

Newsletter

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Issue Four August 2008

Division of Indigenous Education, Training and the Arts

Welcome from the ADG

Welcome to the fourth issue of the newsletter of the Division of Indigenous Education, Training and the Arts.

I would like to congratulate and thank everyone who contributed to the Department's celebrations of NAIDOC around the state last month, whether at a school assembly, community event or gathering.

Thank you especially to Uncle Albert Holt and Auntie Vi McDermott who did storytelling at the Department's tent at Musgrave Park and to young Josh Mallett, who did a great job as MC of the Department's launch event in Brisbane.

I encourage you all to consider applying for a grant for a project to mark Queensland's 150 years of statehood – applications close at the end of this month. I'm sure there are many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories to be told from those years. (See story page 4 for details).

Thank you for your continuing support.

Terry Kearney, Assistant Director-General

NAIDOC celebrations success

Thousands attended NAIDOC celebrations around the state last month, including about 200 Indigenous elders, leaders and guests who gathered at 111 George Street for the Department's official celebration on July 8.

Guests heard from the Director-General Rachel Hunter and Uncle Albert Holt and enjoyed performances by Yobalani and Malu Kiwai dancers.

The Department also presented a display at the Family Fun Day at Musgrave Park, South Brisbane that drew large, appreciative crowds. Schools around the state also hosted NAIDOC events and the Learning and Engagement Centres at Inala, Sunshine Coast, Townsville, Rockhampton and Cairns held events throughout the week.

National NAIDOC Awards 2008

Rockhampton Elder Bob Muir was named Male Elder of the Year at the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Ball in Canberra on July 12.

Other award recipients were:

Lifetime Achievement Award - Dr Chicka Dixon, Joseph Elu AO, Archie Roach

Elder of the Year (Female) - Carol Pettersen, Albany
Person of the Year - Associate Professor Colleen Hayward, Perth

Artist of the Year - Les Envin, Cessnock

Sportsperson of the Year - Stacey Porter, Sydney (via Tamworth)

Apprentice of the Year - Amy McQuire, Canberra (via Rockhampton)

Scholar of the Year - Dr Karen Martin, Lismore (via North Stradbroke Island)

Youth of the Year - Angeline Blackburn, Canberra (via Cann River) and Krista Moir, Perth (via Esperance).

Student challenge hits Rockie on Sept 10

Schools in Fitzroy Central West Queensland region have until August 8 to register for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aspirations Program (ATSIAP) Student Challenge at Rockhampton State High School on September 10-11.

In May, ATSIAP in Townsville drew 30 teams from 15 schools in Townsville, Ayr, Bowen, Charters Towers and Mackay, with Pimlico State High School taking top honours in the overall challenge.

ATSIAP (previously AITAP) was developed and trialled in 1987 as a joint initiative between the State and Commonwealth education departments.

Since that time, evaluation and review of student data has identified that ATSIAP has had a dramatic impact on the schooling outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, particularly on retention and completion rates.

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ATSIAP also increased parental participation in schooling. The social outcomes for students included increased self-confidence, positive self-identity, cultural pride and a strong sense of motivation to achieve life goals.

Each year, schools can elect to enter ATSIAP teams comprising of four students (maximum two seniors as well as two juniors) in the Student Challenge, an event similar to 'Tournament of the Minds'. Students compete in a series of challenges that develop and showcase their talents.

For more information or to register your school, please contact Sophie Yasso on 49384669 or email: sophie.yasso@deta.qld.gov.au

Recruiting teachers for FNQ

Teachers are sought to work in Identified Indigenous schools under the Partners for Success initiative.

Pre-service and experienced teachers are encouraged to take up the challenge of living and working in remote and rural Indigenous communities.

The Department is running a recruitment drive through visits to school districts and pre-service teacher education universities.

Through an Expression of Interest process pre-service and experienced teachers can apply to take up the teaching experience of a lifetime.

Key areas of recruitment are Early Childhood, Primary, Secondary and in some cases targeting teachers with the capacity to teach across the training sector in remote communities.

