

MACUNITY

MINUTES

Tuesday 15 June 2010.

Attendance

Jane McIvor	Sector Connect
Leo Dynevor	Muru Nanga Mai
Luke Roki	Community Links Wollondilly
Annette Finneman	MDS
Vanessa Kendall	MAC Community Options
Stuart Hill	Campbelltown FSS
Karen Badans	IPC/PVS JSA
Sally Wallace	Wollongong FRC
Regina Nagy	SSWAHS
Tara Rumiz	Uniting Care Burnside
Joshua Patterson	Uniting Care Burnside
Veronica McDonald	Uniting Care Burnside
Janelle Henson	MWLP
Birgitte Lund	Sport & Rec.
Mary Mann	Uniting Care Burnside
L. Hunter	DJAG
Kelly Watson	DJAG
Paul Harkin	Benevolent Society
Wies Schuiringa	Benevolent Society
Vicki Newbury	MTC Work Solutions

APOLOGIES: Greg Squibb (Centrelink), Robert Bell (SSWAHS), Jo Kerr (Sydney ICC), Amber Hope, Lance Tighe

MacUnity aims to adopt the use of the Aboriginal process as best we can when conducting meetings. The minutes hope to reflect this process.

Acknowledgment of Country

Amendments: Amendment to minutes from meeting 20 April 2010 – to show that Luke Roki from Community Links Wollondilly was in attendance.

Business Arising

Book Marks: Muru Nanga Mai have developed book marks that have an Acknowledgement to Country on them. It is important that this Acknowledgement be used with the appropriate respect. If anyone is interested in copies please see Leo.

Update contact list: List passed around room for attendees to update with their name and detail.

NAIDOC Week events:

Monday 5 July 2010 – Flag Raising Ceremony – Campbelltown City Council Grounds.

9.30 am – Morning Tea at the front of Council

10.00 am – Flag Raising Ceremony followed by Street March to Koshigaya Park.

10.30 am – NAIDOC Family Cultural & information Fun Day Koshigaya Park.

There will be Information stalls – you can either apply for a stall for your organisation or share with others.

Wednesday 7 July 2010 – Touch Football Competition Sarah Redfern Oval, Minto.

8.30 am – Registrations

9.30 am – (sharp) Kick off.

Try to put a team in from your service - come to have fun rather than as a business.

For any information on stalls or teams contact Angela Longergan – Coordinator, Community Development Team at Campbelltown City Council telephone 4645 4577.

NCOSS:

NCOSS 75th Conference August 5th, 2010.

NCOSS approached MacUnity to present on the subject of “Cooperation” – Anyone wanting to help present please let Jane know. Currently Leo and Jane will be presenting.

Attendees quite happy to go ahead with current presenters

Suggestion – Maybe present as a ‘Journey’ – Tell as a story rather than just a normal presentation.

It was discussed that MacUnity is unique having mainstream and Aboriginal community working together to address issues with the Aboriginal service system and support. It was discussed how helpful it was that the network went beyond one target group / issue and was not just about funding – our group is working on a long term outcome.

Leo thanked the attendees for all their work and talked on the changes from his younger days.

Aboriginal Jobs Compact:

South Western Sydney (Campbelltown/Macarthur) Job Compact Agreement.

This agreement will be in place for 2 years unless otherwise agreed to by the participants and is designed to assist increased employment opportunities for Aboriginal people in the South Western Sydney area.

Purpose of agreement:

Acknowledge the entrenched disadvantage faced by the Aboriginal people, and the need to improve local employment outcomes and levels for Aboriginal people.

Take action to improve the participation of the Aboriginal people in the local workforce.

Develop and maintain Aboriginal culture awareness in workplaces (e.g. Attending cultural experience forums and events, being sensitive to cross culture differences); and

Be solution focused to take advantage of local skills and knowledge.

This is a really important opportunity for us to build on.

Macarthur Pre-employment Program will be providing a 16 week training course from 28th June 2010, at Ingleburn to assist Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people gain employment into all sectors of the building & Construction industry.

