



Ngunya Jarjum Aboriginal Corporation

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ICN 2418 ABN 84 653 612 066

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020

Dear members, traditional custodians and
Other interested people.

JINGI WALA

Ngunya Jarjum says hello and welcome!

We would like to pay our respects to elders past and present and acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and the Bundjalung nation.

OUR VALUES

BELONGING

Every child has a right to be immersed in their family and culture to grow up strong in their identity and know who and where they belong to.

COMPASSION

Compassion, kindness and empathy will underpin the approach of support and services to children and families to acknowledge the untreated trauma and grief suffered by Aboriginal people over generations.

INTEGRITY

We act professionally, with honesty and truth.

RESPECT

We value building meaningful relationships and work to build trust with families, communities and our partners.

MEMBERSHIP

It is important for people interested in the future of the corporation to be members and to attend the general meetings.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Ngunya Jarjum phone 02 6626 3700 or email info@ngunyajarjum.com if you have had a change of postal address.

NOTICE

If you are an existing member, please notify the office on 02 6626 3700 or email: info@ngunyajarjum.com

COVID-19 Restrictions -

Due the pandemic, Ngunya Jarjum staff remain flexible in our workplace, working from home wherever possible and with COVID-safe practice wherever possible. We are still providing service, following protocol set out by the NSW Government Health Department.

We highly encourage everyone to minimise contact and practice social distancing. Sanitise whilst out and about and washing hands regularly. Indigenous people 50 and over are considered amongst the most vulnerable, so we need to do our part to ensure the safety of all our mob.



If anyone in your home is experiencing symptoms such as a fever, cough, sore throat and/or shortness of breath. Please contact your GP or health-direct immediately on 1800 022 222.

Please follow closely the media updates in relation to education and health and maintain a Community of Care as you have already done very successfully. Do not hesitate to contact your caseworker if there is anything we can help with.

ABSEC Graduation Day – Dip. Management and Leadership

We are proud to share in this edition of the newsletter an update on staff graduations from our partnership with ABSEC to deliver the Diploma in Management and Leadership.

Five of our staff completed the course in its entirety were presented with their Diplomas on Friday 17th July 2020 at a small presentation ceremony hosted by the CEO. Many of our team were able to join online and to witness the presentations.

Congratulations to:

- Aunty Jackie Wilson (OOHC Caseworker)
- Matthew Kenny (Manager Gumaguy and Bala)
- Michelle Hicks (Manager HR)
- Nikita Hughes (Manager OOHC)
- Sharni Kenny (Exec Assistant)

Pictured below with Jeff Sentance from ABSEC who presented Diplomas on the day to our staff.



But there is more.... Dip. Community Services Graduates

In partnership with OPEN training we also have another 2 staff graduate the Dip. In Community Services

Congratulations to:

- Sue Freeburn
- Lani Cloos

Sue smashed out her study completing the entire course in a record breaking 4.5 months, followed shortly thereafter by Lani.

These Diplomas were undertaken outside of work hours and are a true tribute to the dedication and commitment our staff.



Pics:

1. Sue Freeburn with Michelle Rogers (Programs Manager)
2. Lani Cloos (no photo at the time of printing)

As Ngunya Jarjum continues to grow and extend service delivery we will be sharing more of these exciting staff achievements with you. It is a tribute to the commitment of the CEO to ongoing development and upskilling our staff into the future.

EXCITING NEW SPACES:

Languages program for carers and children

Ngunya Jarjum are working in close partnership with **Wandjarri Mali led by Uncle Roy Gordon** to deliver Bundjalung language groups to caregivers and children to enhance connection to local Country, People and Culture.

We are privileged to have been able to form this partnership and are offering the unique opportunity for carers and Jarjums to attend language sessions hosted by Uncle Roy.

Language is one of the founding identifiers of Culture, bringing our children together to listen and learn from one of our local Elders is a new and unique opportunity Ngunya Jarjum are offering. Interested in attending?

Contact Tarra Gordon or Relicca Kelly on 02 6626 3700 to grab a spot for you and the Jarjums. The groups start very soon – secure your spot as soon as possible.

Walking through Country

In **partnership with Jargoan (Ashley Moran)** is being progressed to offer to carers and children the opportunity to join a 2 day workshop 'Walking through country' looking at significant sites and gathering a better understanding of the Land on which we walk.

