

Welcome to the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated Newsletter.

New Staff & Farewells

The VAEAI would like to welcome three new staff members who have joined us since June. **Anjee-Lee Solomon** who has commenced as Lionel's Executive Assistant; **Roberta Atkinson** who has started in a newly created position – LAECG Partnership Co-ordinator; and **Nayuka Hood** who has joined the schools unit as a project officer – a warm welcome to Anjee-Lee, Roberta and Nayuka.

We would also like to thank **Vanessa Wilson** for her hard work during her time with VAEAI. Vanessa has decided to return home to South Australia and we wish her all the best in her new endeavours.

Lets not forget a warm welcome home to our Office and Finance Manager, **Irene Morris**, who is now back in the office for good after her working holiday in Canada. Irene we really missed you!

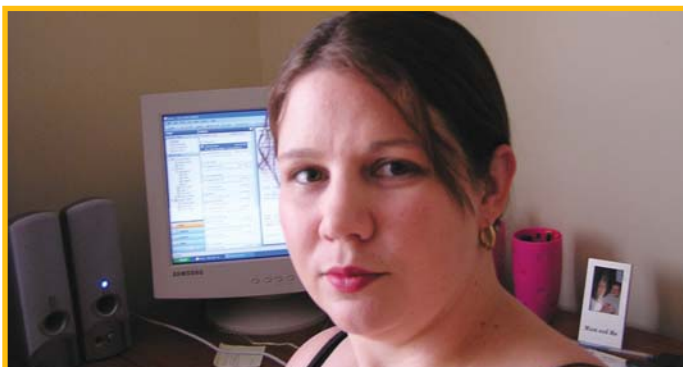
Community News

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VAEAI has decided to include some community news stories about some of the interesting and inspirational things community members and organizations are currently doing.

If you have any stories you would like us to include in our next newsletter please contact Anjee-lee Solomon on the above email address or at our Fitzroy office.



Karinda Cattlin

Karinda Cattlin is 29 years old and lives in Swan Hill. She completed year 12 at Swan Hill Secondary College in 1998 and has certificates IV in Workplace Trainer and Assessor and also Business Management.

Karinda is the mother of 3 beautiful children and is currently completing her final year in Bachelor of Nursing at Deakin University in Geelong. She is also a successful applicant in the Graduate Nurse Program at Swan Hill District Hospital which will commence in 2006.

Being strongly involved in her community, Karinda is a current member of CATSIN (Congress of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Nurses), Swan Training in Swan Hill and a past member of Koorie Women Going Places Ministerial Advisory Board.

She has coordinated the careers market at the Croc Fest in 2003 and is the coordinator of the 2003 Night of Respect & Recognition Awards that were developed to recognise, celebrate and ultimately inspire through acknowledging outstanding achievements by Indigenous people.

Over the next twelve months, while completing the Graduate Nurse Program, Karinda will be applying to University to undertake a post-graduate course as a Diabetic Nurse Educator. She wishes to gain a greater understanding of diabetes and illness within our community, and over the next 3 years she is preparing to become a midwife.



The Policy and Research Unit has been busy during the last six months on a number of projects; two of particular interest:

We have successfully submitted a bid to hold the **World Indigenous Peoples Conference: Education 2008**. The announcement that we had been successful was made during the 2005 Conference held in Hamilton, New Zealand during late November early December. We are now preparing for all the hard work that lays ahead in organising a world conference of this size.

Hosting WIPCE:2008 will not only allow us to showcase and share our experiences in the establishment and development of world class Indigenous education initiatives, but will also provide us with the opportunity to learn from the experiences of Indigenous peoples from around the world.

As part of our proposal we secured the support of all other State AECGs to do so on their behalf; and they will be part of a reference committee to advice and support us in the organisational process. We have also secured commitment from the Education Department for financial

support, and organisational support from the Melbourne Convention and Visitors Bureau, who have been central to us being able to secure venues; including Melbourne & Olympic Parks and the Sidney Myer Music Bowl. Thank you to Christana Mahar from MCVB for all her hard work and support.