More information: Cindy Hales on 07 4046 5212 or Cindy.Hales@deta.qld.gov.au

Indigenous Literacy Day on September 3

The Indigenous Literacy Project (ILP), a partnership of the Australian book industry and the Fred Hollows Foundation, is running Indigenous Literacy Day on Wednesday, September 3.

Booksellers, publishers and businesses will donate a percentage of their sales to ILP. The ILP raises funds to buy and supply books and other culturally appropriate material to remote communities where the Fred Hollows Foundation operates.

Woorabinda, west of Rockhampton, has been identified as a prospective new community to receive assistance.

Indigenous Literacy Day grew out of the 2006 Australian Readers' Challenge which was supported by more than 14,000 people.

In 2007, the Indigenous Literacy Project raised \$250,000 with the support of publishers, booksellers, schools and individuals.

Thérèse Rein, wife of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, is the 2008 Indigenous Literacy Day Patron.

Authors Geraldine Brooks, Andy Griffiths, Dr Anita Heiss, David Malouf, Tara June Winch and Alexis Wright are ILD Ambassadors.

For more information visit www.worldwithoutbooks.org

QIECC Annual Forum in October

The Queensland Indigenous Education Consultative Committee (QIECC) Forum is holding its second annual forum at the Pacific International Hotel, Cairns on October 15-16.

Formed in February 2006, the QIECC is comprised of 11 prominent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experts in education and training.

The QIECC is the peak Indigenous advisory committee for the Queensland Minister for Education, Training and the Arts and Commonwealth Minister for Education, Employment and Workforce Relations.

The committee consults with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities and advises on Indigenous education and training matters to both Ministers and their departments.

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Through this forum the QIECC is seeking to engage wide expertise to contribute ideas and successful practices towards the Governments' commitment to "Closing the Gap" in Indigenous educational achievements. The committee invites Indigenous community members, practitioners, researchers, organisations, private industry, government and non-government agencies with an interest in education and training success for Indigenous Queenslanders.

The Annual Forum does not involve a registration fee. Expression of Interest registrations are open for participation in the forum.

More information:

http://www.qiecc.eq.edu.au/annual_forum.aspx or call the QIECC Secretariat on 07 3237 0807.

Teaching scholarships available

Aspiring teachers can apply for the Pearl Duncan and the Bid O'Sullivan Teaching Scholarships valued at up to \$20,000 each.

Pearl Duncan Teaching Scholarships are open to people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent who plan to undertake a full-time teaching degree at a Queensland university starting in 2009.

Up to 15 scholarships will be awarded to Year 12 graduates, departmental employees, postgraduate students and post-school applicants.

Up to five Bid O'Sullivan Teaching Scholarships will be awarded in 2009 to Year 12 graduates who live in rural and remote areas of Queensland.

Applications close on October 17, 2008 and offers of scholarships, dependent on being accepted into a teaching degree course in 2009, will be made to successful applicants by January 2009.

More information: Wendy Kirby on 3237 0698 or <http://education.qld.gov.au/staff/development/scholarships/indigenous> or contact

Teacher Excellence Awards nominations

Applications are open for 20 Minister's Awards for School Leader and Teacher Excellence and 15 Regional Innovator's Awards.

The 35 awards, ranging in value from \$6,000 to \$25,000 are available to teachers and school leaders to pursue significant programs of professional development next year.

Guidelines and application forms for each category and closing dates are now available through the Professional Development Branch website.

More information: Wendy Kirby, Professional Development Branch on 3237 0698.

Stronger, smarter principals

The next residential program of the Indigenous Education Leadership Institute will be held at Cherbourg later this month.

The program emphasises improving Indigenous student outcomes in urban, regional and remote area schools across Australia. It also focuses on the strategies, systems and approaches that each principal can use to lead people and processes in their school communities.

Program 3 runs on August 17 - 22, with follow up on October 16 - 17. Program 4 runs from October 26 - 31 October, with follow up on December 2 - 3.

More information: Sharon Grose, Programs Manager, Indigenous Education Leadership Institute, Queensland University of Technology on 5316 7446 or www.strongersmarter.qut.edu.au

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Apply now for Q150 Community Funding

Schools, TAFEs and community groups can apply for grants of from \$2000 to \$10,000 in the final round of Queensland's 150th Celebration's Community Funding, closing on September 5.