All successful applicants will also be assisted into job placements and mentored by an Aboriginal industry worker for 13 weeks. For information on this contact Angela Munro telephone 9825 7448 or 0425 345 776.

2011 State Election Campaign:

Election campaign platform for state election - Jane has emailed details to all.

Members of the network to take information to the community to see what the needs are to advocate on at a local level

Anyone with ideas for future meetings or ideas to ramp this up a bit please contact Jane

OTHER:

Sport & Recreation:

Grants are open at present (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders) – apply as an organisation for amounts up to \$10,000. Money use – sporting equipment, administration fees, sports coaches etc.

Look at application and try to get sports specific Aboriginal worker.

Suggestion – you can put in a joint application from same areas just ensure the different organisations involvement is clear.

Applications close on 6th July 2010

Consolidation – Work of MacUnity:

Membership of MacUnity (community/workers) – need credibility of an elders structure too.

Network discussed engaging the right Elders and other community members as part of the network.

In past times the Elders knew everything – they made lifestyle decisions. We don't have that 'knowing' so Elders like Uncle Ivan, Auntie Muriel, Uncle Eddie, Stanley Mitchell, who act as Elders did in the past are important people and we should look at inviting them to come along to the meetings. If you have any names of people you feel could help please let the network know.

Sport & Rec. may know of 2 young people that may be useful (doing some casual work at present).

Trying to get funding for a school traineeship for MacUnity.

IPC – Looking for 2 people for traineeship - currently in pipeline

Questions:

Do you have to be over 50 to be an Elder? No.

What makes an Elder? – An Elder watches, observes – they have the foresight and know everything. It is about wisdom and life learning which is why they are often older.

Aboriginal Youth Round Table – If council not running this we should look at trying to start it again.

Maybe we should ask Uncle Ivan / Aunty Muriel.?

Suggestion – We should invite Pastor Michael Bucket – Minto Church, Sister Kerri from Brown Sisters – If we invite community members they must be supported before and after meetings.

Macarthur Youth Services Network Relationship & Connection Workshops:

Leo felt the workshops were going well.

Other feedback from IPC: a really good day where we really learnt things from people that know and acknowledged that they don't know. We need to connect and learn how to build that relationship.

The workshop was so good that IPC had the same workshop run for their staff.

Overall outlook – need to get the kids jobs first and work with them. There is also a need for staff training. Our Aboriginal Experience cultural awareness course was suggested and is being run through Sector Connect (dates TBC)

Some of the attendees said they had done the training and that it was excellent and gave you a great understanding.

Jane will send out training calendar with new dates.

Proposed Forum:

There has been problems getting people with time to organise a forum. Questioned whether all workers are too busy for a forum at this time.

Not forgotten but will do in a different way.

Consolidation – Aboriginal Youth Services:

With so many people/areas – we need to make sure no kids fall through the cracks. Talk to job networks after a course has finished, if they do one course (10 weeks) then we need to know that person goes on to the next course/project rather than being left behind. With the help of MacUnity we want to try and structure service. It is important that young people have ongoing development rather than short term projects that stop. Discussed how ongoing projects could be linked to short term ones.

We need to change things back to how they were – we need to respect and learn from Elders.

Review Current Aboriginal Youth Projects:

1. Bus Tour:

Done in Youth Week. This was to engage local youth.
Can we run another one through NABO?

2. Sister Speak/Brother Talk:

Run at Sarah Redfern – To be followed up

3. Midnight Basketball:

All OK and running well. Starts again at the end of September.
Working on getting parents involved in the committee.
Long term project – Keeping kids off the streets, workshops on personal development, as well as just having fun.
Looking at getting youth worker to get involved also look at asking Tharawal for support by way of using their bus.
We need to get some young Aboriginal volunteers involved.
Runs 1st and 4th term.

4. WILMA – Women's Group:

Sister Young's group – Kim has spoken about cyber bullying etc on the internet.

Young Women's Group – New

Younger women are empowered to go out and find work.

