

# Bandimayiya - November 2013

# THE MESSENGER

## A Message from the Chairperson



2013 has been a busy year for Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Following the Annual General Meeting in September, I am honoured to have been nominated into this leadership role as the new Chairperson.

As we move towards the final part of the year, we have the opportunity to reflect on all that Darkinjung has achieved and to consider our goals for the year ahead.

Firstly, I would like to thank Jenny Hayes, the outgoing Chair, who has moved into the role of Deputy Chairperson.

Jenny's dedication and hard work has set the bar very high and I am grateful for her support as I move into this role.

Stepping into the role of Chairperson is a huge privilege and I am very proud to have the opportunity to be involved in the next stage of our development as an organisation.

This will be my third year working with the Darkinjung Board and, personally, I have found it to be a very rewarding period of personal growth and learning.

This is an exciting time for Darkinjung and for the Indigenous community. Our organisation has become a leader and widely recognised as a successful model of a LALC. I believe this illustrates how we can continue to

have a real impact on the lives of the Central Coast Indigenous community.

Indeed, my vision is to work to bring the whole Central Coast community together – not just Indigenous people but the broader community.

I believe this can be achieved by increasing the understanding of Darkinjung and its role in empowering the Indigenous community and how this can in turn help to improve our region as a whole.

If we are to continue to expand and succeed, it is important for everyone in our community to engage with and understand what Darkinjung does and the importance of our work as a Local Aboriginal Land Council.

And as we move forward as an organisation, it remains crucial that we share the same goals for Darkinjung.

As Chairperson, I want to work with the Board and our member community to ensure we remain strong and united in our vision.

I look forward to a productive year ahead where we can build on what we have already done and enjoy another year of growth and success for Darkinjung.

**Until next time,  
Joshua Toomey  
Chairperson  
Darkinjung LALC**



Local Aboriginal Land Council  
**DARKINJUNG**

# Darkinjung to realise its vision for a strong tomorrow for youth on the Central Coast

The Federal Government recently announced Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council will receive 2.7 million dollars from round 5B of Regional Development Australia (RDA) funding.

The funding will support Darkinjung and its community partners San Remo Neighbourhood Centre, ET Australia, Central Coast Medicare Local, Wyong Shire Council and Youth Connections, build a Youth and Community Centre.

The youth centre – to be known as the Gulgul Barang Youth and Community Centre – will address barriers identified by the Better Futures Local Solutions Local Advisory Group (LAG).

The location of the Gulgul Barang Youth and Community Centre is conveniently located in Brava Avenue, San Remo, adjacent to the San Remo Neighbourhood Centre and opposite the North Lakes High School.

The Centre will service unemployed youth of the North Wyong region of the Central Coast with ease of access to public transport and other supporting local infrastructure, such as health services.

In addition the Centre will help maximise access to services, not only delivered by the Centre, but to integrate with a range of other services in the region beneficial for young people, allowing them to receive the assistance they need to improve their engagement and employment opportunities.

The LAG, led by government and community action leaders and supported by Federal Member Jill Hall, recommended the project to increase community engagement, health, education, training and employment opportunities and to develop structured infrastructure to support young people on the Central Coast.

Wyong LGA is one of ten trial sites chosen under Better Futures, Local Solutions initiative. Wyong was chosen based on a number of factors, including:

- high levels of Jobless Families with 1 in 4 families in Wyong on income support with children under 15 years
- the proportion of all families that are jobless - 20% compared to the national 15%
- the percentage of working age population receiving income support payment in Wyong - 26% compared to the national 17%
- the percentage of 25 to 34 year old who have completed year 12 - 54% compared to a national 75%
- high levels of Aboriginal unemployment and disadvantage
- low rates of educational attainment - 6.6% of the population aged 15 and over have completed tertiary education, compared to national 15.6%.

Chief Executive Officer of Darkinjung Sean Gordon said, "The Gulgul Barang Youth and Community Centre will be a valuable asset to our region, benefitting the whole community, not just Indigenous youth.

"We are committed to reconciliation and community initiatives which contribute to the betterment of the entire community and deliver outcomes which build strong relationships and enhanced respect between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians".

Speaking about the advantages of addressing long term youth unemployment and welfare dependency in the area, Sean said, "The Gulgul Barang Youth and Community Centre Project will address factors contributing to social exclusion including dislocation from informal support networks and poor public transport for training and education.



# Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held in September and saw the election of a new Board. As part of the AGM, Darkinjung also tabled the Annual Report and reviewed the achievements and financials of the organisation.

One of the key achievements includes our residential development at Blue Haven, Menindee Ridge. We are proud to be leading the way for other developers in this respect, taking a long-term view. This included our participation in the Lower Hunter Strategy Group, where we provided a voice for our people and our community – calling for a planned approach to the future management of LALC land, with the view to creating affordable homes while also providing economic independence for our people.

The Board has also been active in making decisions to protect local Aboriginal land interests and sites of Aboriginal cultural and heritage significance.

We have also had success under a number of land claims – including an important win in our successful bid to gain title of part of Kincumber Mountain through the NSW Land & Environment Court.

An agreement around which was reached, with a covenant providing the state of New South Wales with enforcement powers and Gosford City Council with management power via a peppercorn lease of \$1.00 per annum while ownership of the land will sit with Darkinjung.

The Board is also pleased to have developed a partnership between Darkinjung and the Jawun program - an innovative Aboriginal business and corporate expertise partnership model, which has seen us work in several Central Coast Aboriginal organisations to assist in capacity building.

I am pleased to report that we are continuing to build our membership, with voting members increasing to 446 and non-voting members sitting at 232. The total certified roll contains 678.

The new elected Board

Joshua Toomey – newly elected Chairperson

Jenny Hayes – newly elected Deputy Chairperson

Bronwyn Chambers

Jenny Ronning

Robyn Sutherland

Kevin Duncan

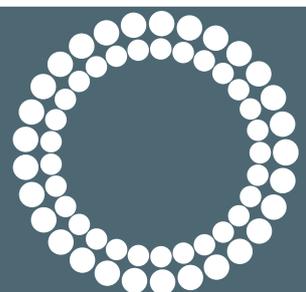
Barry Duncan

Christine Hammond

Gail Lake

Des Benton

Congratulations to the new Board members on their appointment.



# Stage 2 clean up of pristine lands in Wyong Shire

In a joint venture with Wyong Shire Council, Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) is carrying out Darkinjung LALC – Illegal Dumping Clean Up 2013, a project which aims to prevent illegal access and dumping on Aboriginal owned lands within the Wyong Shire.

The project, which is now in its second stage, is funded under the NSW Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) Clean Up and Deterrence of Illegal Dumping on Aboriginal Owned Lands Grant.

The Grant seeks to educate the community about the negative environmental impacts of illegal dumping and prevent unauthorised access to Aboriginal owned lands.

"As the largest private land owner in Wyong Shire, Darkinjung LALC experiences major problems with illegal access and dumping," said Sean Gordon, Chief Executive Officer of Darkinjung LALC.

"This is the fourth year that Darkinjung has received funding through the EPA and this year represents the Stage 2 of funding to clean properties in the North Wyong Area.

"Illegally dumped materials such as asbestos, concrete waste, building rubble, plastic and general domestic waste have caused several million dollars worth of damage to our lands in the Wyong Shire area.

"Last year, stage 1 saw us remove 72 tonnes of concrete and asbestos.

"Following the removal, we installed gates, bollards and fencing in high traffic illegal dumping spots to prevent access.

"Stage 2 will also see us continue to build formal partnerships with other government agencies for access to our lands and ensure the removal of asbestos and concrete as a priority," said Mr Gordon.

Robert Fulcher, Manager Contract & Project Management at Wyong Shire Council said, "Illegal dumping is a major issue in the Shire and Council appreciates any attempt by organisations to take positive steps in an effort to clean up their land.

"This project in particular has shown over the last 12 months to have reduced the problem of illegal dumping in the area.

"We are happy to be supporting Darkinjung again in this regard, working to bring our region back to pristine condition, achieve lasting results while continuing to deter individuals from engaging in the practice of dumping."

## A little about Joshua Toomey, our new Chairperson

Joshua is a proud Wiradjuri man born in Dubbo.

Josh is a loving father and is motivated to be a positive role model for his son and other Aboriginal young people in the community.

Josh has recently completed a four-year apprenticeship with Ausgrid and has also received two major awards - the 2011 National and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year.

Josh is now a fully qualified tradesman working and living on the Central Coast with his young family.

He is looking forward to being involved with the Darkinjung community and is ready to tackle the challenges and opportunities as the Chair of the Darkinjung Board.

