

Bandimayiya

"the Messenger"



Darkinjung News

AUGUST 2010

Volume 1, Issue 6



Message from our Chairperson, Bronwyn Chambers

Welcome back to everyone, Three months have passed since our last newsletter and as usual it has been a very busy and exciting time for our Land Council, members and the Aboriginal community.

During this year's National Reconciliation Week, Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council has paved the way for all Local Aboriginal Land Council's with the signing of the Principal of Cooperation's document with Wyong Shire Council which was a historical document for everyone and will set precedent for the way LALC's work in partnership with their surrounding community and government bodies.

By signing this document it demonstrates DLALC's true commitment to partnership and to building a mutually respectful relationship that will facilitate a true and meaningful reconciliation between the Aboriginal and the non Aboriginal community. This agreement is a positive step forward with Wyong Shire Council and will help bring about change to enhance cultural, environmental, economic and social outcomes for both the Aboriginal community and residents of the Wyong Shire.

Since the signing of this historic document, the theme of Reconciliation: "Let's see it through" will not just be words on paper, they will be the motivation behind the aims being put into action. Representatives from DLALC and Wyong Shire Council will meet four times a year to discuss and strategically plan for common interests to ensure that the agreement aims are met.

I would like to thank our CEO Sean Gordon for his continued perseverance to ensure that this signing took place in such a significant and meaningful week. Also a big thankyou to Board Member Robyn Sutherland, Councillor Roy Ah-See, Eastern Zone Director Steve Merritt and Darkinjung LALC staff for attending and witnessing this historic occasion. The signed document hangs proudly at DLALC's office and the full interview is able to be viewed on our DLALC website. An additional event I had the pleasure of attending was the 8th Annual Central Coast Aboriginal Educational Pathways Awards held on the 22nd June at Gosford Race Course. This night was held to celebrate, acknowledge and reward our youth and community members for their academic achievements at Secondary School, TAFE, University and Community College. Special congratulations to Denise Markham who received a major Educational Award for her continued commitment and services to community. Thank you to Bendigo Bank Wyong for their continued community support.

NAIDOC's theme this year of "Unsung Heroes - Closing the Gap by Leading Their Way" is of great significance, as a lot of our people's achievements have gone unrecognised for too long.

This theme for 2010 is so relevant to our Darkinjung LALC members, not only this year but for every day as a lot of our people are unsung heroes within our community. Our unsung heroes are all of those people who work behind the scenes. Our mum's and dads, grandmothers, granddads, aunties, uncles, brothers and sisters who devote their own

time and contribute to their communities, without thought of their own gain and recognition. They just get in and do what needs to be done for the benefit of others.

The week long celebrations again were an enormous success and it was wonderful to see many of our members and community attending the celebrations at the Gosford community day. There was a wide variety of stalls representing community and government services available to Aboriginal people and it was great to see so many non Aboriginal organisations and community there on the day to support and celebrate NAIDOC week.

The exciting new Family Fun Day event which took place this year at Koala Park San Remo on the Wednesday was a great success with around 400 Community members attending. The day officially started with Welcome to Country which was followed by Councillor Roy Ah See speaking on the theme for NAIDOC Week and its significance which came from the heart. The community members and their families were treated to entertainment from Hip Hop group Last Kinection, Country singer Rodney Smith, Street Warrior's, The Freeman Dancers, Gorokan High School Didge Group and Gorokan High Girls Dance Group. We had a visit from Rugby League stars Timana Tahu and Brett Grogan which was a treat for those league fans and we also had respected elder Jimmy Wright and Harry Brandy Chairperson of Awabakal Land Council pay a visit on the day to show their support for our local Aboriginal community.

Feedback received from the day was positive and how family is important and that we need to have more events that bring family and the community together. A huge congratulation's must go to the steering committee with members from Darkinjung LALC, Eleanor Duncan Medical Services and Bungree Aboriginal Corporation. Our members are looking forward to even bigger celebration days next year with a whole week of activities planned to cater for everyone from our children to our elders. Huge thanks are extended to all who were involved in the organisation and the volunteers who made this a great day.

The week of celebrations ended with a NAIDOC Ball held at Mingara Recreation Club on Friday night with the inclusion of the 2010 NAIDOC Community Awards presentation. It was so great to see so many of our Darkinjung LALC members, Aboriginal community and non Aboriginal community coming together to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our people.

