

Bandimayiya

"the Messenger"



Darkinjung News

MAY 2011

Volume 1, Issue 8



Message from our Chairperson, Bronwyn Chambers

Welcome back to everyone after our Christmas break. I hope everyone had a relaxed and happy festive season.

For Darkinjung LALC and the broader Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community it was a sad start to 2011 with the passing of four of our very well-known and respected

members, Mr Jack (Jacko or Uncle Jack) Smith, Mr Melrose Des Donnelly, Mr Bert Sherwood and Mr Allan Clegg.

These members have all been significant contributors to not only Darkinjung LALC but also to the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community of the greater Central Coast.

The Board would like to especially acknowledge Uncle Jacko's, contribution and dedication as a Board member and as a member of Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council. We would also like to acknowledge his work and dedication to the community; he will sadly be missed by his fellow Board members.

In moving forward the Board has had little time to rest since Christmas with the Bushells Ridge and Blue Haven projects making real progress. The Development Application (DA) for Blue Haven went to Wyong Shire Council for approval on the 23rd March 2011 for the 108 lot residential development and one easement which members will now need to approve a Land Dealing under the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

The DA approval for Blue Haven was handed down by Wyong Shire Council on the 23 March 2011; I would like to thank members and Board members for their input and contribution. I also pay a special thanks to Deputy Chairperson Leanne Holt for attending this crucial meeting with Wyong Shire Council.

Darkinjung will be holding workshops to fully inform and provide members with a number of viable options for the land. Dates and times will be announced in the near future.

The Bushells Ridge Part 3A Application was approved by the Minister on the 22 December 2010 as a State significant development. The zoning for Bushells Ridge is industrial employment lands however this did not deter the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water from attempting to lock the land up as a green corridor, it was only through the extensive work of Darkinjung LALC that we have been able to fight this decision and secure our land. When the DRAFT North Wyong Structure Plan came out in November 2010 these lands in the DRAFT North Wyong Structure Plan had been changed to allow for a green corridor with a view to locking the land away for ever. Upon receiving this information an urgent meeting was called for the Board and CEO on a Sunday to look at developing a strategy to fight these changes and have the decision overturned.

Due to the hours of lobbying, correspondence and meetings, Darkinjung LALC was successful in gaining a Part 3A approval and clearly putting the decision powers back in the hand of our members.

Once again Darkinjung LALC is leading the way by being the first LALC in NSW to gain approval for a Part 3A Application by following proper process under the ALRA.

Thanks must go to the Board members, CEO, staff and organisations that assisted Darkinjung in achieving this outcome. The dedication and tireless hours of work that went into making this happen will be of benefit for the future of all Darkinjung members and wider Aboriginal community's future. Through this monumental achievement we have proven ourselves by demonstrating our professionalism, expertise, ability and determination to secure what is best for the future of our Land Council and for our members and community.

Our Cultural and Community Centre Consultation Workshops held across the Central Coast, facilitated by Key Insights consultant Stuart Davis-Meehan were very successful. They gave the Darkinjung LALC members, Aboriginal organisations, Government and non-Government agencies the opportunity to have their say and input into the planning for the Cultural and Community Centre. A draft report was developed and submitted to the Board for review. The Board will be reviewing the findings and looking at the priorities identified by the members to assist in commencing the next phase of the Cultural Centre.

Darkinjung LALC's Community Land & Business Plan is due for renewal in 2011 so again we will be inviting our members to workshops to look at our achievements and to build onto the CL&BP. Dates of workshops will be sent out to members.

I attended the NSWALC State Conference along with our CEO which was held on the 5 April to the 7 April. This was the first State Conference I have had the opportunity to attend, it was a great experience and opportunity to network and speak to other Chairpersons and CEO's from LALC's across the state was wonderful. The opportunity to see discuss firsthand the achievements and the barriers that face our smaller LALCs was remarkable. Further to this NSWALC launched their magazine "Tracker" with the theme 'Be informed. Be involved. Be inspired' to go out to all members of LALCs in NSW on a monthly basis.

Warm regards,

Bronwyn Chambers
Chairperson Darkinjung LALC

Yaama All,

Sitting at my desk and contemplating what is important to inform the members of in this edition of the newsletter, I could not get out of my head the voice and image of a man who dedicated so much of his life to fighting for our improved rights as Aboriginal people, the original owners of this great country. The person that I refer to is common to almost every Aboriginal community; these people dedicate blood, sweat, tears and sometimes their family to a cause that is usually thankless and with very little reward. However, they are not deterred from the task at hand. In fact, they take this in their stride.

