

## Networking to enhance First Australian Health in Victoria

### e-NEWS FOR MEMBERS February 2015

#### ***WEENTHUNGA NEWS and EVENTS***

Dear Members,

It has been a busy start to the year, given a buzz of activity made possible by our generous grants and support from our philanthropic partners. We look forward to a year of consolidation and growth.

We have farewelled Rani Lawler, our President, who has moved to Sydney with her partner who is pursuing new opportunities. Rani has been a wonderful contributor and grew into her role as President so ably. The Committee shared their thanks and congratulatory words with Rani at a dinner. Rani reciprocated by thanking the Weenthunga Committee for their friendship and guidance, and the wider community for their support.

We are very pleased to announce our new Office Bearers.

**President:** Rebecca Crawford;

**Vice President:** Terori Hareko-Samios;

**Treasurer:** Carol Mioduchowski.

We warmly congratulate them and thank them for taking on these responsibilities.

And we welcome some new staff.

Tracy Smith has been appointed as Weenthunga's Operations Manager. Tracy will work along side Lin further developing the capabilities of Weenthunga, allowing Lin to give more time to seeking grant funding from both Philanthropy and promoting Weenthunga to Government.

We have also engaged Janine Cattanach as our Local Co-ordinator for the Geelong region. Janine will be replicating the important work that Stephanie Armstrong has been doing in the Bendigo area. We thank Marjan Geertsema, Local Collaborator (Geelong) who will work with Janine, to help bring the project to fruition. We welcome them to our Weenthunga team.

Late in 2014, Weenthunga appointed Natalie Moxham and Nikki Branningham from the consultancy firm, Leanganookyarn, to evaluate the Weenthunga Health Network model of building resilience in First Australian school girls and encouraging interest in health careers. Preliminary meetings have been held in this year and work is well under way. We will look forward to sharing their findings with our members.



Photo L-R: Lin, Rebecca, Terori and Steff

## Networking to enhance First Australian Health in Victoria

### e-NEWS FOR MEMBERS February 2015

#### ***WEENTHUNGA NEWS cont.....***

Whilst the work that we are already doing in Bendigo, in addition to the commencement of activity in the Geelong region, and plans for further engagement in the Ballarat region, are keeping the staff and Committee very focussed and busy – that’s not all! In a first, Lin and Stephanie will be presenting at a forum in Gippsland on Aboriginal Employment in Gippsland Health Services. The forum is being organised by the Department of Health and Human Services and brings together representatives from the health services and community health services in the Gippsland area. It is an ideal opportunity to show case Weenthunga to both the Victorian Government and local services.

There is so much to share, and the Weenthunga e-News will be a worthy read for months to come!

We are always hoping to expand our membership. Benefits of membership include access to resources in the secure portal of our website, networking opportunities, members forums and discussion groups and regular newsletters promoting Weenthunga’s activities in addition to useful resources, employment and scholarship opportunities and events of interest. For further information about joining the Weenthunga Health Network please go to [http://www.weenthunga.com.au/get\\_involved/index.cfm?loadref=5](http://www.weenthunga.com.au/get_involved/index.cfm?loadref=5)

#### ***RESOURCES***

##### **Lola’s New Cousin—a breastfeeding resource for children and families.**

A new book by Luana Toney has been published called Lola’s New Cousin. The book introduces breastfeeding in a friendly, fun and easy to explain way, to young children and their families. It would be very suitable to include in a pack of resources for new mothers or suitable also for use in playgroups, pregnancy support groups and at health services. Further information can be found at our website: <http://www.weenthunga.com.au/uploads/rsfil/00118.pdf>

#### ***OPPORTUNITIES***

##### **Position available: Reconciliation-Action-Plan Manager at Medibank**

An exciting opportunity now exists for an experienced Reconciliation Action Plan Manager to join Medibank’s Corporate Social Responsibility team. Applications close 28th February, 2015

<http://careers.pageuppeople.com/439/caw/en/job/920712/reconciliation-action-plan-manager>

##### **The Liam and Frankie Davison Award**

Applications are invited from senior secondary students resident in Australia or New Zealand for the 2015 Liam and Frankie Davison Award for outstanding achievement in literary writing on an issue in women’s health. This \$1000 award provides an exciting opportunity for students, whether they are interested in medicine, science, health, sociology, politics or law. Applications open 31st January and close 30th April. For further information visit: <http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/womens-health/students-women-s-health-award.html>