

Welcome to the fourth Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated Newsletter.

## New Staff

We would like to welcome our new staff members Wanda Wellington (Schools Unit), Travis Lovett (Youth Forum's), Thelma Austin (Wurreker), Neville Atkinson (LLENS), John Page (Wurreker) & our 8 Wurreker Regional Brokers. Mikael Simpson, Nicole Briggs, Barry Farry, Julie Hodgkin, Sue Lovett, Sheree Lowe, Ivy Yarram & Olive Walsh.

## World Indigenous Conference – August 2002 - Canada

Stoney Park on the Nakoda Nation was the selected site for the 6th World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education 2002. The Nation is composed of three bands: Bearspaw, Chiniki and Wesley/Good Stoney.

"The sixth conference was a celebration of the belief nurtured by George Manuel, (the Patron of the first WIPCE in Vancouver) that we must control our lives and determine our own future through our own collective efforts".

Workshops for the conference were held within teepees. There were 3 groups of teepee, which were designed from different nations.

A short distance from the workshop area elders set up a traditional encampment. Each teepee for different families told their story. Some of the teepee's showed their hunting, while others detailed the mountains and rivers.



WIPCE Workshops



Irene Morris at WIPCE - Canada



Parade of Nations at WIPCE

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## Publications

The 2 following Resources are now printed and were launched on the 10th December 2002.

- Guide for Management- Aboriginal Child Care Services – a look at Management Committee, staffing, roles and responsibilities, conduct of meetings and development of Policy (with an example);
- Koorie Culture- A guide to implementing a culturally inclusive curriculum in ECH services- includes a short introduction to Koorie learning style in the context of Aboriginal History and culture, communication with Aboriginal communities.

## Department of Human Services Koorie Early Childhood Education Program Review

The Review has begun. Community consultations have been held in the different regions.

The Review report will focus on the roles of the KPSAs and the KECFOs, the community needs in relation to preschool services and strategies to increase access to, and participation in, preschool programs for Koorie children, as well as improve their literacy and numeracy outcomes.

## Best Start

The Post Community Services Minister, Bronwyn Pike and Education Services Minister Monica Gould launched Best Start on September 2. Best Start is a prevention and early intervention project that aims to improve the health, development, learning and well being of all Victorian children from pregnancy through transition to school. Five 3-year trial projects have begun in the cities of Hume, Maribyrnong, Frankston, Shepparton and Yarra Ranges Shire. Five more will be announced soon; 2 projects will specifically focus on Koorie issues.

## Early Years Conference

The EARLY CHILDHOOD MATTERS conference was in many respects a great success. VAEAI representatives delivered 2 sessions: Esme Bamblett presented a paper "Through Small Eyes", and the Elders' workshop was conducted by Rose Bamblett (ECH Specialist Representative), Melva Johnson (Chairperson Echuca LAECG), Geraldine Atkinson, (President VAEAI) and Esme Bamblett (Manager, Koorie Education Strategy Team). Both sessions were very well received. Esme's paper can be accessed through DHS website at: [www.dhs.vic.gov.au/earlychildhoodmattersconference/](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/earlychildhoodmattersconference/)



Aunty Melva, Aunty Rose, Geraldine Atkinson and Esme Bamblett.



Esme and Marj Earl (Human Services Shepperton Region)



Aunty Melva Johnson, Roland Finnett and Aunty Rose Bamblett

## VEGAS conference

The KPSAs and KECFOS attended the Vocational and Educational Guidance for Aborigines Scheme (VEGAS) conference/workshop on Indigenous culture, literacy and numeracy in September. Presenters included DEST indigenous Education Branch Manager, Janet Leck, DEST Indigenous Education Branch Program Manager, Betty Day, Professor Bridie Raban from the University of Melbourne, SA DETE Aboriginal ECH staff and our General Manager, Lionel Bamblett. Auntie Melva Johnson gave an inspiring closing address.

## OMEP (World Organisation for Preschool Education)

OMEP is holding its July 2004 world congress in Melbourne. VAEAI is represented on the Advisory Committee. It will be held at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre from 21 to 24 July 2004. The theme is: One World: Many childhoods. After the International Indigenous Conference on Children, this will be the first mainstream International ECH Conference in Melbourne. Delegates from all over the world are expected to attend.

## Swinburne University of Technology

Swinburne University of Technology is asking for Expression of Interest for its Certificate III in Community Services (Children's Services) for the Indigenous Community. Classes will start in late October 2002 or February 2003 at Prahran and Lilydale.

