

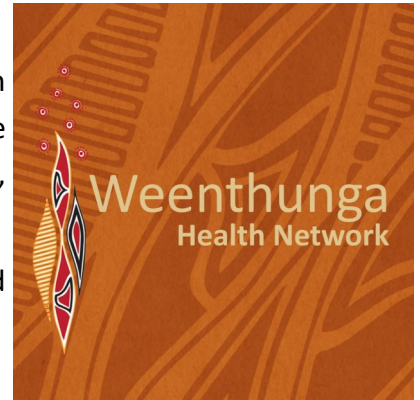
### e-NEWS FOR MEMBERS August 2018

#### Follow us on Facebook

Keep up to date with the latest from Weenthunga Health Network by following our Facebook page! We provide members with current scholarship opportunities, employment opportunities, news and current events.

Help us to expand our network and spread the news and opportunities to your own networks and communities.

[Join the conversation.](#)



#### Seeking Applicants—Executive Officer

The Weenthunga Health Network is seeking a new Executive Officer to take over from the current EO Lin Oke, who is stepping aside but remaining involved with Weenthunga in a supportive capacity.

The new Executive Officer will come with a strong commitment to and interest in working collaboratively with First Australian colleagues and with experience and skills in organisational management and team leadership.

View the position description on [Ethical Jobs](#), and please share the opportunity with your networks.

**Find out more about our wonderful current Executive Officer, and what is next for her, in Lin's profile on Page 2.**

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## Networking to enhance First Australian health in Victoria

### e-NEWS FOR MEMBERS August 2018

#### Staff Profile — Lin Oke

##### Executive Officer

Lin Oke is a lifelong mover and shaker, and is the current Executive Officer of the Weenthunga Health Network. She has been instrumental in the growth of Weenthunga to the respected and valued Victorian organization that it is today. After many years of devotion to this role, she is keen to hand over the reins to another, whilst remaining available and committed to Weenthunga.



##### Where are you from?

My first eight years were spent playing and swimming in the Yarra and I have a strong sense of connection to it, still today. When asked where I come from, as an Australian with English-Irish heritage, I say I come from the Yarra.

##### What is your background in health?

I qualified as an occupational therapist in 1967 and worked in rural hospitals, disability and rehabilitation services around Australia. I later qualified as a neurophysiologist and taught in a range of allied health courses, before moving on to management of health services and associations. I was CEO of OT Australia from 1992—2004, and during this time I instigated, with some allied health colleagues, the formation of the Health Professions Council of Australia. This later became Allied Health Professions Australia, and I held the position of Executive Officer from 2012—2018.

##### How did this lead to Weenthunga?

I established the Weenthunga Health Network in Victoria in 2010 together with a First Australian OT colleague, and have worked hard to build it into the organization it is today. I'm extremely proud of the achievements of the organization and its programs in working towards our vision of enhancing First Australian health in Victoria.

I've had a lifelong commitment to equality between First Australians and Australians, and I have been lucky enough to be enriched by relationships with and mentoring by First Australian health colleagues. I founded the Koori OT Scheme, and established the Australian Indigenous Allied Health Network, the precursor of Indigenous Allied Health Australia. Most recently I have contributed to the development of the Global Network of Indigenous Occupational Therapists.

##### What is next for you?

I would like to continue to contribute to Weenthunga in an ongoing way and as the Weenthunga Committee and staff might value. I am intending to keep having fun before I get old (!), so I'm keen to have a little more time for me... but I will always wish to be a contributor to Weenthunga.

## Networking to enhance First Australian health in Victoria

### e-NEWS FOR MEMBERS August 2018

#### Staff Profile — Sam Paxton

##### Program Leader, Melbourne North-East Suburbs

Sam Paxton has recently joined the Weenthunga staff team in the capacity of Program Leader in Melbourne's North-East suburbs. Her position has been made possible through a generous donation from Weenthunga member Meg Irwin.

Meg's generosity has already seen the implementation of the Meg Irwin Bursary Scheme, and has been available to post-secondary First Australian female health and allied health students facing financial hardship. Her donation to facilitate Sam's position will be a huge step forward in implementing Weenthunga's program in Melbourne's north-east suburbs.

#### Where are you from?

Home to me will always be my Nan's Country; Waywurru Country, which is Wangaratta and surrounds. I grew up on Boon Wurrung Country and now live with my partner and our son on Wurundjeri Country.

#### What is your interest and background in health?

Growing up, my mum was always a big advocate for holistic health, healing and strengthening spirit. A lot of my interest in health comes from her, as well as the health and healthcare experiences that exist in our family and community.

I did a double-degree at Monash University and one of my majors was psychology. I've been involved with social and emotional wellbeing initiatives, including the development of headspace's *Yarn Safe* campaign. I also worked at the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO) for over five years. I loved working with our Members across the state; it's so deadly to see and hear what our orgs are doing to keep mob well.



