

Bandimayiya

"the Messenger"



Artwork by Kevin Duncan

Darkinjung News

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Message from our Chairperson, Bronwyn Chambers

Welcome back to everyone,

I hope everyone had a relaxed and enjoyable festive season with family and friends and a safe return to work and school.

Since our last newsletter in December 2009 our Land Council has moved forward in a more positive light amongst our community and New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC). Our new Board Members Precilla Goolagong, Jenny Ronning and Richard Dacker have completed a very comprehensive and in depth Governance Training which was delivered by NSWALC on the 18th February 2010. This is compulsory training and development for all Board Members; the Governance training gives each Board member a thorough understanding and knowledge of the functions of a Land Council and the roles and responsibilities of its Members, Board and CEO. One of the key objectives of our Land Council is the importance and responsibility of all members participating in meetings, to act in a respectful, civil and co-operative manner.

Our member's Picnic day which was held at Wyong swimming pool on the 21st of February was a fantastic event, over 360 people attended the day. It was good to see old and new faces attending the day with their families and enjoying the entertainment, swimming and rides provided. The BBQ was in full swing with the Boys from The Glen offering their services for the day with the steak and sausage sandwiches being a hit, thank you to The Glen. I would also like to thank Crocodile Encounters who conducted 2 shows with their reptiles; Kindifarm who provided a petting zoo, Pavier Amusements for their great jumping castle; The Freeman dancers performed and the children had the opportunity to participate in dance and art workshops which continued all day, the NSW Fire Brigade, with their kitchen simulator demonstration was fantastic and educational. Thank you to our Entertainers singers Freddy Coleman and Leroy & Sampson. It was really good to see the community organisations involved. Thank you to all. Congratulations and thank you to our office staff for the organisation and hard work, which made it a very successful day. We will be looking forward to further suggestions from our members for other community events during the year.

We must also say farewell to Aunty Betty Hammond who has stepped down from the Board. Aunty Betty is one of our inaugural Board members under the new board structure. We would like to thank Aunty Betty for all of her invaluable support and contribution and wish her well in her retirement.

Our first members meeting for 2010 was held on the 9th March at the North Lakes Function Centre. It was pleasing to see so many of our members coming back to our meetings. We had 98 voting members in attendance which is well over our quorum. We as a Land Council have a responsibility in accordance with the ALRA to increase our membership by 3% each year. We are achieving this requirement with our acceptance of 26 new members. It was really good to see our young members of the community becoming involved as it is our responsibility as long time members to ensure that we set good examples, show leadership in a positive manner and offer guidance to ensure that we meet the requirements for our long term obligations as an active, progressive and responsible Land Council.

With the introduction of the new Land Dealings Bill, coming into effect across all Land Councils the discussions and questions generated by our members at the last meeting was a very valuable and productive exercise. As members we need to have a greater understanding of the policy, and be able to get our heads around it. We as members need to know what this policy means for our LALC in regards to our land holdings, development and further acquisition of crown lands, as it is the members who make the final decisions on these issues.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next members meeting to continue this discussion and to give updates on the progression of our land developments.

Special Congratulations to two of our members Cara Lake and Lois Towney who were elected as the youth and elders representative for the NSWALC in which Councillor Roy Ah See presented them with recognition awards on the night.

On the 18th March 2010 the Aboriginal community lost an Elder with the death of Uncle Bob Sampson, Chairperson of Koopahtoo LALC and one of its founding members. Uncle Bob was a proud and passionate Kamilaroi (Aboriginal) man and fought many years for the rights of Aboriginal people up till his death. His contribution and fight to ensure Land Rights and rights for all Aboriginal people was Acknowledged at the celebrations of 25 years of Land Rights. I would like to pass on our sincere condolences to his family and friends from the Chairperson, Board, members, CEO and staff.

Regards,

Bronwyn Chambers

Chairperson

Darkinjung LALC.



CEO - Sean Gordon



Yaama Members, welcome to 2010. Three months into the year and things have been extremely busy.