## Schools Unit

[lowana@vaeai.org.au](mailto:lowana@vaeai.org.au)



### Croc Festival

Since the last Newsletter the Schools Unit has been busy with Croc Festival activities, attending meetings in Swan Hill in consultation with the Local Koorie Community Liaison Officer, Stephanie Charles, who did a wonderful job ensuring maximum Local Koorie involvement.

The festival took place over 2-3 days, offering students the opportunity to participate in sports clinics, health expo's, careers markets, art and craft activities as well as performing on a professional stage in front of thousands of friends, families and community members.

More than 1500 primary and secondary students aged between 9 and 18 years performed on stage and more than 3000 attendees were part of the audience.



VAEAI Kids at Croc Festival activities



Morwell KODE (Performances)



Tyson Austin & Sofii Belling accepting award for VAEAI.

## “Alfred Felton Bequest Scholarship”

The Unit was also involved, in conjunction with KEST and the Education Foundation, in the organization of the ‘Alfred Felton Bequest Scholarship Recipients Two Day Mentor Residential’ held in Melbourne on the 14th & 15th August. Of the 48 Scholarship Recipients 29 students attended from all over the state along with 11 KEDO’s, 9 LAECG Representatives and 3 Koorie Educators. The main objectives of this inaugural event was to bring together recipients to focus on local and regional support mechanisms, the concept of ‘Mentor’, role models (including former scholarship recipients sharing their experiences), student aspirations and continuing success within the education system. Feedback from participants included a need for more role models sharing their educational experiences, with most approving the local and regional focus. We are currently working towards a program for next year. Thanks to all of those involved, especially the students who attended this successful event.



Alfred Felton Bequest

## TAFE & Wurreker

[wurreker@vicnet.net.au](mailto:wurreker@vicnet.net.au)



Lynne Kosky, then Minister for Post Compulsory Education, Training and Employment officially launched Wurreker and VAEAI President Geraldine Atkinson in July 2000. Since then, a great deal of planning, developing and recruiting has gone into the implementation of the strategy.

A total of twenty-four community-based forums were held across the eight VAEAI regions to inform stakeholders of the detail of Wurreker and to allow community feedback before implementation.

The forums were held in Melbourne, Morwell, Bairnsdale, Echuca, Mildura, Shepparton, Ballarat and Warrnambool and were attended by LAECG members, training providers, Koorie organisations, local government, Local Learning and Employment Networks (LLENs), group training companies and employers. The response across the state was of overwhelming support for the principles of Wurreker and eagerness to participate in the process.

The Wurreker team is now fully staffed with the Manager, John Page and Project Team of Justin Entwistle and Thelma Austin all based in new VAEAI offices at Namalaata in Northcote. The Wurreker Regional Brokers are based across the eight VAEAI regions as follows:.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Broker</b>	<b>Location</b>
Murray Valley	Olive Walsh	Mildura/Swan Hill
Loddon Campaspe	Barry Farry	Bendigo
Goulburn Valley	Julie Hodgkin	Wodonga
East Gippsland	Ivy Yarram	Sale
Central Gippsland	Nicole Briggs	Morwell
Metropolitan	Mikael Simpson	Namalaata
South West	Sue Lovett	Geelong
Central Highlands Wimmera	Sheree Lowe	Ballarat

The Brokers are currently in the process of establishing offices and have been meeting with key stakeholders within their regions. They have also been establishing Wurreker Regional Committees (one in each region, two Metropolitan) made up of LAECG’S, training sector and industry representatives.

These committees, with the executive support of the Brokers and the Wurreker project team will be gathering and collating information and advice from across their regions to inform the development of regional training priorities for Koorie students with a strong focus on vocational and community outcomes.

The initial meetings of these committees are being held during December with formal work on the identification of training priorities taking place in the first quarter of 2003.

Developing Wurreker to the implementation stage has been a huge and very rewarding task requiring the input of many committed people. Special thanks go out to the hard work put in by our partners in the Office of Training and Tertiary Education (OTTE), Madeline Scully and James Atkinson, and to VAEAI staff Wayne Clarke, Nerissa Broben, Selina Bernard and consultants Deb Blaber and Vivienne Gunn. Through the long hours of hard work put in by these people in developing the strategy and the ongoing commitment of the current Wurreker team, we are confident that we are well on the way to achieving excellent outcomes for Koories through the training sector.

