenty of parking and facilities to accommodate the four keynote speakers and a number of break-out sessions.

## Early Childhood Matters Conference – Friday 4 and Saturday 5 October, 2002

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- **Realising children's potential;**
- **Realising staff potential;**
- **Strengthening families;**
- **Strengthening communities.**

## Koorie Programs

It will include a number of presentations from Koorie programs. Please set aside these dates in your diaries and look for the registration brochure in the next month. (Karen Weston Department of Human services)

Front Row L to R: Ilana Roitman, Clare Hargraves, Community Services and Housing Minister Bronwyn Pike, Lionel Bamblett, Berenice Nyland, Deborah Maher.

Middle Row L to R: Joy Williams, Barbara Romeril, Lesley Hubble, Bill McDonald, Priscilla Clarke, Rosalie Kinson.

Back Row L to R: Timothy Szlachetko, Carl Fitchett, Gerard Mansour, Roland Finette, John Forster.



Preschool Enhancement Project Advisory Group with Minister Pike. May 29, 2002



## Staff

The VAEAI Schools Unit welcomes Kylie Belling to the unit as the Co-ordinator of the schools Unit. Lowana will be relocating to Administration.

With the Croc Festival on its way the VAEAI schools unit has been very busy working with the organiser's on the promotion of the event. The event is statewide and we are aiming for at least 1400 kids to participate at the festival and at least an audience of 7,000.

## The Peter Clarke Teaching for Aboriginal Reconciliation Award 2002 was held at Mildura KODE during reconciliation week. The award is given every year to an Indigenous and non – Indigenous teacher who:

- *Demonstrate excellent teaching practice in the area of Aboriginal reconciliation.*
- *Collaborative work with Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups or Koorie community members.*
- *Working with Koorie Education Development Officers or Koorie Educators.*

The VAEAI would like to congratulate KODE Mildura in winning the Indigenous teaching award.

The non – Indigenous award went to Dianne Hill from La Valla College, Bendigo working collaboratively with local Koorie members, Muthama Sinnappan, Corey Ilsey and Warren Meaks. Congratulations to Dianne and the team.



## Wurreker Strategy

The TAFE Unit has secured funding agreements for the Wurreker Strategy. The implementation of the Wurreker is now in progress and VAEAI has advertised the TAFE Manager's position. On appointment the TAFE Manager will advertise the Wurreker Regional Brokers' positions.

## Namalaata Centre

With the role out of Wurreker, the TAFE Unit is in process of relocation to the Namalaata Centre in Northcote. It is anticipated that the Wurreker Regional Brokers will also undertake their induction and training at the Namalaata Centre.

## LLENs - Local Learning Employment Network

VAEAI has also advertised for a LLENs (Local Learning and Employment Network) Project Officer. The position has funding for 6 months and will assist the LLENs Network in ensuring Koorie consultation and participation on LLENs committees.

## Youth Forums

In addition, VAEAI is implementing Youth Forums across all VAEAI regions. The feedback for the forums will assist VAEAI and other community organisations and government agencies in determining some of the barriers that Koorie Youth may be faced in regards to employment and training opportunities. Two positions will be advertised to co-ordinate and implement these forums over the next 3 months.

## Koori TAFE Liaison Officer's In-Service

During July, VAEAI held a statewide Koorie TAFE Liaison Officer's in-service. The in-service was held in sunny Morwell where temperatures drop to -3 degrees overnight. Central Gippsland Institute of TAFE hosted the event. The forum provided KLOs an excellent opportunity to discuss local issues and gain a valuable update on current and future programs and projects. Thanks to Paula Morrison, Doris Paton and Christine Johnston for their assistance, support and hospitality.