Darkinjung LALC's two major awards this year went to Elder Jacko Smith for his years of commitment and dedication to the fight for rights, recognition and justice for all Aboriginal people which he still continues today. Our other award recipient went to Gosford Mayor Chris Holstein who has always supported our Land Council and played an active role in gaining recognition and support for our Aboriginal community. Congratulation also goes to other Darkinjung LALC members who were also recognised on the night for their significant achievements for our Aboriginal community.

I am looking forward to catching up with everyone at our next members meeting and Annual General Meeting on the 28th September 2010.

Regards,
Bronwyn Chambers Chairperson Darkinjung LALC.

Yaama Members, welcome to the second edition of "Bandimayiya" for 2010. Six months into the year and the end of the 2009/2010 financial year business is hectic.

The 5th Edition of the newsletter provided members with an update of the amendments to the Aboriginal Lands Right Act 1983 and more specifically the Land Dealings Bill. The latest changes to legislation that LALCs are addressing are the New **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents, New Fishing Laws – First Step in the Right Direction for Aboriginal Fishers in NSW, Changes to the Aboriginal Heritage Protection under the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (also known as the "Omnibus Bill") and NSW Aboriginal Housing Office Build and Grow Aboriginal Community Housing Strategy.**

These are significant legislation and policy changes that will have a direct impact on the members and the operations of Darkinjung LALC, to find out more about the changes go to the Darkinjung LALC website (www.darkinjung.com.au) and access the resource area to read the facts sheet.

On a more positive note Darkinjung LALC in partnership with Eleanor Duncan Medical Centre and Bungree Aboriginal Corporation came together this year to host the NAIDOC Family Day at Koala Park. NAIDOC week for a third consecutive year was again marred by rain; however this did not deter the community from coming out and celebrating. Congratulations to the organising committee the family day proved to be a success and will continue to grow in strength. I also thank the sponsors for their support for

CEO - Sean Gordon



the week these being; Bendigo Bank Wyong, Newcastle Permanent, Hunter Land, ADW Johnson, TIC Technologies, Garaty Murnane Insurance, Wallarah 2, Centennial Coal, and Ecological Services Australia.

The Blue Haven Development (DA) Application. This is still going through the approval process with Wyong Shire Council. Once the DA is approved, the members of Darkinjung LALC will need to approve or not approve a land dealing under Section 42 NSW ALR Act.

Finally, I would like to inform the members that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Darkinjung LALC will be held on the 28th September 2010 at the North Lakes Function Centre (notice will be sent by mail).

Sean Gordon
CEO - Darkinjung LALC

Principals of Cooperation - Wyong Shire Council

On the 31st of May 2010, Wyong Shire Council and Darkinjung LALC signed this historic document. The 'Principals of Cooperation Agreement' promotes exchanging ideas on Environment and Land Management.

A committee will be set up between Wyong Council and Darkinjung LALC, that will meet at least four times a year to discuss common issues. The agreement was signed during National Reconciliation Week, the theme this year was "Reconciliation: Lets see it through."

The agreement aims to enhance cultural, economic, environmental and social outcomes for Wyong Shire Residents.



The document was signed by Bronwyn Chambers Chairperson of Darkinjung LALC, Sean Gordon CEO of Darkinjung LALC, Bob Graham Mayor of Wyong Shire Council and Michael Whittaker General Manager of Wyong Shire Council.

The people in attendance to witness this historic event included, Robyn Sutherland Board Member of Darkinjung LALC, Councilor Roy Ah See and Steven Merrit of NSWALC, staff from Darkinjung LALC and Wyong Shire Council.

NAIDOC WEEK - Unsung Heroes Closing the Gap by Leading Their Way

FRIDAY 10TH JULY - NAIDOC BALL

MONDAY 5TH JULY
WYONG SHIRE COUNCIL
FLAG RAISING CEREMONY



Wyong NAIDOC Week 2010 was launched with a flag-raising ceremony by Mayor Bob Graham, Phil Peterson and the Didge Players from Gorokan High School. Guest speakers were Sean Gordon and Matt Sonter.

TUESDAY 6TH JULY
NAIDOC COMMUNITY GATHERING
AND HEALTH EXPO



This expo again drew in the community, there was a large attendance from young and old. MC Sean Choolburra entertained the crowd with Kevin Duncan formally welcoming people to the Expo. DLALC handed out promotional material in show bags.

