

# NEWSLETTER

## The AEC In 2006

This year will be "more of the same" – an exciting, expanding programme to help with the education of Indigenous students at all levels. We are in the process of awarding 111 primary, 100 secondary, and up to 15 tertiary scholarships and awards, a record expenditure involving nearly \$90,000. In addition, we are seeking opportunities to provide facilities and equipment to schools with a significant enrolment of Aboriginal students; as well as continuing to financially support the University of Western Sydney's SELF SUPPORT CENTRE, which is researching reasons for lack of self-esteem and self-confidence frequently found in Aboriginal children.

In a nutshell, this is the most progressive and effective program of support for Indigenous students in Australia, and is made possible by the generous support of our donors, and the prudent investment of bequests we have received in recent years.

Whilst we are proud of the AEC's achievements over the past 40-odd years, during which time we have assisted many thousands of students, we have one BIG problem, our Executive Committee consists of people with both educational and business backgrounds, but several of them are long-retired and some have been involved for over 40 years. We need younger people to volunteer their services to ensure the future of the AEC, and the responsible administration of the substantial funds we are now handling. Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March, and you will receive your notice, agenda and reports by early March. Please consider becoming a member of the Executive Committee on this occasion, and be a part of the valuable work we are doing.

The AGM will also be an opportunity for members to see our new office, which is situated in the grounds of Alexandria Park Community School. I am sure you will be impressed with the small but modern premises we occupy, and the efficient way the administration is functioning. The location is in Power Avenue, just off Wyndham Street, Alexandria; which is a principal route connecting Sydney Airport with the City.

I am sure members and supporters will wish to join with the members of Executive Committee and staff in offering our deepest sympathy to our President James Wilson-Miller on the sad loss of his oldest son Jamie, following a long illness. The last months or so have been a very sad time for Jamie's family, and our deepest condolences are offered to them all.

**Geoff Hogan AM**  
**Senior Vice-President.**

### **Notice of Annual General Meeting**

Please be advised that the Annual General Meeting  
Of the Aboriginal Education Council will be held on:-

Monday 27 March 2006

Community Centre

Alexandria Park Community School

Power Avenue (Off Wyndham Street), Alexandria

At 6.30pm

## Special Projects & Programs.

In 2005, due the generous support of our Donors, the AEC was able to fund various projects within NSW Schools.

### Rewards Program for Yass Public School, Berinba Public School & Yass High School.

The aim of the project was to encourage, support and reward Koori students in the local area with the provision of tangible rewards at school's presentation nights, for academic, sporting and school attendance achievements. The rewards were delivered with collaboration between local schools, parents, students and the wider community.

These students received the following Awards:-

#### Yass Public School



Jinaya McFeeters (High Level of enthusiasm for all School Activities), Jacob Davison (Effort & Improvement Award) and Sarah Davison (Effort & Improvement)

#### Berinba Public School



Richie Jay Bell (Academic Achievement Award), Chantelle Taylor (Academic and Sporting Award) and Jordan Ritters (Encouragement Award)

#### Yass High School



Melanie Hicks  
Winanggaay Award



Aaron Chatfield  
Winanggaay Award



Dwayne (Buster) Connors Encouragement and Improvement Award.

Awards for Completion of Year 10 Certificates were also presented to:-



Sandra Hicks, Sam Jones, Matheaw Ross (absent) and Clinton Slater.

The project was submitted for approval to the AEC by Mr Greg Chatfield. Mr Chatfield, as both a community liaison person and a parent, is well aware of what is needed to assist Indigenous students in staying on at school and achieving their Higher School Certificate.

## **Winnegai means achievement**

**By Jane Baker**  
**Yass Tribune**

Mr Greg Chatfield, a Wallawan man of Kamilaroi Wallawan parents, last December presented the inaugural Winnegai Awards at the annual Yass High School Presentation Night. He did so as the guide and mentor of students who had come to know and respect him as a friend and mentor in his role as Aboriginal Schools and Community Liaison Officer.

One of the awardees was year 12 student Mel Hicks who has accepted a place at Canberra University in 2006 and hopes to pursue a Bachelor of Arts with a view to a teaching career.