The first day is in house training and the second a field trip.

Land is another significant identifier of Culture, to be connected to Country is to gain sense of belonging.

Another new space for Ngunya Jarjum, this exciting opportunity will offer those living off Country a chance to connect with the local area and offer those from here opportunity to re-connect.

Don't miss out. Call Shelton Johnson on 02 626 3700 to book your seats.

Young Men / Young Women

Save the dates:

Young Women 22nd Sept 2020

Young Men 29th September 2020

We are pleased to offer to our youth an opportunity to workshop the issues associated with being a teenager.

The young women and young men's days will discuss gender specific issues associated with adolescence, having to make tough decisions, planning for future, inspiring hope and opportunity in a culturally influenced way.

Targeted at young men and women **aged between 14-18 years.**

Want to book a spot? Call: 02 6626 3700

- **Shanelle Ord for young women**
- **Shelton Johnson for young men**

Cookbook Comp – the update

You may recall over the past months we have held open a competition for cookbook drawings from children and recipes from carers and families. Unfortunately, we have not had enough entries to pursue the cookbook competition at this time.

We would like to thank those that have submitted their drawings and recipes, we will be acknowledge each in the coming few weeks for their contribution.

We plan to revisit the idea sometime in the first six months of next year and hope to attract a little more participation at that time.

We will be holding on to all current entries for when we are able to pick it up again.

Any questions call on (02) 6626 3700

Staffing update

We are currently undergoing requirement for Intensive Family Worker and have finalised the recruitment of the IT Worker position. Announcements will be made in the coming newsletter for new appointments to the IT position and Receptionist position.

We welcome to Ngunya Jarjum this month two new staff, Mary Torren-Bell and Dr Nick Freeburn.



Mary Torrens Bell

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the people who came before me. The elders past and present. The people who led the way and who guided us through troubled

times. I want to acknowledge the land that we all stand on today. This Bundjalung earth. This soil and these trees and the river and everything else raised me as much as my parents did. I honestly wouldn't be who I am if I hadn't been raised up by this place. Country and place is so important, it forms who you are.

I grew up on the Jubullum Village (Tabulam) and Casino. I followed my father into community work. I have worked across several government departments including Community Services, Legal Services and the Education and Health Departments over the last 25 years.

I am and always will be passionate about keeping children safe and providing them with an environment where they might flourish. Last year I organised a march through the streets of Casino for National Child Protection Week in November 2019 to raise awareness throughout the Bundjalung Nation. I think if we are going to be real about breaking the cycles around Child Protection issues in our communities, we should be visible about it also.

"If we are going to move forward as a people, a proud people with a noble history and bright future,

we must protect and empower our families, and that starts with our children. They are our tomorrow"

Dr Nick Freeburn – Senior Cultural Practitioner



My name is Nick Freeburn and I proudly connect to the Bundjalung Nation. I have worked in government, community organisations, services and businesses for around 35 years. I am a qualified chef,

but instead of practising my trade, I gained degrees in such disciplines as; Indigenous Studies, Research Methods, Indigenous Research and Leadership, Social Science, Adult Education and Indigenous Philosophies. I am a Justice of the Peace and have served on several Boards of Directors including community organisations such as Buyinbin Aboriginal Corporation and Social Futures. I had also served as a Councillor on the Ethics Council for the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples.

In the past I have been involved with Ngunya Jarjum as a foster carer, mentor, program development office and foster carer support caseworker. I am now working as a Senior Cultural Practitioner critically examining the ideology of incorporating a cultural practice of mapping narratives within a Social Emotional and Wellbeing (SEWB) Framework in the Out of Home Care (OOHC) sector.

In 2019 I graduated with my Doctor of Indigenous Philosophies from Southern Cross University. I am the first postgraduate student to have completed and graduated with this degree. My doctoral studies investigated contemporary issues that Aboriginal people encounter while residing in Casino, NSW. As part of my studies I had created a mini documentary titled 'On Common Ground', which provides a snapshot of the issues from the perspective of seven local people. I developed a booklet called 'Mapping Narratives from within a Visual Dialogue', which depicts what people are

saying through a visual concept. I am now studying for my Doctor of Philosophy with Bachelor Institute in the Northern Territory. My research will investigate mapping narratives within the OOHC sector while using a SEWB Framework.