WEDNESDAY 7TH JULY
2010 NAIDOC FAMILY EVENT
KOALA PARK SAN REMO
 (see photos adjacent)

Darkinjung LALC, Eleanor Duncan Medical Services and Bungree Aboriginal Association hosted this event. With entertainment from The Last Kinnection, Street Warriors including The Fire Boys, Gorokan High School Dancers and Didgeridoo Group, The Freeman Dancers, Rod Smith and Buggsy's Karaoke. A Rock Climbing Wall, Bungee Run, Jumping Castle, Crocodile Encounters, Kylie the Clown, Fairy Floss, Snow Cones and Ice Creams were some of the treats the kids were provided. Devonshire Tea was provided for the elders, with a juke box. A huge treat for all involved was a guest appearance from Timana Tahu from the Parramatta Eels.



This years NAIDOC Ball was a huge success with over 200 people in attendance. We would like to give a special congratulations to Sean Gordon CEO, Sean received the Male Achievement in Work Award in recognition of his achievements during the past 20 months for DLALC.

Community Awards

Community Service/Humanities:

- Gerard McMinn - Male
- Anita Selwyn - Female
- Gorokan High School Aboriginal Performance Troupe - Group

Achievement in Work:

- Sean Gordon - Male
- Vickie Parry - Female
- Brooke Burgin - Female Youth
- Taylor Moxham - Male Youth

Achievement in Art/Culture:

- Joshua Spain - Male
- Juanita Duncan -Female
- Travis Strachan - Youth
- Darkinjung Language Group - Adult Group
- Gorokan High School Aboriginal Art Group -Youth Group

Achievement in Sport:

- Melanie Sutton - Adult
- Caitlin Williams - Youth

Outstanding Service/ Organisation:

- Central Coast Aboriginal Education Pathways Group

Non-indigenous Service Award:

- Benevolent Society- Group
- Kim Raveneau- Female
- Terry Webster & Nick Leslie- Male

Darkinjung Medal:

- Jack Smith - Aboriginal
- Chris Holstein- Non Aboriginal

Special Recognition Award:

- Central Coast Reconciliation Group

CALM COURSE GRADUATION

The Conservation and Land Management Course completed their last day of TAFE with a celebratory lunch. Darkinjung LALC would like to congratulate the following people for their hard work and successful completion of Conservation Land Management Certificate 3:

Tegan Coward
Les Coe
Darren Carney
Andrew Smeaton
Daniel Swan
Norman Messina
Peter Townsend
Jon Mathieson



DARKINJUNG LALC WEBSITE

The Darkinjung LALC website is now fully operational with the members section recently activated. Since activation approximately 4 weeks ago we have had 42 members register. We urge all members who have internet access to register. The members section has past minutes, useful forms and up coming events.

The Darkinjung LALC Website since the Launch in November 2009, has been a huge hit. From November 2009 to June 2010 the site has had 3159 visitors including visitors from overseas countries including USA, UK, Japan and the Netherlands.

If there is an upcoming event or information you would like to be posted on the site please contact Erica on the office number below.

Upcoming Events

4th August

National Aboriginal and
Islander Children's Day

9th August

International Day of the
World's Indigenous People

1-4 October

40th Aboriginal Rugby League
Knock-out
Woy Woy Oval
www.bacwalgett.com.au

2nd October

Koori Idol - Grand Final
Ettalong Bowling Club
Phone: 0411 144 610

Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council



168 Pacific Highway
Watanobbi NSW 2259
P.O. BOX 401,
WYONG NSW 2259

Phone: (02) 4351 2930
Fax: (02) 4351 2946
Email: darkinjung@dlalc.org.au
www.darkinjung.com.au

DLALC Office Staff:

CEO: Sean Gordon
Operations Manager: Suzanne Naden
Executive Assistant: Erica Smits
Finance Officer: Rebecca Richardson
Trainee Project Officer: Cara Lake

DLALC Facebook:

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

DLALC Business Contacts

**Bungree
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

**Marawarpina
Aboriginal Womens Group**
02 4355 4637

**Central Coast
Aboriginal Mens Group**
Bob Williams
0413 338 440

**Naisda
Dance College**
02 4340 3100

**Clr Roy Ah— See
NSW ALC**
02 4353 5536

NSW ALC
02 9689 4444

**Nunyarra
NSW Health Services**
02 4320 2698