A total of \$2 million is available in this round. Grants are being offered to help communities plan and stage celebrations to mark Queensland's 150th anniversary of independence from New South Wales next year.

So far more than 180 projects in about 120 towns and suburbs have successfully applied to host events and activities featuring arts, literature, Indigenous, multicultural and women's Q150 projects that celebrate our past and contribute to our future.

Projects that have received funding include the Minjerribah-Moorgumpin Elders-in-Council and the Salt-Water Murris Quandamooka to promote community awareness of Aboriginal culture and the traditional heritage of the people of Minjerribah, North Stradbroke Island.

Yarrabah Police Citizens Youth Club was allocated \$10,000 to create a heritage DVD showcasing the development of the Yarrabah Aboriginal Community over the past 150 years.

For more information on community funding and application forms visit www.q150.qld.gov.au or phone 1800 502 419.

New national body consultations in Qld

Consultations for a new national Indigenous representative body will be held in Queensland starting this month.

The Federal Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs is holding consultation meetings for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have their say on the proposed body at meetings in Brisbane, Mount Isa, Cairns and the Torres Strait.

In July, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calma released an issues paper – *Building a Sustainable National Indigenous Representative Body – Issues for Consideration* - that covers background and raises critical issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians to consider about the role, composition and structure of the body.

Consultations will be held at the Mercure Hotel, Brisbane on August 25, Mount Isa Civic Centre on August 2, Port Kennedy Hall, Torres Strait on August 29 and Rydges Tradewinds on September 1 (registrations for all meetings close August 15).

For more information call 1800 202 366 (free call) or visit www.fahcsia.gov.au/IndigenousRepBody

NT artist wins Xstrata award

Gunybi Ganambarr of the Ngaymil people of Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory was awarded the \$30,000 Xstrata Coal Emerging Indigenous Art Award for 2008 by the Queensland Premier, Anna Bligh, at a special event at Brisbane's Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA) in July.

His winning entry - Burrut'tji at Baraltja 2008 – will now become part of the Queensland Art Gallery's permanent collection.

In addition to the major prize, Xstrata Coal has also provided an additional \$150,000 over three years to the Queensland Art Gallery for the acquisition of works by Indigenous artists for its collection. Work by this year's finalists is on public display at GoMA until October 12.

Other artists short-listed for the 2008 Xstrata Coal Emerging Indigenous Art Award and featured in the exhibition are – Milly Kelly (Jigalong/Newman, WA); Josie Kunoth Petyarre and Dinni Kunoth Kemarre (Utopia, NT); Beaver Lennon (Ceduna, SA); Loongkoonan (Derby, WA); Patsy Marfura (Peppimenarti, NT); Archie Moore (Brisbane, QLD); Glenn Pilkington (Perth, WA); and Daniel Walbidi (Bidyadanga, WA).

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Art Centres, FNQ artists gain support

Arts centres in Hope Vale and Lockhart River will use funding from Arts Queensland's Backing Indigenous Arts (BIA) program to meet staff and training needs while Far North Queensland artists will share their skills in mentoring projects.

In a double win for Hope Vale, the art centre will employ a trainee program manager, providing a Hope Vale resident with an employment opportunity and the art centre with much needed support.

The Lockhart River Art Centre is using BIA funding for artists-in-residence and operating costs.

Artists from the region also have an opportunity to benefit from BIA funding. Lockhart River artist Silas Hobson will mentor young apprentices in carving over three weeks while Torres Strait Islander artist Alick Tipoti is sharing his artistic talents through printmaking master classes.

Public art for Wujal Wujal

A partnership between local artists and the Queensland Police Service has added a stunning entrance to a new police station at a remote Indigenous community in the Far North.

North Queensland artist Jill Chism worked in partnership with local Indigenous artists Jason Smith, Russell Smith, Ruby Winkle and Adeline Williams to create 'Wujul Wujul', a laminated glass entry artwork for the new Wujul Wujul Police Station.

The artists discussed the project with guardians of the region's landmark waterfalls and the Wujul Wujul people. Their collaboration produced a spectacular background image of the Wujul Wujul falls overlaid with images from paintings created by Wujul artists.