I have travelled to Wellington in New Zealand to deliver my paper on 'Developing Cultural Competence within Adult Community Education Standards'. I also travelled to Reykjavik and delivered a public lecture on 'Indigenous story telling in Australia' at the University of Iceland. In between work and study, I am writing a series of public lectures on mapping narratives using Indigenous Knowledge as a framework of awareness.

Important information for caregivers:



National Police Checks

All carers and household members 18 or over are required by law to have a National Police Check. If a new household member over 16 moves into your home or a child in care turns 18 and continues to reside in your household, they also need a National Police Check. Police Checks must be renewed every three (3) years.

Case Workers will notify you when police checks are due for renewal. You or a household member can apply for a Police Check by accessing the National Crime Check website or by completing an application form which will be processed by the Compliance Team. Your Case Worker will provide you with the form and a detailed list of the identification documents you need to attach to your application.

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If you or a household member elect to do the online application via National Police Check website you will need your ID documents at that time. If Ngunya Jarjum staff are processing your application on your behalf you need to complete the application form with your current address; if you have not resided at this address for 10 years or more then you must include previous addresses for the past 10 years.

National Police Check and Working with Children Check agencies have been imposing new requirements for identification checks in recent months. You and your household members are now required to take your original Birth Certificate to Service NSW when applying for or renewing your WWCC, alternatively you can present your current passport.

For police check applications or renewals that are processed by Ngunya Jarjum one (1) commencement document is required. This can be a copy of the front and back of your Birth Certificate (and Marriage Certificate if applicable) or a copy of your current passport.

If you or your household members do not have a Birth Certificate it is advisable to obtain one from Births, Deaths & Marriages to avoid delays in processing probity checks. If you have any questions or need assistance with your police check or ID please contact your Case Worker.

Change in Circumstances

We understand that as a Carer your circumstances may change from time to time. If a significant change in your circumstances has occurred or is expected to occur, please let your Case Worker know immediately. To keep the OCG Carer Register and our records up to date we need to know:

- if you change your address
- if someone moved in or out of your household.
- if you commence a new or end an existing spousal relationship

If there is a change to who lives in your household – all adult members must have a Working With

Children Check, a National Police Check and Community Service Check. A household member is anyone who stays more than 21 nights in a year.

Community Information:

SNAICC Children's day website live!



SNAICC has recently launched their all new website in preparation for this year's National Aboriginal Children's Day on the 4th August.

Developed by SNAICC, this portal will provide children, families and early childhood educators with resources, activities and ideas to help learn about and celebrate Children's Day.

Check it out at:

www.aboriginalchildrensday.com.au

HIPPY

HOME INTERACTION PROGRAM FOR PARENTS & YOUNGSTERS

Contact: Zoe Dodd

HIPPY Goonellabah Coordinator

YWCA Australia Northern NSW

Ph: 0450 840 179

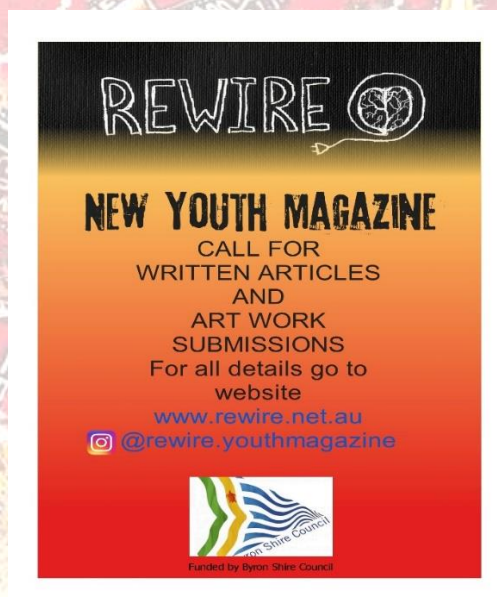
Email: zoe.dodd@ywca.org.au

Enrol now for 2020 and get free educational activities and resources to do at home with your jarjums!!!

- It's free. It's fun. It's easy and gets jarjums ready for school!!!
- It's for families with 4-5-year-old jarjums the year before they go to school and in their first year at school
- We deliver weekly educational resources and activity packs for you to do with your jarjum at home
- We talk you through the activities over the phone so that you and your jarjum can have fun learning together!!!