Domestic Violence Group – Women from local area go into this group,

5. TAC – Continuous provision of holiday activity (sporting/arts/crafts) for the under 12 years. Better links to sports clubs and child minding. 20 – 40 kids attend (Aboriginal kids) – mostly from local area but can come from outside areas as bus is in use.

6. Koori Flow: - Nightmare! (says Leo)

This has been a real struggle to try and get happening.

Positive – The committee is there and the group is really good.

Kids to Youth Services – conflict of days.

No one to help facilitate.

Picton High School has been good (Friday) Campbelltown is on Tuesday. Airds High School is the main problem as they already have have so many programs. Different to Koori Flow that focuses on Dance and Culture. Age group 9 – 19 years.

Can we link onto Fitness Program? IPC ask that Leo talk to them on this. Muru Nanga Mai – Do DVD afternoons and talks (at house in Minto). Suggestion – We may get some ideas from Emma Donovan, dance group at Villawood Community Centre – Leanne to email all relevant detail to Jane.

Kids to know their own country – Born of country, know your culture first. Principles about being Aboriginal.

Overall the committee is working well – (There are 3 councils, Elders and Burnside involved) just taking longer, it is a slow process.

7. **Wollondilly Big Bash:**

Originally, end of year Ross Evans – Wollondilly Council to do. Indigenous kids from all schools in area, Events/Culture/Song & Dance (working towards an event).

8. **SSWAHS Men's Group:**

Very good – Chad Ritchie works on this one day a week – (Wednesday afternoon). Was run at Aboriginal Land Council but transport was a problem, now running at 6 Evans Way, Minto.

Program is 10 weeks – but looking at longer.

Program based on Culture and Health.

We have 11 boys from James Meaghan, Sarah Redfern, and Picton High (1 only from Picton) ages are 15 years and up.

Ring Chad on 4648 5710 to get kids in to this program. There have been a lot of hiccups but now going really well.

9. **MTC Youth :**

Youth connection for 11 – 19 years old at risk of disengaging from school or has disengaged.

Aboriginal young people – nil

Do course equivalent to Year 10.

Work with Aboriginal Unit – Aboriginal Media/Art.

Young people from Campbelltown can access.

New TAFE course due soon.

Run Outreach Activities.

Partnership Brokers – Looking at building up resilience in area/schools.

Currently funded for 2 years to end of 2011 and would suggest more funding will be available.

Want to get up and running in Campbelltown.

10. Sport & Recreation – T.I.G.:

Aboriginal Indigenous games training still running – very popular

Would like people who have done this training to use their skills to support other projects and further training.

Youth workers are working with this group.

11. Airds Fitness:

We have about 20 15 to 25 year olds doing boxing and weights.

Outside sports we have approx. 15.

Lot of agencies involved – also Elders, David Bell, Larry, Uncle Ivan etc.

Want to have better links with Tharawal/Koori Flow and want more participants especially from the Aboriginal community.

Sports Subsidy Scheme – Airds/Rosemeadow/Ambarvale schools paid 80% cost for kids to get in.

50% of kids have been supported into sports, playing sport every weekend over 6 months.

Would think that funding will be forthcoming again for 2011.

12. Minto Kids In Park:

Numbers have dropped – 36 kids about 17 are Aboriginal.

Running again next term but will only be one (1) day per week due to drop in numbers/funding.

Picking up 2 days next term and relocating – starting to target new estates.

Run in Airds as well – about 16 kids 4 – 5 Aboriginal.

Rhett participates with kids.

3 x spots facilitators on contract

Likely to keep going but depends on funding.

Airds – same kids most of the time.

Minto – Different kids come and go.

Target – Kids who are likely to sit home with computer/T.V.

Suggestion from floor: Maybe should look at working with schools.

13. Culture Camps:

Muru Nanga Mai wants to run camps across region.

Had 14 boys at start of year.

Next camp Berry – boys and girls.

Suggestion: Indigenous Garden – look at setting up and have Job Seekers/Volunteers to assist.