#### Why did you choose Weenthunga to work with?

I've been involved in Weenthunga for many years in different capacities. I was a guest speaker at two Weenthunga Women's Health Days and I was also a Committee Member. Weenthunga is an organisation that shares a lot of my values and philosophies. When the opportunity came up to support high school girls on their journeys and connect local women, I couldn't say no. My family is very matriarchal and I couldn't agree with the 2018 NAIDOC theme more - "because of her, we can!"

#### What are your hobbies, what do you do in your spare time?

Life with a one year old doesn't make for a lot of spare time! When I'm not working, I spend my time with family and heading to events in community. I enjoy getting creative, meditating and heading to the local river or wetlands.



## Networking to enhance First Australian health in Victoria

### Staff Profile — Suze Radford (Ngarrindjeri)

Program Leader, Bendigo



#### Where are you from?

I grew up in two worlds in many ways, mostly on a farm in the Mallee, but sometimes in Brisbane. Life was full of changes and challenges, but I moved to Melbourne to attend university and went on to live there for 12 years before moving to Bendigo, where I have been for the past 17 years.

I live on 2.5 acres of Ironbark and Grey Box forest in a quiet patch not far from Bendigo CBD. As the busy days come and go I like to retreat to my little place to enjoy the quiet stillness, listen and watch the birds, see the native plants change across the seasons and enjoy all that mother nature shares with us. Currently I live with my 2 children (16 & 21) and my little pooch Willow.

#### What is your interest and background in health?

At University I studied Arts/Law & Social Work. I gave up on the Law degree as I was more interested in working with people in their everyday lives to assist them to overcome adversity, obtain access to social supports and hopefully assist them to be supported in their life journeys in positive ways. Since those early days I have also done a Post Graduate Diploma in Family Therapy and am now completely self-employed as an experienced Mental Health Social Worker & Family Therapist. I also run individual and group supervision sessions for staff working in Aboriginal Co Ops and teach in the University sector, as well as this work with Weenthunga. I have worked in the health and mental health sectors for most of my career, always passionate about advocacy, access, equity and justice. These are the cornerstones of my work, so I find myself attracted to roles that are challenging and rewarding, empowering people through collaboration and sharing.

#### Why did you choose Weenthunga to work with?

I was attracted to working with Weenthunga as my daughter Georgia was one of the first students in the Bendigo program some years ago. Through my involvement I have come to know and understand first hand the power and importance of connecting with our communities. I am a strong believer in the expression “it takes the village (or community) to raise a child” and the Weenthunga model exemplifies this.

During our involvement with Weenthunga, we have developed networks and relationships, and I am excited to progress these further. I am a well connected community member, but also due to my long career in the health and mental health sectors in Bendigo, have strong relationships within the sectors, which can assist education and training pathways for the Weenthunga girls.

#### What are your hobbies, what do you do in your spare time?

During my leisure time I love to go bush walking and hiking (sometimes over night if possible). I love being connected to the land and enjoy indulging my passion for photography at the same time. I also love reading, and creative exercises such as writing, drawing and painting, often creating mixed media pieces and installations which include objects found in the bush I have been exploring. I also like spending time in the garden, going to live music or generally chilling at home. Having two busy children and a lively pooch also keep me very busy. Where possible I like to travel and love the thrill of new places and experiences. I have a deep love of Central Australia and hope one day to work up in community there.



## Networking to enhance First Australian health in Victoria

### e-NEWS FOR MEMBERS August 2018

#### Executive Manager—Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service

Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service is seeking applications for **Executive Manager**—a culturally safe service provider who will assist Aboriginal people in their healing journey, and lead BWAHS as they transition to full independence.

Established in 2006, Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service (BWAHS) provide culturally relevant, accessible, integrated client centered services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, children and men in their healing journey to address the impacts of family violence.



BOORNDAWAN WILLAM  
ABORIGINAL HEALING SERVICE

Servicing the Eastern Metropolitan Region of Victoria, BWAHS use a holistic approach that is underpinned by the integration of Aboriginal teachings within a cultural, spiritual and safe environment.

By delivering specialised services including women's and men's programs, intensive case management, integrated family services and Indigenous victims of crime program, they are supporting individuals and families to become strong on their healing journey so that they may lead lives free from family violence.

View the position description [here](#), and please share the opportunity with your networks.

#### Rowan Nicks Russell Drysdale Fellowship

The Rowan Nicks Russell Drysdale Fellowship is designed to support individuals wanting to make a contribution in the area of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and welfare. The Fellowship particularly aims to support the development of workers and future leaders in Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and welfare. *Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.*

Successful applicants will receive up to \$60,000 towards a salary, support or resources for a period of up to 12 months at a level commensurate with the Fellow's experience, qualifications and project proposal or a stipend and/or payment of course-fees to undertake approved training, education or research.

The Fellowship has previously been awarded to [Kelli McIntosh](#) (Weenthunga President) in 2010 and [Steff Armstrong](#) (Weenthunga Health and Education Consultant) in 2012 to assist with their Indigenous health projects.

The closing date for applications is **21st September 2018**. [Visit the website](#) for details on how to apply.