- We run cultural activities & excursions for families (currently on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions, activities and excursions will resume once restrictions are lifted)
- HIPPY offers training & employment opportunities for parents/carers in the program
- HIPPY Goonellabah prioritises the enrolment of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander families

Rewire Youth Magazine



Rewire are calling out for submissions for their new youth magazine based in Northern NSW. Articles entered are sought under these categories:

- Lessons learnt (e.g. an experienced that had changed you in a significant way)
- Out of town (e.g. people who have lived in the Northern Rivers but now live elsewhere and their experience of moving)
- Poetry
- Opportunities for young people
- Global Issues
- Dear Charlie (a section for asking questions about anything!)
- Main Article (The BIG article featured in the magazine)
- Young Art

For more information, visit www.rewire.net.au

Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre is no longer seeing clients face to face during the COVID-19 pandemic

We are taking a pro-active approach to the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus. We are still providing advice by phone. If you require Legal, Tenancy or Domestic Violence assistance please call:

Legal advice: (02) 6621 1000

Tenancy advice: (02) 6621 1022

Domestic Violence service: (02) 6621 1044

Thank you for your understanding, we ask you to please be patient and kind to yourself and others during this time.

<https://northernriversclc.org.au/>

Northern Rivers Community Gateway:

Delivery of our services around COVID-19

Northern Rivers Community Gateway is committed to maintain a strong level of support for our clients who are already experiencing a range of hardships and vulnerabilities whilst reinforcing our care of staff and volunteers.

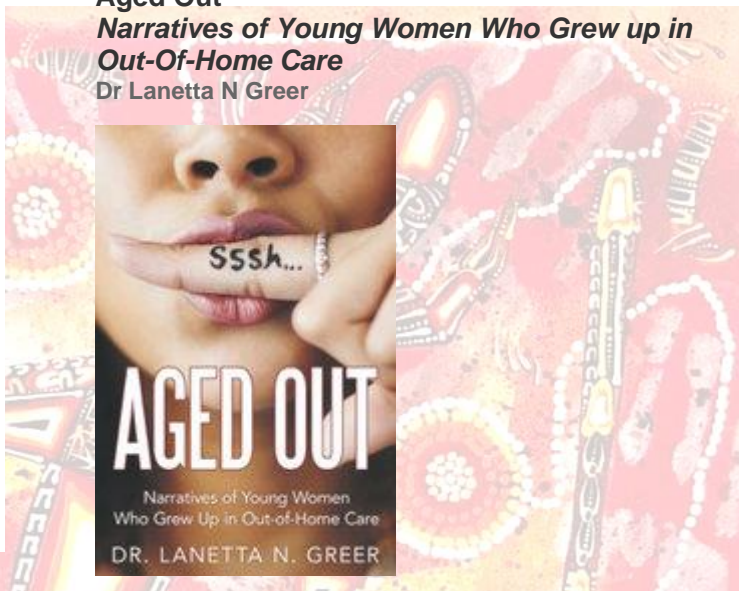
Given the Australian Government's advice to practice social distancing as a risk management strategy, we are encouraging all clients who have internet and telephone access to engage with us via [email](#), telephone, skype or zoom.

Please email us on hub@nrcg.org.au or call on 0266217397 between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Readers Corner:

Another good read for those who need to kick back with a book for a few hours. This month we are recommending one of the books we recently purchased for our staff library:

Aged Out
Narratives of Young Women Who Grew up in Out-Of-Home Care
Dr Lanetta N Greer



Owning and operating a non-profit, group home for teenage girls has given Dr. Lanetta N. Greer a keen understanding of the challenges that they face.

Home 4 the Heart, her facility, has helped almost two hundred girls over ten years. But assisting, supporting, and advocating for the girls that live at its three facilities has required lots of creativity.

While Child Protective Services wants children to do well, the youth that they place in out-of-home care often have negative life outcomes. The lack of daily intimate contact with a caregiver causes somewhat of a constant disconnect-and normal daily relationships and activities with supportive caregivers are not always possible for youth in out-of-home care.

In this qualitative study of young women who aged out of out-of-home care, the author describes family life, growing up in out-of-home care, and life after aging out. The results of the study will better inform service providers working with youth in foster/group homes, schools, juvenile justice placements, and community programs.

The study's findings and insights offer more effective ways of assisting, supporting, and advocating for youth to ensure a more successful transition to independence after aging out.

<https://www.amazon.com/Aged-Out-Narratives-Out-Home/dp/1480879983>