14. Minto Building & Construction:

Indigenous Pre Vocational Program – recently completed.

Held Graduation Ceremony and vast majority graduated.

BBQ seats etc built – has gone really well.

Miller TAFE may be running a similar project.

15. TAC Plumbing/Carpentry Course:

No information on how last course went.

New one starting Friday 28th June, 2010.

16. Deadly Vipe:

3 on 3 Basketball Program.

Seeking volunteers.

Will be at Powerhouse, Casula 30th June, 2010

Travelling circuit – would be good to have in local region

17. Minto Church Group:

No information – Leo to follow up.

Review gaps/needs for Aboriginal youth development:

In open discussion the following was noted;

Community BBQ – Tahmoor Community Centre, held on the last Friday of each month from 5pm to 7pm. The intention is to try and connect young people with family and Aboriginal community, usually attract about 40 people (20 – 30 Aboriginal). Kids get to play football as well as mix with others. Suggestion - try to get guest speakers to attend.

Youth of The Streets – BBQ;

Monday – Airds

Tuesday – Macquarie Fields

Friday – Rosemeadow.

This is open to anyone in Housing NSW.

Burnside Open Families Chatter Box – Rosemeadow.

Has high Aboriginal attendance.

Benevolent Society – 5 – 12 years.

Currently building two new long term projects – should be up and running in July. (Paul).

Minto Community Centre.

Open door luncheon – Alternative Tuesdays.

Supports people/ties to community/ Aboriginal engagement/Social network.

Suggestion: That Juvenile Justice should be aware of all these programs so they may be able to engage some of the kids from their area.

Juvenile Justice – 6 Week Drug Program.

Resources – Beer Goggles.

Young people from J.J. have 5 weeks of education – 1 week of fun activities.

Approx. 15 – 20 people in this course.

Looking to get funding again.

Youth Justice Conferencing:

Two different parts to this program –

Getting kids into program and linking kids into the right services.

Campbelltown PCYC:

Nothing happening – great facility but not put to use. Invite to next meeting (Josh).

Leo – Bus Tour:

Will do something similar next year – looking at getting service into Wollondilly Shire.

Package – with all the services that was done by J.J.

Josh to speak to Delvine McCall.

Engaging:

Go to schools maybe to just introduce and say Hello also MTC, Youth Solutions, Wollondilly Hub. There are a lot of people in the area that can support this – i.e. Uncle Ivan.

Men's Group – currently under development for region

Women's Group – a couple of groups running

Koori Flow – network is working well.

Airds Fitness Program – Maybe look to link with Koori Flow.

Suggestion: How do we get volunteers onboard?

Use Volunteering Macarthur

Do posters

Schools – Forum – meeting – newsletter

TAFE – have welfare department

Word of mouth – even for non Aboriginal

Dept of Education

D.E.T. partnership

Flyers – NAIDOC Week.

Suggest - that attendees send all info to Jane/Leo.

JSA – Distribution list to these groups for Aboriginal volunteers.

Send in Job Description for web for Volunteering Macarthur

JSA – Cover costs and checks all volunteers free

Volunteers – Need long term and adults with kids

MTC –

Koori Flow

Bus Tours Forums

Camps

Can see links with their current funding and groups above. Need to explore further with the groups involved to effectively make these links happen. Aim is to provide case management to young people – do report and link where possible.

Leo – Would like to sit down with TAFE in regard to what comes after courses.

In regard to Tahmoor, Minto, Airds, YOTS community BBQ's – get people to rock up – really good way to engage. Target workers – bring clients this in turn will lead on to bring more people. Food and yarn!

Drop in from other organisations – introduce other staff that is available.

Suggestion: Hold a MacUnity meeting at a community BBQ – Or maybe just meet on a Friday afternoon to show we are prepared to be there – good way to engage – show by leading!

Leo & Jane will go through all of today's lists and advise. Further work on linkages needed.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 17th August 2010
10am – 1pm
Eaglevale Leisure Centre (Library)
Cnr. Feldspar Rd & Emerald Drive.