The Australian delegation, WIPCE:2005



Showcasing Maori culture, WIPCE:2005

In conjunction with the schools unit, we have been working with the Department of Education and Training on the revamping of the **Koorie Strategy Plan**. This will be an important development in the provision of services for Koorie students in the schooling sector. More information on this project will be available in the new year.

TAFE Unit



The VAEAI TAFE Unit has been extremely busy preparing for the 2007 VAEAI Koorie State Training Plan. The Training Plan is a lengthy process with a number of extensive consultations being held. The Wurreker Brokers have been busily planning for these in their respective regions. Each region will hold a Key Stakeholder forum inviting various Industry Groups Local Government Councils, TAFE Colleges & Job Networks just to name a few. To date these forums have been held in the Metropolitan, Loddon Campaspe, Murray Valley, Goulburn Valley and South Western Regions, the East & Central Gippsland regions will be held in the New Year.

The aim of the Industry forums is to find out what the projected Industry growth is for the region, with this in mind 30 Local Community Forums will be held across the State inviting the local Koorie community to come along and see what the projected Industry growth is for their region, and discuss what type of training is needed to be

delivered in 2007 to match the projected Industry growth, which in turn will lead to greater employment of Koorie people. A few of the local forums are being held in December with the majority being held January 2006. If you would like to attend these forums please contact your Regional Broker or the VAEAI TAFE office.

Since November 2004 the Wurreker Brokers have undertaken training delivered by the CAE, I am pleased to say that the last training module has been delivered. The Brokers have undertaken training to receive the Diploma in Business Management. I would like to congratulate the Brokers on gaining their Diploma in Business Management.

The New Year will be a very busy start to the year with the State Training Plan to be developed, planning for the VAEAI Statewide Conference and also the VAEAI Wurreker Awards.



Department of Family and Community Services

Following the Review of the Broadband, the Minister for Family and Community Services, Senator Kay Patterson, on 11 November announced the organisations, which will work with eligible child care services and Inclusion support agencies (formerly Resource and Advisory Agencies), giving them one contact point in each state and territory.

Community Child Care (CCC) has been selected as Professional Support Coordinator for Victoria and has signed a 3 year contract with FaCS. CCC has formed a partnership with FKA Children's Services, with FKA providing expert advice especially in relation to diversity and inclusion.

It is expected that FaCS together with CCC will, by 31 March 2006, select the Indigenous Program Support Unit which will provide support to Koorie children and services.

Inclusion Support Agencies, which replace the current mainstream Resource and Advisory Agencies, have also been selected. They will soon start the process of recruiting Inclusion Support Facilitators who replace the current Children's Support resource Development Officers (CSRDOs). In Victoria, the Inclusion Support Agencies are as follows:

Noah's Ark, the auspicing Agency for the Playworks R & A, Playworks Rural Consultancy, Southern Child Care Support Team and Noah's Ark Specialist Equipment and Toy Service, has been selected as preferred Inclusion Support Agency in eight of the 17 Victorian Regions: Bayside, Central Highlands, East Gippsland, Gippsland, Inner Melbourne, Loddon, Mallee, and West Metro Melbourne. The other regions are as follows: Barwon: City of Greater Geelong; East outer Melbourne; Knox City Council; North Middle Melbourne: Darebin City Council; North Outer Melbourne: City of Whittlesea; Oven Murray: Upper Murray Family Care Inc; SE outer Melbourne; Casey City Council, West Victoria: Warrnambool City Council.

Indigenous Child Care Plan Consultation

Edith Cowan University has been asked by the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) to develop a national Indigenous Child Care Plan. As part of this they will be visiting Indigenous communities to find out what communities think about looking after children.

Meetings to talk about these questions will be held:

- Between October 2005 and April 2006, in each state and territory
- Some in the metropolitan area, and some in rural/regional/remote locations.