Firstly I would like to make members aware of the new Land Dealings Bill and Land Dealings Policy which has come into effect from 31st March 2010; the Land Dealings Bill will create significant changes to the process in which LALCs deal with land. The most crucial change is the Community Benefit Levy (Land Tax) which land councils who sell land must contribute. The percentage of the Community Benefit Levy (CBL) will vary depending on the value of the land. The proceeds of the CBL goes to NSWALC who are required to contribute one dollar for every one dollar received with the funds being utilized for further economic development of poorer LALCs across NSW. Another major change in the amendments is s42 Land Dealings in which all aspects of land deals are encompassed under one section.

Under the new amendments there will be new issuing of certificates in which LALCs are required to seek a Dealings Approval Certificate (s42F) and a Registration Approval Certificate (s42K) from NSWALC without these certificates LALCS are unable to deal with land. The other significant change is in the NSWALC Policy on Assessment and Approval of LALC Land Dealings s4.3, that addresses the issues of converting an assets (land) to cash (\$\$\$) in which a LALC must clearly show where and how the funds are going to be spent i.e. in line with the LALCs Community Land and Business Plan. For further information please go to www.darkinjung.com.au

The CDS must be in line with the Community Land and Business Plan (CL&BP) as passed and approved by the members. The key objectives and strategies from the CL&BP will be workshopped by the board to identify opportunities to develop and implement Community Benefits Schemes for our members. The Community Benefit Scheme is to provide benefits to all members and must first be approved by NSWALC as a community benefit scheme. Under the new Land Dealings Bill s42 all land deals are to be passed and approved at an extra ordinary meeting by the members.

Regards,

Sean Gordon

CEO - Darkinjung LALC

The reason for sharing this information with our members is to make you aware that Darkinjung LALC will be the first land council to deal with these new amendments for the Blue Haven development. The Blue Haven development is located on the corner of Roper Road and the Old Pacific Highway, the development consist of 109 residential lots. Darkinjung have completed a Development Application (DA) which has been lodged with Wyong Shire Council. It is expected to take up to 3 to 4 months for this application to be approved, which gives the Darkinjung Board Members and myself enough time to develop a Community Development Strategy (CDS) to present to the members prior to seeking a land dealings approval from the members.



Blue Haven Lot Layout

Darkinjung LALC Members Picnic Day

On Sunday the 21st February 2010 Darkinjung LALC held its Members Picnic Day at Wyong Olympic Pool. Three hundred and sixty people attended the pool on this day, which is a great turn out.

On the day NSW Fire Brigade demonstrated the Kitchen Simulator which shows the importance of Fire Safety, Croc Encounters performed 2 shows with snakes, lizards and a crocodile named Dr Crunch, Kindifarm provided the petting zoo and Pavier Amusements supplied a huge jumping castle. Our Entertainment was provided by Freddy Coleman and the Roy & Sampson singers. Also The Freeman Dancers conducted a workshop for the children to paint their very own boomerang and performed, some members children participated. We would also like to remind members, we had only 200 RSVP for the members day. As we ended up with over 350 people attending, our catering requirements were not met.

In the future can all member RSVP to events to ensure this does not happen again.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all who have helped to ensure the day was a success.

A special thank you to the Boys at The Glen who helped set up and cook the BBQ and the DLALC staff who organised the event.



Sorry Business

Robert Henry Sampson (Uncle Bob)

Uncle Bob Sampson passed away on Thursday 18th March 2010 in Toronto.

Uncle Bob was known right throughout NSW, particularly within the land rights network. He was a founding and active member of Koombahtoo Local Aboriginal Land Council, and was chairperson for many of those years.



Uncle Bob played the key role of a guiding Elder in our community, and his loss will be keenly felt. He was a strong, proud Kamilaroi man who fought not only for land rights, but for social justice, human rights and self determination. He will be sadly missed in NSW, particularly within the land council network, and across the nation.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Uncle Bob's immediate family, his wife Gail, his six boys, his grandchildren, family and extended family.

Ruby Hunter

Ruby Hunter died on 17 February 2010, aged 54. Ruby Hunter went to her great spirit lands beyond at her home at Killarney near Warranmbool.

A Ngarrindjeri woman, Ruby was born in 1955 near the banks of the Murray River in South Australia. She was a member of the Stolen Generations, having been forcibly removed from her family at the age of eight.



Ruby met her lifelong partner and musical soul mate Archie Roach when she was 16. Both were homeless teenagers at the time.