The principal of Yass High School, Mr Paul Bills, describes Greg as “the best of the best—really outstanding”. He said that in the period Mr Chatfield worked among the four schools, Yass, Berinba and Bowning Public Schools and Yass High, last year very positive things happened. He noticed a real attitudinal change among some students.



At this point there is no indication that Mr Chatfield will be employed by the NSW Department of Education this year despite funding announcements by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Milton Orkopolous in early January as well as the support of local principals and the local member, Katrina Hodgkinson. He previously worked under a mix of federal and state government funding through Campbell Page.

Mr Chatfield is very proud of the fact that four Indigenous students will be in Year 12 this year. With his encouragement some young people who have dropped out of school are returning to school this year. He is convinced that students need role models and guidance to help them develop goals and strive to achieve. He says he is prepared to work in a voluntary capacity until he is officially appointed.

# Jindabyne Public School

**Totem Poles, Adopt a Plant, Aboriginal Mural, Aboriginal Display Wall.**



Due to a strong connection between the area and Aboriginal groups that have travelled to Jindabyne for many decades, Jindabyne Public School set about finding ways of acknowledging and building cultural awareness within the school to encourage students, staff and the visiting community to understand and share the importance of their local history.

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## Western Sydney Region

**Project:** To employ local Aboriginal artists to provide workshops for students to promote school-community partnerships and address Aboriginal perspectives across the curriculum K-12.

This project is a component of the Bourke Yaamma Festival where students were invited to attend a series of Aboriginal workshops facilitated by young local Indigenous artists. These workshops provide a framework for students' representation of traditional and contemporary issues, where students have the opportunity to explore art-making practices with the local artists.

The project aims to extend core arts curriculum K-6 and visual arts 7-10, extend literacy skills of Aboriginal students K-12, provide activities to engage Aboriginal students, Encourage and support the participation of Aboriginal parents and community members in decisions regarding the planning, delivery and evaluation of pre-school, primary and secondary education services for their children and to increase the number of Aboriginal people employed as teachers' assistants, and other education workers, including community people engaged in teaching Aboriginal Culture, history and contemporary society through art.



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## Matraville Sports High School

The nature of the project is to form a remote control race club which is a follow-on from a Small Engines' Remote Control race car building program delivered at the school to engage Youth at Risk to stay at school longer. Participants each build remote control petrol driven race cars as part of the program as well as gain knowledge in accredited skills related to tools and Occupational Health and Safety.

Aims and objectives of the project are;- starting, building and maintaining friendships, working individually and part of a team, listening to and understanding instructions and Punctuality – being organised and on time.

## Some Courses of Interest

### ***Get Skilled*** **Hairdressing Course**

**Customised for Aboriginal  
and Torres Strait Islander women**

Are you an unemployed Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander woman, wanting to re-enter the workforce?

TAFE NSW - Sydney Institute is offering a free, 12 week, full-time *Get Skilled* course at Ultimo College from 13 February – June 2006.

Work experience, apprenticeship opportunities and learning support available.

Each student will get a make over, photo session PLUS their own make-up/grooming kit.

#### **Where**

Ultimo College, Markus Clarke Building (Building W)  
Level 4 George St, Sydney (opposite Railway Square)

#### **Contact**

Karen Davies, Aboriginal Coordinator on 02 9469 8509

Denise Wright, Head Teacher on 02 9217 5135 or

Course Information on 1300 360 601

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www.education.nsw.gov.au

TAFE  
SOUTH WESTERN SYDNEY DISTRICT

Preparation for work or further study –  
**Certificate 111**  
**in Aboriginal Access to Further Studies**  
18 Weeks Full-Time  
is being offered in Semester 1, 2006 at  
**Bankstown College**

Preparation for work or study toward

- Police Officer
- Australian Customs Officer
- Corrective Services Employee
- Aboriginal Liaison Officer
- Other Government Agencies Worker

Or preparation for study at TAFE or University  
Commencing : 20<sup>th</sup> February 2006  
Finishing : 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006