Images represent the eel (Yaba), the main totem of the local waterfalls along with other animals, snakes, turtles, goannas and fish.

Queenslanders at Festival of Pacific Arts

Seven Queensland artists participated in the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts in American Samoa from July 20 to August 2 thanks to \$30,000 funding from the Department's Backing Indigenous Arts program.

The Festival celebrates the Indigenous cultures of the Pacific region in the areas of traditional and contemporary dance, music, theatre, literature, visual arts, craft and new media.

The Australia Council worked with state agencies, including Arts Queensland, to coordinate a national delegation of 30 people to represent Australia. The festival attracted artists and delegates from 27 Pacific nations.

Participating Queensland artists:

Pamela Croft-Warcon, a Kooma woman from the Uralarai people of South West Queensland who creates her internationally exhibited art from her studio at Keppel Sands on the Capricorn Coast. Joey Laifoo, a Torres Strait Islander artist who is inspired by his culture's respect for the sea. Lisa Michl, an artist whose earth tones and intricate marks create paintings that express creation stories, traditional practices and the everyday lifestyle that has been passed to her by her Kokoberrin elders from central west coast of Cape York Peninsula. Ariu Panipan – Ariu Panipan Cultural Group is a Torres Strait Island-based group renowned for their traditional costumes, craftsmanship, dance choreography, creativity and dynamic performances. William Kepa, a Torres Strait Islander drummer, bassist, guitarist, sound engineer and producer whose experience traverses a breadth of genres. Getano Bann, a gifted singer, song writer, story teller and registered music therapist of Torres Strait Islander ancestry who has 25 years experience as a professional performer and entertainer. Kerriane Cox, a renowned Aboriginal performer whose music has brought her home country of Beagle Bay in North West Kimberley to the world.

For more information contact Arts Queensland on 1800 175 531.

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National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day on August 4

The 2008 National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day theme "*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families, Nurturing our Children to Flourish*" highlights the importance of families (and others) in providing a nurturing and responsive environment for children's welfare, development and learning.

The Secretariat National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Inc (SNAICC) is the national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child and welfare and early childhood services.

SNAICC initiated National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day in 1988 to promote the importance of Aboriginal and Islander children; and to enhance strong connections to Indigenous cultures, values, beliefs, lifestyles and roles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

SNAICC has produced a poster, leaflet and activity kit for national member Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and agencies.

Activity kits contain *The Dreaming* DVD of 13 animated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories for children, and more than 30 activity suggestions for use with children and young people.

To order kits and for more information visit www.snaicc.asn.au or email: snaicc@vicnet.net.au.

Coming events

Embedding Indigenous Perspectives workshops

August 5, Duhig Centre, Rockhampton

August 6, Civic Centre, Bundaberg

August 18, Father Bernard O'Shea Inservice Centre, Wilston, Brisbane

August 19 Salvation Army Conference Centre, Townsville

For more information contact the Queensland Studies Authority on 3864 0471; events@qsa.qld.edu.au or www.qsa.qld.edu.au

QIECC Community Forum

August 26-28, Weipa

The QIECC enables Governments to consult with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities on education and training issues in Queensland, including pre-school, school, higher education and training. Community Forums provide the opportunity to introduce and share information about the QIECC's role, function, processes and current activities as well as hearing about the local issues impacting on Indigenous learners.

For more information visit

<http://www.qiecc.eq.edu.au> or call the QIECC Secretariat on 07 3237 0807.

Torres Strait Cultural Festival

September 18-19, Thursday Island

More information: www.torres.qld.gov.au

Indigenous Student Awards Night

October 17, Rockhampton

The Indigenous Students Awards Night 2008 in conjunction with Darumbal Community Youth Service Inc.

For more information, email:

Deborah.IRWIN@deta.qld.gov.au

We welcome your contributions

This newsletter is published monthly by the Division of Indigenous Education, Training and the Arts in the Department of Education, Training and the Arts to highlight programs and events that benefit Indigenous Queenslanders. Please send contributions of up to 100 words by the 20th of the month prior, to the editor:

carmel.carrick@deta.qld.gov.au