# Menindee Ridge, Blue Haven – Stages 1B and 1C ready to go to market



Menindee Ridge is currently the only major residential development underway on the Central Coast and following the sale of all Stage 1A lots in six months, we are preparing to release Stage 1B and 1C lot sales in mid November.

Chief Executive Officer of Darkinjung Sean Gordon said that the success of stage 1 and the swift sale of the blocks was particularly pleasing.

"As with the sale of the stage 1 blocks the sales will be conducted through Wiseberry Real Estate.

"We have been very pleased with their enthusiastic approach and it certainly resulted in sales.

"We are hopeful of similar results for both stages B and C."

"Menindee Ridge demonstrates a real opportunity to meet the growth needs of the Central Coast and Darkinjung is proud to be planning for the future of our region," he explained.

Menindee Ridge

**STAGE 1B & 1C**  
SELLING IN NOVEMBER

STAGE 1A  
SOLD  
OUT

Call now on 4392 0700 to register your interest or visit [www.wiseberrycharmhaven.com.au](http://www.wiseberrycharmhaven.com.au)

**WISEBERRY**  
REAL ESTATE & COMMERCIAL

The advertisement features a family of four (a man, a woman, and two children) smiling in a grassy field. A red circular badge with white text says 'STAGE 1A SOLD OUT'. The background is a soft-focus green landscape. At the top, there are stylized wavy lines representing hills or water. The text 'Menindee Ridge' is in a dark grey box. Below that, 'STAGE 1B & 1C' is in large, bold, black letters, followed by 'SELLING IN NOVEMBER' in smaller black letters. At the bottom, there is a dark grey box with white text containing the contact information and the Wiseberry Real Estate logo.

“Our model will allow us to deliver more than just training and education.

“We will also link young people to support and health services, job service providers, local employers and businesses which will support our youth into long term sustainable employment and self-sufficiency”.

Stage 1 of The Gulgul Barang Youth and Community Centre Project will see the construction of a new building at San Remo in the Wyong LGA and provision of services from the completed building to the young people and community of the North Wyong Region of the Central Coast.

**“It takes a community to raise a child. That child is our future, a strong future, a strong tomorrow”**

Stages 2 and 3 will see the construction of additional facilities on the 9,000 metre square site that will expand the level and depth of services to all residents of the North Wyong region.

The overall Project will address factors contributing to social exclusion including dislocation from informal support networks and poor public transport for health, training and education services by positioning

This project represents an investment of over \$1,000,000 by Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council to the North Wyong community and further emphasises Darkinjung’s commitment to supporting all youth across the Central Coast region of NSW in the spirit of reconciliation.





## Jawun secondees have joined Darkinjung working to benefit the Central Coast

Darkinjung has welcomed the latest group of secondees who are using their talents and skills to add value to the region.

For six weeks they have lived and worked on the Coast on a variety of projects that take advantage of their individual roles within the corporate arena.

We are thrilled to be in a position to avail ourselves of their experience.

Tien Do  
Richie Hadfield  
Roy Allingcastre  
Sarah Ewen  
Neil Hockley  
Dianne Harris  
Fi Dimos  
Heath Rosen  
Desmond Healey

KPMG  
CBA  
CBA  
WBC  
Bunnings  
Telstra  
IAG  
APSC - Dept Defence  
APSC - Dept Defence

## DLALC Office Staff:

**Chief Executive Officer:**  
Sean Gordon

**Executive Assistant:**  
Jodi Shannon

**Finance Officer:**  
Rebecca Richardson

**Project Officer:**  
Cara Lake

**Project Officer Culture & Heritage:**  
Sharon Hodgetts

**Receptionist:**  
Feona Sales

**Casual Trainee Culture and Heritage:**  
Emma Hardcastle

## DLALC Business Contacts

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Community Services  
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**Central Coast AECG**  
E: ccaecg@hotmail.com

**Eleanor Duncan**  
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P: 02 4351-1040

**Gibalee – University**  
Education Services  
P: 02 4349-4500  
A: University of Newcastle -  
Brush Road Ourimbah NSW

**Mingaletta**  
Community Services  
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**Mirring**  
Aboriginal Womens Group  
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**Central Coast Aboriginal Mens Group**  
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A: 31 The Avenue Mt Penang Parklands  
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**Clr Roy Ah-See**  
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**NSW ALC**  
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## Darkinjung LALC named Aboriginal Organisation of the Year



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