Department of Human Services

Margaret Clarke has resigned as Koorie State Coordinator at DHS and has taken up a position at VACCHO.

Moira Rayner, KECFO for the North West region, is currently working at SNAICC.

We wish Margaret and Moira all the very best in their new jobs.

Mobile Playbus

VAEAI has been working with Save the Children and Jennifer Mitchell and Moira Rayner, KECFOs, to establish Playgroup sessions within Melbourne.

On 24 October, a Mobile Playgroup session was launched at the Gathering Place, Maribyrnong and at the end of November in Collingwood for the flats residents. 16-20 children, with their parents/carers are currently attending the Monday session in Maribyrnong and 8-10 children with their parents/carers the Thursday



The mobile playbus at the launch held at the Maribyrnong Gathering Place

session in Collingwood. Following the success of the Thursday session, a Tuesday session is currently being tried in Collingwood. The sessions are being run by 2 very enthusiastic Koorie Playgroup leaders: Sharon, and Michelle Singh.

Community-Schools Partnership Project



The Department of Education and Training have funding VAEAI for two new positions aimed at increasing the level of Koorie community engagement in school programs, initiatives and activities through the establishment of partnerships and engagement plans between LAECGs and their local schools.

Roberta Atkinson commenced in one of these positions during October this year and is currently developing a kit and presentation for community consultations. Introductory conversations have taken place with a number of LAECGs and we expect a team to be out on the road early next year.

If you would like any information regarding this project please contact Roberta on the above email address or at our Fitzroy office.



Alpine School

The Alpine School is conducting a Koorie Program which is devoted to 45 Koorie students in Term 1 next year 2006.

All successful students have been notified and have attended information sessions along with parents/carers, teachers and KEDO's from their regions.

The Alpine school has been successful in obtaining a significant DEST PSPI grant from the Federal Government. The grant money will ensure that the program is fully funded, including subsidising parents and family accommodation costs for the parents visiting weekend which is on the 18-19 February. This will also provide transport to and from the Alpine school for the students.

The parent's s visiting weekend arrangements will be finalized in the first weeks of the program. A form will be sent out directly to parents.

The Alpine school is pleased to announce that they have also received sponsorship from Kathmandu, MECU (Members Education Credit Union) and KESU to provide students with Sleeping (inner) sheets, top and bottom thermals and boots. The items will be supplied during their first week of Term 1 and will be the students to keep at the completion of the program. Students will need to only bring their normal clothes and personal items.

The Alpine school is seeking two Koorie Support staff; these positions have been funded through the KESU for 8 weeks. They have been put in place to offer constant support to all the Koorie students at the Alpine School. The Alpine school has also engaged a year 12 Koorie

student mentor (one of the Alpine schools only two past Koorie students) who will also be engaged to offer support to the students.

We are very confident about this program and anticipate this being a valuable experience for everyone involved.

Youth Forums

The purpose of the forums is to gather information on why young Koorie youth are not engaging in education. We want to find out what support students and families need to become more involved in education. The forums are targeted to all Koorie youth from the age of 10 to 18 years old, which are not currently engaged in education or training of any kind.

Consultation regarding the development of these youth forums is through involvement of the LAECG's and Local youth facilitators.

We have commenced with the youth facilitator training, and we have held the Northern Melbourne Youth forum on the 30th November at the Aborigines Advancement League, and more recently the Orbost youth forum on Tuesday 6th December which was held at the Orbost Secondary College; both forums were a good day for all that attended.

Due to it drawing close to the end of the year, the planning and staging of these forums will re-commence in the New Year.

I would also like to welcome Nayuka Hood to the program, Nayuka will be assisting with the Youth Forums. If you have any queries or concerns about when we will be holding these forums in your region, please do not hesitate to contact Justin and Nayuka at VAEAI on 9416 3833, or via email, justin@vaeai.org.au or nayuka@vaeai.org.au

The VAEAI Management and Staff would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year



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