I have experienced first-hand this commitment and dedication in my own community where I grew up and in many other communities that I have lived in. These people are not well to do and in many cases struggle to live from week to week. Their opportunity for mainstream employment is limited. This is mainly due to them taking on a role in their communities that leads some people to see them as trouble makers, radicals or power mongers.

This is quite the contrary as these people have taken a noble, moral stance to fight so that others, me included, may reap the benefits of their hard work. The benefits that I refer to are; access to mainstream jobs, improved access to housing, improved access to education, improved access to health services and more importantly, our ongoing recognition as the first people of this country.

Without the grit and stubbornness of these individuals I truly doubt that we as Aboriginal people would be in the position that we are today.

These people should be recognised and treated no differently to the way in which we treat our ANZACs. Just like the ANZACs these people have fought for their country and their people; they have fought for our rights and to improve our circumstances so that the next generations of Aboriginal people have access to greater opportunities than they did growing up.

These people are heroes and it is time that we acknowledge, remember and celebrate their lives as they will never be replaced and will be truly missed, particularly as we have very few people with the same dedication, determination and grit who are willing to put their reputation and life on the line in a thankless role that has so little reward.



**2010
Central Coast
Congress
NAIDOC Ball**

CEO - Sean Gordon



I have attended Darkinjung LALC meetings, community meetings and business meetings where you were always in attendance and even during times where your health was not the best you still displayed strong will and commitment to fight for our rights.

To Jack (Jacko) Smith, I learnt so much in our short time working together and I personally say thank you for the years of dedication, passion and commitment that you were willing to sacrifice for our people, furthermore I say thank you for making the time to educate the broader community on matters that impact and affect us Aboriginal people. These people are true heroes and should be acknowledged as such.

To Pam and Family, thank you for supporting and allowing Jack to do what he's done for our community and people.

Regards,

Sean Gordon

CEO - Darkinjung LALC

COMMUNITY LAND AND BUSINESS PLAN

2011 is the final operational year of the current Darkinjung LALC Community Land and Business Plan (CLBP). The CLBP is the most important document that members will need to make a decision on for 2011 and it is a crucial strategic document that determines how and what a LALC will achieve and work toward during the life of the CLBP.

The CLBP will identify the GOALS and OBJECTIVES of Darkinjung LALC which address the following matters:

- Goals are broad and Objectives are narrow.
- Goals are general intentions and Objectives are precise.
- Goals are intangible and objectives are tangible.
- Goals are abstract and Objectives are concrete.
- Goals can't be validated as is; objectives can be validated.

The challenge for members is to first and foremost ensure that you have input into the development of your LALCs CLBP, workshops will be conducted throughout June 2011 (letter sent to members with dates and times) to allow your input, furthermore a survey will be developed and placed on the website for you to complete should you not be able to make it to the workshops.

If you have not seen the Darkinjung LALC CLBP you can log onto our website under the members section and review the goals and objectives from the previous three years.

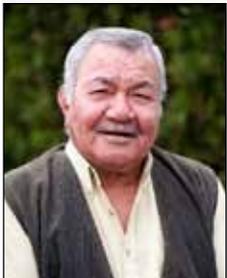
Web address is www.darkinjung.com.au

The timeframe to have the Darkinjung LALC 2012 – 2015 CLBP finalised and passed by the members at an Extra Ordinary Members Meeting will be on the 30th August 2011. If passed by the members the CLBP will need to be submitted to NSWALC for approval by the Councilors.

I encourage all members to participate in this process and have input into the future of Darkinjung LALC and look forward to seeing you at the workshops.

IN MEMORY

We pay our respect and condolences to Jack, Des and Bertie's families and wish them strength and hope during their loss.



Mr Jack Smith

18th January 1940 - 31st January 2011

It is with a sad heart that we inform the community of the passing of Jack Smith a Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council member, elder and friend. Jacko was a staunch fighter for the rights of Aboriginal people, a man who never held no punches when it came to educating the broader community on Aboriginal issues, a man who always fought to improve our circumstances as the first people of this country.

Mr Bertie Sherwood

8th April 1917 - 2nd March 2011



It is also with great sadness that we inform the community of Darkinjung LALC member and Darkinjung LALC funeral fund member who passed away on the 1st March 2011, Bertie was a travelling showman for most of his life, where his father and mother began the show life in 1926 at Bathurst. He served in the Civil Construction Corps during the second world war and after that returned to Canowindra, where he set up shop as a motor mechanic and fitter. He returned to the show run in 1953 and retired in 1986 to Long Jetty.