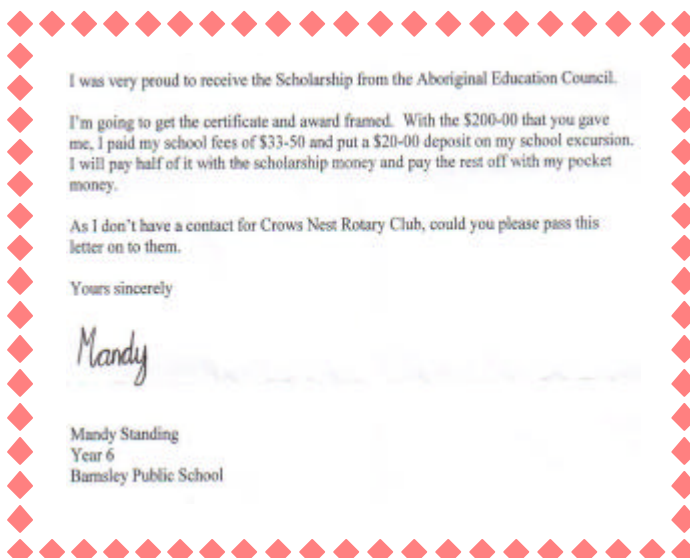
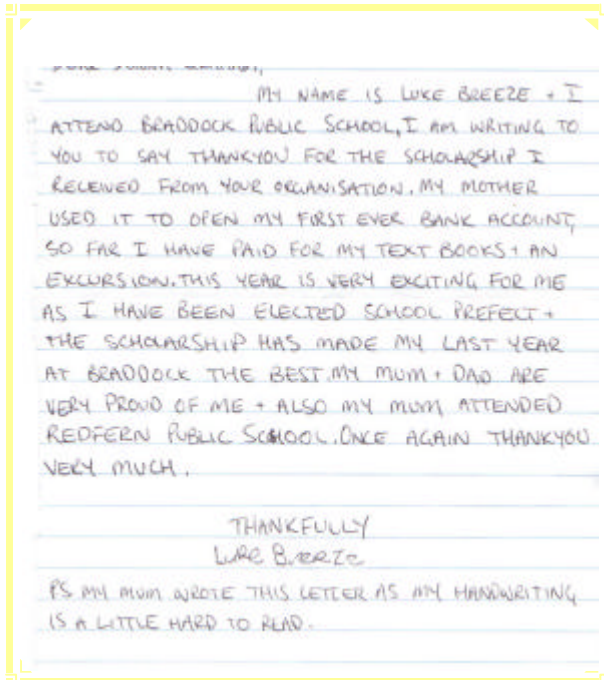
**Information Session**  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February - 10:30am-12:00 pm  
Conference Room EG08, Ground Floor, E Building

**Enrolment Session**  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February - 10:30am- 12:30 pm  
Conference Room EG08, Ground Floor, E Building  
Bankstown College 500 Chapel Road, Bankstown

Contact Course Information on (3780 550) for details  
(or Course Coordinator Awa Marriot on 97809374 after 5th February)

**Anyone interested in these courses, should contact the details above.**

## Some letters from our scholarship recipients!



We are grateful to the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, Gwen Watt, Norman Catts Memorial Trust, Patricia Brown-Eklund Fund, Country Women's Association, Jo Pender Memorial Trust, Rotary Clubs of Crowns Nest and Kings Cross, Dept of Education Links to Learning, Mick Young Trust, James N. Kirby Foundation for their support, together with Mrs Rassaby and the many donors to the Council

**ATTENTION MEMBERS!**

**ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN, AND SUPPORT OUR EDUCATIONAL WORK IN THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY.**

**BROCHURES WITH APPLICATION FORM**

**WANTED  
NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN THE AEC**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO MAKE YOUR DONATION TO THE ABORIGINAL EDUCATION COUNCIL**

(Please cut along here)

I enclose my remittance covering the following:

Mr  
Mrs.....  
.....  
Miss (First Name) Surname  
Ms  
.....  
.....  
(Address)  
.....  
.....

|    |   |          |
|----|---|----------|
| 1. | Year 2006 Membership Fee  | \$ 10.00 |
| 2. | Donation towards Primary Scholarships (\$200 each)                                | \$.....  |
| 3. | Donation towards Secondary Scholarships<br>( \$300 for 1 year, \$600 for 2 years) | \$.....  |
| 4. | Donation towards Tertiary Awards (\$3,000 each)                                   | \$.....  |
| 5. | Donation towards Tertiary Awards in honour of the<br>late Ron Pert (\$ 3,000)     | \$.....  |