

Networking to enhance First Australian health in Victoria

e-NEWS FOR MEMBERS September 2015

WEENTHUNGA NEWS and EVENTS

Weenthunga Health Network Annual General Meeting—Save the Date!

Thursday 19th November, 5:30pm: Weenthunga Health Network Annual General Meeting. Our guest speakers will be Nikki Branningham and Natalie Moxham from Leanganook Yarn, who have been evaluating our working model. The Committee of Management warmly invites you to attend (registration link will be available nearer the time).

Melbourne Girls Health Day—11th August

For the fourth consecutive year Weenthunga recently held its Melbourne 'Womens Talk' Health Day, attended by 17 senior female students from both metro and remote backgrounds. Following a warm and encouraging Welcome to Country by Aunty Di, the day went on to provide great inspiration and hopefully some clarity for the young women as they consider a career in the health field. Weenthunga would like to thank the committed and engaging range of speakers that attended (see below), the fabulous support teachers, VACCHO and the Royal Childrens Hospital for providing the venues. Our thanks to:

Aunty Di Kerr; Nicole Cassar; Terori Hareko-Samios; Annette Gaulton; Cindy Scott; Kerrie Thomsen & Toni McLaughlin; Tanika Meeks; Stephanie Blyth; Liz Phillips; Sharni Wearne & Graeme Kington; Tanya Druce; Marley Stewart & Pam MacCalaman; RCH Aboriginal Family Support; and our fabulous Youth Ambassadors—Natalie Ironfield and Sam Paxton



Members Meeting - The Role of the Aboriginal Health Liaison Officer in Hospitals

A small group of members gathered last Thursday 10th September to share and discuss this important role. Particular thanks to our guest speakers: Terori Hareko-Samios, and Liz Orr, and our panel: Rebecca Crawford and Carlene Miller. A full report on the meeting will be shared on our website soon.

Did you know that you can donate shares instead of cash to support the Weenthunga Health Network ?

ShareGift Australia is a not-for-profit organisation that provides an easy and tax-effective way to sell shares and donate the proceeds to charity. You, or someone you know, may have a small parcel of shares - often barely worth selling due to the cost of brokerage fees. Or you may have a larger parcel that you are able to generously donate. You don't have to engage a stockbroker so there are no brokerage fees, making it the perfect way to tidy up your portfolio or dispose of a small parcel of shares that aren't worth the administrative effort. Even better, if the value of your donation exceeds \$50, you can nominate Weenthunga as your recommended charity to benefit from ShareGift Australia's donations.



How to donate: Simply complete the [share sale donation form](#) on the ShareGift Australia website and remember to recommend Weenthunga. All donations of \$2 and over are tax-deductible. We think it's a great initiative – please consider or encourage a friend or relative to support Weenthunga this way. To find out more, visit the ShareGift Australia [website](#).

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OTHER EVENTS

Deadly in Gippsland

Deadly in Gippsland is a celebration of Aboriginal people and culture, a celebration of the deadly work being done by Aboriginal people and of what can be achieved in partnership. In 2015, the Deadly in Gippsland Conference will be held from the 2nd to 4th December. See their website (www.deadlyingippsland2015.com) for more information.

OPPORTUNITIES

Lowitja Institute PhD Scholarship

Applications for the 2015 PhD Scholarships are now open—Closing date is Sunday 4 October 2015 (midnight AEST)

The Lowitja Institute CRC is committed to increasing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers and leaders across the health system. Scholarships provide an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to develop health research skills and contribute to strengthening the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce. The scholarships are available for PhD students who are enrolled in a field of health research that falls within one or more of our three research programs that have been selected as criteria. Further details can be found [online](#), or the [link on our website](#).

Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme (PHMSS)

Scholarships are available to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people who are studying a course in ATSI health work, allied health, dentistry/oral health, medicine, midwifery or nursing. The next round of applications for studies in 2016 closes Monday 12th October. For further information see <http://www.acn.edu.au/phmss>. Weenthunga staff would be happy to advise in drafting an application.

RESOURCES

Lime: Good Practice Case Studies—Volume 3 now available

The LIME Good Practice Case Studies Resources showcase examples of good practice in Indigenous health education from schools and specialist colleges across Australia and Aotearoa / New Zealand. The link to the resources can be found on our website [here](#).

MEMBER PROFILES

I'm Kevan Horder and I am a proud Kooma and Budjari man from South West Queensland. I live in a little town called Merrigum over near Shepparton and commute each day to Bendigo which is around 1 hour and twenty minutes each way. I enjoy the travel in between as this is my time to start to switch on for work and also debrief and switch off. I work for the Murray Primary Health Network through our Central Victoria office here in Bendigo as the Aboriginal Health Outreach Worker. I have chosen my career in health as far too often I have to head back up home in Queensland for funerals. Unfortunately most of my family don't make it past 50, which is even less than the national average. Because of this I wanted to contribute my career to making a difference for my people. A large part of this is working with the wider Australian community to help with education and support to give the best tools to help our mob. On my days off there will be a big chance I will be outdoors fishing, swimming or simply just enjoying the serenity....Other than winter as I don't do the cold very well so there is usually a fire! If you see me out and about please feel free to say gday.



You may recall in our April e-News we put a call out on behalf of Maya, a Koori secondary school student from Castlemaine, seeking work experience in a health field. Maya had attended a Weenthunga Health Day in Bendigo, and her mother is a Weenthunga member. We are delighted that Maya was offered several opportunities and chose the Women's Hospital Maternity services for her experience. Whilst in Melbourne, she also attended our Melbourne Health Day dinner and was able to network with a First Australian midwife. Feedback from Maya, and the Women's Hospital was that the experience was enormously beneficial, and an example of Weenthunga networking at its best.

