

Networking to enhance First Australian Health in Victoria

e-NEWS FOR MEMBERS SEPTEMBER 2014

Save the Date!
Annual General Meeting
20th November, 2014
5:30pm

WEENTHUNGA NEWS and EVENTS

On Thurs 4th September Rani Lawler, President and other Weenthunga Committee members were very proud to welcome members and guests to the launch of our video "Young Women Choosing Health".

The video tells Danika's story as she attends a health day and decides on her health career. It features presenters at the 2012 Weenthunga Health Day: *Women's Talk* as well as Danika, one of the students attending that day, and Steff Armstrong, Weenthunga's Health and Education Consultant.

The purpose of the DVD/video is to reach a wide audience of First Australian students – to capture their interest in the great variety of health careers and to illustrate good online resources which showcase health careers. It is hoped this might influence their understandings and decisions with their own health and career ideas. Listening to these health professionals and to Danika may inspire them to continue with their schooling, seek scholarships and maybe even undertake health courses – like Danika and these women.

The production of the video was funded by generous grants made by the Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust (including one from the Johnstone Gumption sub fund) and by the Alf and Meg Steel sub-fund of the Australian Community Foundation. "Young Women Choosing Health" <http://www.weenthunga.com.au/careers/index.cfm?loadref=30>

Capacity building grant news

The Weenthunga video launch event was also the happy occasion where John Clarke announced to everyone present that the Indigenous Donor's Circle of the Australian Communities Foundation would be making an \$80,000 grant to Weenthunga Health Network – for its capacity building. Rani Lawler, in thanking John and Ann McGregor (another of the ACF donors present), said "Wow that is so wonderful – to have your financial backing will enable us to build our capacity to continue our work in a sustainable way. Thank you sooo much!!"

Stephanie Armstrong, Weenthunga's Health and Education Consultant has been doing a wonderful job in her other role at Bendigo Secondary College. Please click this link to the [Bendigo Advertiser](http://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/story/2541159/weaving-identity-through-culture/?cs=80) (or go to <http://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/story/2541159/weaving-identity-through-culture/?cs=80>) sharing an article that gives us an insight into Steff's work. We are very proud of the work that she does! Well done Steff!

Reminder: Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA), the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health peak body, is holding a National Forum from 24-27 November 2014 at the Hyatt Hotel in Canberra. Registrations open! <http://iaha.com.au/events/2014-iaha-national-forum/>

Report on the Women's Health Day : *Women's Talk* held on Friday 28th August.

Ten First Australian school girls from Regional Victoria and from a boarding school in Melbourne participated this year. It was a BIG program of speakers whom we gratefully acknowledge:

Morning at the Royal Children's Hospital

Girls getting to know each other:	Emily Chauvel, Kate Freeman
Welcome to Country:	Aunty Joy Murphy
Overview of Health Day Program:	Steff Armstrong
Websites on health careers:	Lin Oke
Team Leader A&TSI Team CoHealth & Social Work studies :	Terori Hareko-Samios
Aboriginal Case Manager RCH:	Sharon Mongta
Occupational Therapist & Regional University Manager:	Kerrie Thomsen
Speech Pathologist:	Tanya Druce
Manager Aboriginal Programs, Mercy Health:	Marika Jackomos
Midwife and academic:	Cath Chamberlain

Afternoon at VACCHO

Welcome to VACCHO:	Jill Gallagher
Student Doctor of Medicine and Masters of Public Health:	Ngaree Blow
Team Leader Medical Services VAHS:	Tracey Williams
Acting Manager Dental Services VAHS:	Theresa McNally
Nurse:	Faye Clarke
Occupational Therapist:	Leisa Leon
Health Heroes:	Lin Oke
Chiropractor:	Stephanie Blyth
Manager, Aboriginal Health Policy and Planning:	Jacqueline Watkins
Parental and Community Engagement Coordinator:	Kathryn Coff

Evening Dinner

Reflections on the day:	Emily Chauvel
Podiatrist:	Rani Lawler
After Dinner guest speaker:	Emily Munro-Harrison

OTHER EVENTS

The Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit - Writing Retreat

Onemda are once again running a writing retreat for anyone interested in indigenous health research. The retreat will be held at Melbourne Business School in Mt Eliza on 13-14 November. For further details and to register go to: <http://www.onemda.unimelb.edu.au/onemda-writing-retreat>

RESOURCES

Stop Think Respect campaign

beyondblue has launched the Invisible Discriminator, an Australian-first campaign that shows the devastating psychological effect that subtle racism has on Indigenous Australians. This campaign is part of the Stop Think Respect suite of videos. The video can be found at <http://www.beyondblue.org.au/about-us/news/news/2014/07/29/campaign-to-address-strong-link-between-racism-and-depression-and-anxiety-in-indigenous-australians>

HWA : Implementing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework: The following updates on this project have been provided to us and uploaded to the Weenthunga website. [Stakeholder Commu-nique](#); [Environmental Scan Report](#); [Literature Review](#) and [Findings from the National Consultation](#).

POSITION AND EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES

Position vacant: Koolin Balit Health Champions Project Leader; see <http://cohealthcareers.org.au/Jobs/1715420/title/Koolin-Balit-Health-Champions-Project-Leader->

LAST CHANCE—closing 15th September: The Royal Melbourne Hospital are providing work experience (HR and Allied Health) to Indigenous High School Students. For further details click here for [HR](#) or [Allied Health](#).