Archie and Ruby have been described as a singing/songwriting team of extraordinary spirit. Their music took them around the world. They have sung alongside musical greats Tracy Chapman, Paul Kelly and Bob Dylan. Ruby was the first Indigenous woman to be signed to a major record label.

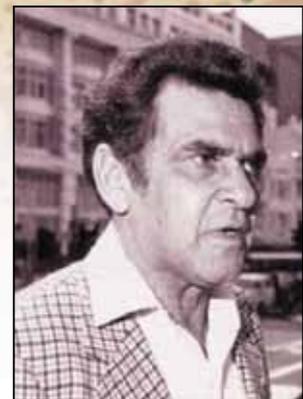
Our heartfelt condolences go to her partner Archi Roach and their family.

Charles Dixon (Chicka)

Aboriginal Australia is mourning the death of revered Aboriginal activist and leader Charles 'Chicka' Dixon.

The 81-year-old former wharfie and unionist died in Sydney on Saturday the 20th March 2010, following a period of ill health.

Charles Dixon, born in 1928, was always known as Chicka. He attributes the beginnings of his political education to hearing Jack Patten speak when he was 18. As a young man he worked on the Sydney wharves where the Waterside Workers' Federation taught him how to organise. Chicka Dixon campaigned for a YES vote in the 1967 Referendum and was an active participant at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in 1972. He attended Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders (FCAATSI) annual conferences in the 1960s and, in 1970, was convenor of the Trade Union committee of the Federal Council. Dixon was also an active member of the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs and as Manager in 1967 he went surety for men charged with petty crimes and was always there for a talk when it was needed.



In 1972 Chicka Dixon was a part of a delegation of Aboriginal Australians invited to visit China to tell the Chinese about the Aboriginal struggle for justice while at the same time shaming the federal government. With the election of the Whitlam Labor government he was sent to the USA and to Canada to study alcohol rehabilitation programs especially among Amerindian and Afro-American people.

With the development of funded Aboriginal organisations in the 1970s, Chicka Dixon became a foundation member of the Aboriginal Arts Board in 1973. He went on to become Chairman and was effective in pressing for reforms in funding for Indigenous artists. Earlier he had worked with Mum Shirl, Fred Hollows and others to establish the Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service.

NSWALC Advisory Committee

Congratulations to Lois Towney and Cara Lake who have been elected as representatives on the Advisory Committees for NSW Aboriginal Land Council. Lois will be attending the Elders Committee and Cara will be attending the Youth Committee. Each committee advises the Land Council on issues relating to their Committee. This is a great opportunity for Lois and Cara we wish them all the best.

Aboriginal Women's Conference

Djurali – Our River More than Water to Community Increasing Our River and Our Community

Djurali is a 2 day Conference for Aboriginal Women of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Area. The conference is being organised by the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Authority. We will be sharing stories, knowledge and recording information in relation to caring for the river and estuaries the Hawkesbury Nepean River. We will also be identifying potential conservation and heritage projects that will help care for the River and Estuaries. Aboriginal Women of the Catchment Area are invited to register NOW and the conference is FREE. If you would like a registration form please go to www.darbinjung.com.au/resources.

Culturally Significant Landscapes – Ellem Gully Project

In 2009 DLALC received funding from Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Authority to develop a Strategic Plan of Management for the Aboriginal Cultural and Natural Heritage of Ellem Gully Hanging Swamp. DLALC have been working with external consultants and State Forest in the development of this Plan. DLALC are due to release the DRAFT Plan for consultation with members and the community. If you are interested in being a part of the community consultation process please contact the office for a copy of the Plan. DLALC will also be arranging a site visit as part of this community consultation process.



Upcoming Events

Sorry Day

26th May 2010

Reconciliation Week

27th May 2010 - 3rd June 2010

5 Lands Walk

3rd July 2010

www.5landswalk.com.au

New Members

Congratulations and welcome to our new members. 26 people were passed as members at the last meeting. If any of those members would like a Fishing License or Confirmation of Aboriginality Certificate can you please contact Cara or Erica at the office.

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DLALC Facebook:

www.facebook.com/darbinjunglocalaboriginalandcouncil

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

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