

# Weenthunga Health Network

**Networking to enhance First Australian health in Victoria**

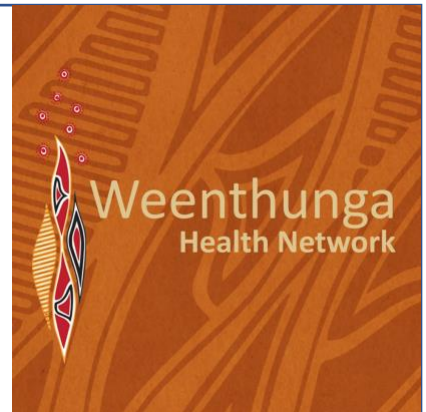
## e-NEWS FOR MEMBERS November 2018

### 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.](#)



### Annual General Meeting

Weenthunga's AGM was held on Thursday 22 November. After last year's minutes were accepted, we went over the reports: President; Manager Programs; Executive Officer; and the Treasurer. The audited financial statement was accepted.

Afterwards, five committee member positions were elected: Full Members Brenda McDermott, Colleen Kelly and Kerrie Thomsen were elected unopposed. Carol Mioduchowski was re-elected, and Meg Irwin was elected as a new committee member.

Weenthunga would like to take this opportunity to thank David Menzies for his contribution to Weenthunga since 2014. We will be looking for ways in which Weenthunga can still benefit from his knowledge and experience in the future, as we do not plan to part with David just yet!

If you would like to read a copy of the 2017-2018 Annual Report, please [follow this link.](#)

### Decolonising Solidarity and White Privilege

Following the AGM, Weenthunga held a panel discussion on "Decolonising Solidarity and White Privilege". The three panellists Steff Armstrong, Clare Land and John Bonnice discussed how Australians can best support First Australians, and how we can all acknowledge and challenge white privilege in our organisations.

The panel discussion was recorded for those unable to attend, and the supporting documents have been uploaded to Weenthunga's website.

[Click here](#) to access the recording and for further information on the panellists.





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### **Welcome Erin McKinnon, Executive Officer**

Weenthunga is very pleased to welcome Erin McKinnon in the role of Executive Officer. Erin has commenced her role this week, and the team are excited to begin working with her on the next chapter of our organisation.

Erin will be working closely with Lin and the team as she steps into the driver's seat over the coming weeks. Weenthunga is so very fortunate to have someone with her acknowledged commitment and experience in working with First Australian colleagues as well as her knowledge and skills for this organizational leadership role.

#### **What is your background?**

I am a fifth-generation Australian of Irish and Scottish descent, experienced in organisational and program management in the not-for-profit and government sectors, and committed to a more just and equitable future for our communities.

#### **Where are you from?**

I was born and raised in Pyramid Hill on Barapa country in northern Victoria where my parents are farmers. I now live in Gisborne on Wurundjeri country with my partner and our two young children.



#### **Where did you work prior to joining Weenthunga?**

I was previously the Statewide Coordinator at Reconciliation Victoria for 8 years, and prior to that worked in Aboriginal Affairs with the Victorian Government and with the International Women's Development Agency managing projects in the Asia-Pacific. I have served on the boards of EastWeb Fund, Alola Australia, and ANTaR Victoria, and am co-founder and a member of the Macedon Ranges Reconciliation Group.

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

I love spending time with family and friends, travel, camping, music and horses.



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### **2018 IAHA Awards – Congratulations Aunty Steff!**

Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) held the 2018 International Indigenous Allied Health Awards on Friday 30 November. Weenthunga's own Aunty Steff Armstrong, Manager Programs, was awarded the Commitment to Indigenous Health Award.

The Awards are an opportunity to recognise the incredible contribution IAHA members make to their professions, and improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and our communities.

Steff is pictured below with Weenthunga Vice President Jacqui Watkins, and founder Lin Oke (left), and fellow 2018 winners of the IAHA Awards (right).

Congratulations Steff!



### **Slice of LIME Seminar – Video Now Online**

The LIME Network (Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education) hosts Slice of LIME Seminars on topics related to Indigenous health and health professional education. The Seminars aim to contribute to sharing knowledge and strengthening capacity amongst the LIME Network membership.

The tenth Slice of LIME Seminar, **National Conference on Indigenous Workforce Leadership – Keynote Sessions and Changemakers Panel**, was held in conjunction with the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, at the University of Queensland on 2 November 2018.

You can [watch the seminar video](#) via the LIME Network YouTube channel.



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### **Staff Profile – Kylie Clarke**

**Program Leader, Geelong**

#### **Where are you from?**

I'm Kylie Clarke, a Gunditjmara, Wotjobaluk and Ngarrindjeri woman through my father's bloodline. I remember grandpa's words: "I'm proud to be a Clarke, I'm proud of my people and of all my family." Many people I've met since speak so highly of the Clarkes, those they'd been connected with and those today. Those words make sense now and I'm so proud to be from that good lineage.

I was born and raised on Wadawurrung Country in Geelong. I've spent most of my life here and although the North's balmy conditions call me every winter, this is where I belong.

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

A healthy life = a quality life. I live by this and instil such messages, encouraging healthy choices and promoting health career options in my program delivery.

I have a double degree in Education and Sport & Outdoor Recreation and have worked in Aboriginal Education & Youth Mentoring for 18 years across various sectors. A highlight: Creating a pathway with Monash University's Faculty of Nursing for a mature-aged student. She appealed to me because she was told "you can't get in". She graduated with honours & is now a Nurse Midwife. I love those stories of success.



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

I wanted to work for a First Australian led organization. I wanted to be managed, surrounded by & supported by mob. I saw it as a great opportunity to bring people together and put Health Careers on the agenda in our local community. With Weenthunga, I could be in a position to positively impact the lives of our young women and play a significant role in their education/career journey. I wanted to be a part of a movement that sees more of our people as Health Practitioners. And, the interview panel of Weenthunga women had good vibes!

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

Anything that can expand my mind and sooth my soul. I love creating – art, projects & vegetarian foods, adventures to discover new places, being immersed in nature, attending community events, enjoying cultural-arts festivals, making random connections with like-minded people. And... when it's football season, I'm going mad over the Western Bulldogs.



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### **Kyralee Murphy-Edwards – Aurora Project Intern**

Weenthunga would like to introduce Kyralee, who has been working with us over a six-week part-time internship through the Aurora Project Internship program.

Kyralee has been working alongside Sam Paxton, Girls' Resilience Program Leader in Melbourne North-East suburbs, as well as undertaking work with Spark Health. Kyralee introduced herself to the Weenthunga network over Facebook:

*Hello you mob!*

*My name is Kyralee Murphy-Edwards. I'm a proud Wakka Wakka, Yorta Yorta, Mutti Mutti, Wemba Wemba Woman.*

*I'm currently in my first year of studying a Bachelor of Public Health at Griffith University, Gold Coast.*

*I've chosen Weenthunga Health Network to host me during my internship because I love how they empower young Aboriginal women by creating pathways and support through their programs to undertake health careers!*

*I believe I can connect with these young sistas they work with, and I'm interested in seeing how they engage and network with mob and organisations in the health sector.*

*Thank you Aunty Steff and Lin for giving me the opportunity to work alongside you and Sam, who has been my mentor throughout my internship!*



Welcome aboard Kyralee! We are glad to have you with us for the duration of your internship, and we wish you all the best in your future studies!