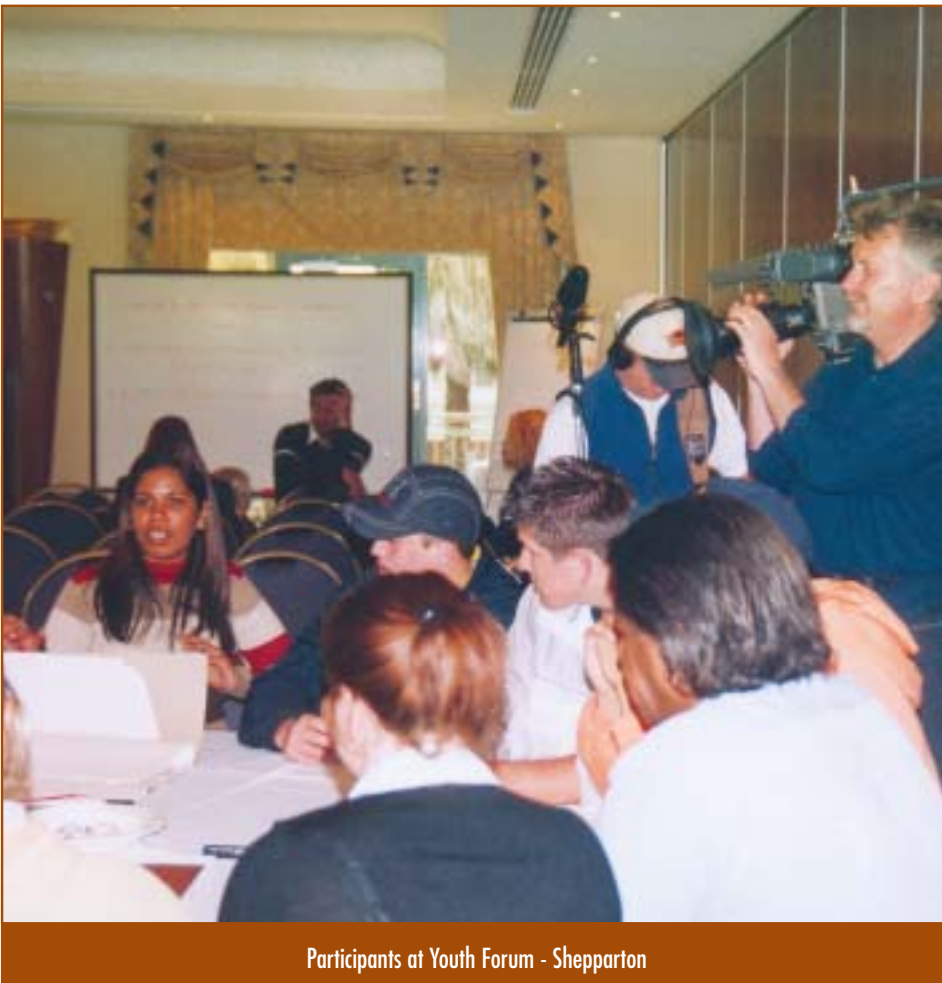
For further information on Wurreker feel free to contact the VAEAI TAFE Unit on (03) 9486 1599 or by dropping in to VAEAI Namalaata, 144 Westbourne Grove, Northcote.



VAEAI General Manager with Wurreker Team:  
 Back row: Nicole Briggs, Nerissa Broben, Lionel Bamblett, Justin Entwistle, Julie Hodgkin  
 Front row: Barry Farry, Olive Walsh, Mikael Simpson, Thelma Austin, Ivy Yarram, John Page, Sheree Lowe, Sue Lovett

## Research Unit

[veronica@vaeai.org.au](mailto:veronica@vaeai.org.au)



Participants at Youth Forum - Shepparton

### VAEAI Koorie Youth Forums

The VAEAI research unit has conducted eight one-day regional Koorie youth forums around Victoria. The aim of the forums was give Koorie youth an opportunity voice their opinions on education training and employment. We targeted youth aged between 15-25. This was a great success; some of the regions we went to were Melbourne, Ballarat, Morwell, Bairnsdale, Bendigo, Shepparton, Warrnambool and Robinvale. We had an excellent turnout from all the areas. The students gave the VAEAI staff some excellent information on what they thought about education training and employment for young Koorie students, as well as some goals for us to work towards.

A camera crew was contracted to film the forums and VAEAI will be producing a documentary for use by LAECG's, VAEAI and other Key Stakeholders. The video should be available early next year.



Participants at Youth Forum - Morwell



Participants at Youth Forum - Bendigo

### **VAEAI Newsletters**

VAEAI Newsletters can be downloaded from the VAEAI Website at [www.vaeai.org.au](http://www.vaeai.org.au)

### **Dates of Interest**

The VAEAI Office will be closed from the 20th December 02 until 6th January 03

***The VAEAI Management & Staff  
would like to wish everyone a safe  
& Merry Christmas***



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*Education and land go hand in hand*