Mr Melrose (Des) Donley

23rd December, 1914 - 28th January 2011

It is with great sadness that we inform the community of another Darkinjung LALC member and Darkinjung LALC funeral fund member who passed away on the 28th January 2011, Melrose (Des) Donley was 96 years old. Desmond was a part of the stolen wages appeal and was also a part of the Stolen Generation. Des's biography was published in 2009 called 'Slipped Through the Net', Written by Elle Inta.

Mental Health Services for Aboriginal People on the Central Coast.

In 2009 Central Coast Mental Health Services received funding to employ a Psychiatrist part time and a full time Psychiatry Registrar Trainee who will provide assessment and treatment services to Aboriginal people with mental health problems on the Central Coast. The Registrar position began in January 2009.

The addition of the Psychiatry registrar position enabled the development of the Central Coast Aboriginal Mental Health Team made up of the Aboriginal Mental Health Liaison position, the registrar and an Aboriginal Mental Health Trainee position.

The Central Coast Mental Health Service has developed a partnership with Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Medical Service at Wyong to run mental health clinics from the centre on a weekly basis with the liaison officer and registrar. Referrals can be made to either the Central Coast Mental Health Service on 43947800 or to the Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Health Centre on 43511040.

Clinics are run on: Tuesday & Thursday
Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Health Centre from 9-12 midday
Mingaletta Aboriginal Corporation on Wednesdays from 9-12 midday

People referred to the service will be seen by a general practitioner or other health worker prior to seeing the psychiatry specialists.

Once connected to the Aboriginal Mental Health team the team will provide continuity of support both in the community and in the hospital system if required or requested.

Group sessions on Mental Health - Informal 1 hour sessions to inform clients and families on Mental Health issues.

For further information about these services please contact:
Robert Cohen Aboriginal Liaison Officer for the Central Coast Mental Health. 0404099064 or 43947822

DARKINJUNG LALC FUNERAL FUND

INFORMATION

The Darkinjung Funeral Fund operates to provide members of the Darkinjung LALC, their spouse and dependent children with an affordable funeral service.

How much it costs:

The Funeral Fund membership starts at \$3.50 per adult and \$0.50 per dependent child. The Funeral Fund is debited from your bank account weekly, fortnightly, monthly or annual.

The Funeral Fund Covers:

Site fee, Headstone, Medical certificates, Choice of cremation or burial, Shared sites, Coffin, Clergy/Celebrant/Elder, Indigenous Ceremony, Press notice, Condolence book, Hearse, Organist fees, Floral tributes, Bereavement payment (limited to \$850). The maximum benefit for any single contributor is \$6,000 funeral cost & \$850 bereavement payment totaling to \$6,850.

Application forms and full set of Terms and Conditions are available from the DLALC Office, and for further information contact Rebecca in business hours on (02) 4351 2930.

Indigenous Games Training

Darkinjung LALC, Bungree Aboriginal Association, Youth Connections and Wollatuka Institute participated in Indigenous Games Training. Gerald Bradshaw from Sport and Recreation facilitated the training. The participants learnt a number of games including Gorri and Kool-chee Kool-chee, they were taught the rules, background and different variations to each game. If anyone is interested in learning these games please go to the website www.ausport.gov.au.



Upcoming Events

Sorry Day
26th May 2011

Reconciliation Week
27th May to 3rd June 2011

2011 Youth Formal Reconciliation Dinner
8th June 2011
Contact the office for more details

Naidoc Week
3rd to 10th July 2011
Information on events will be advertised soon

Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council



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Executive Assistant: Erica Smits
Finance Officer: Rebecca Richardson
Trainee Project Officer: Cara Lake
Project Officer - Land & Assets: Andrew Smeaton
Project Officer - Culture & Heritage: Sharon Hodgetts
Receptionist: Jodi Shannon

DLALC Facebook:

www.facebook.com/darkinjunglocalaboriginallandcouncil
Please join our group at facebook. The page will be updated frequently with upcoming events and information.

DLALC Business Contacts

Bungree Aboriginal Association Inc
Community Services
02 4397 7700

Central Coast Regional AECG
ccaecg@hotmail.com

Daramulen Homecare
02 4320 4115

Eleanor Duncan Community Health Services
02 4351 1040

Gibalee – University of Newcastle Education Services
02 4349 4500

Mingaletta Community Services
02 4342 7515

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chair.themirring@yahoo.com.au

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02 4340 3100

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02 4353 5536

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02 9689 4444

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02 4320 2698