



Pemulwuy

Newsletter of the NSW AECG Inc.

October 2015

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Language & Culture Forum

Sydney Institute of TAFE



Have your say

Want to have your say?

Let everyone know the great things happening in your Local or Regional AECG. To be published, send your photos and stories to: info@aecg.nsw.edu.au

The NSW AECG Inc. would like to Acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we work, and pay our respect to Elders past and present.

From the President...



Welcome to another jam packed edition of the latest Pemulwuy. The NSW AECG has been busy running professional learning on putting an Aboriginal perspective and content into the curriculum and our Healthy Culture Healthy Country program which provides professional development on Aboriginal cultural education is kicking off.

The NSW AECG has now got an App. It is available for download in the Apple, windows and google plus stores. It has up to date information on Local and Regional AECG locations, events, videos of recent Connecting to Country events and a whole lot more. Please check it out!!

Recently, someone said to me "Before the AECG go off and do their own thing...." I reflected on that comment, and thought there is another word for that ... and it is self-determination. We have a long and proud practice in the NSW AECG of self-determining our future. Pemulwuy, the newsletter of the NSW AECG, highlights just some of these practices. I hope you enjoy and are inspired reading them, as I am.

Cindy Berwick
President
NSW AECG Inc.

Advancing NSW Aboriginal Languages & Culture through Education

This two day forum was held at Sydney Institute of TAFE and showcased the positive work being done in schools, TAFE and across Aboriginal communities in the area of language. Hence the importance of the theme for the conference being: Recover, Re – voice and Re – practice.

Keynote presenter for the conference was Dr Shayne Williams. He is the Aboriginal Languages and Cultures Consultant with the NSW AECG Inc. Dr Williams has been involved in developing a community centred strategy for the implementation of Aboriginal language and culture nests in NSW.

Over the 2 days, participants had the opportunity to attend a series of workshops. These included presentations from, Moree East Public School, an overview of the BOSTES Draft Languages Stage 6 Languages Endorsed Course, Language Acquisition by Michael Jarrett and MGoals by Aaron Hughes amongst others.

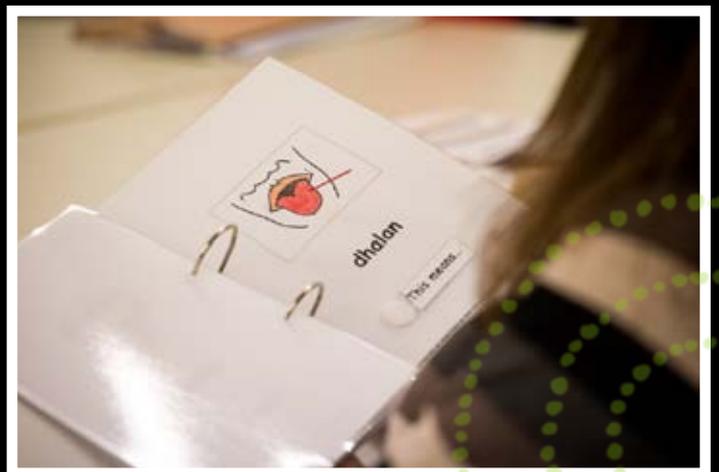
The conclusion of the conference saw participants engage in a series of fieldwork experiences including a cruise on the Tribal Warrior.

For further information, contact the NSW AECG Secretariat on 9550 5666 or info@aecg.nsw.edu.au





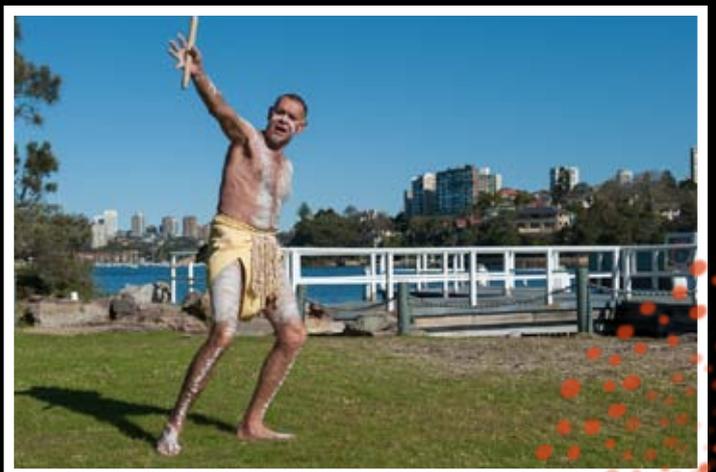




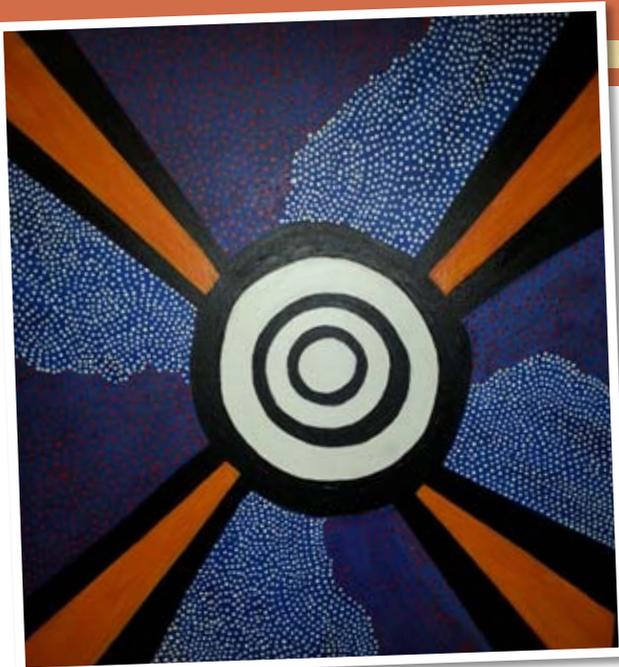












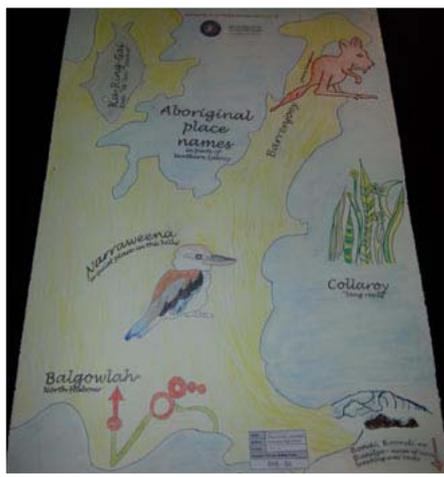
Peninsula Community of Schools

Northern Sydney Region

The Peninsula Community of Schools (PCS) held its combined NAIDOC celebration at Avalon Public School under the theme of 'One Community Many Stories'. Coordinator, Sharon Smithies undertook the mammoth task of bringing schools, teachers, students and the Aboriginal community together for a memorable occasion.

A select number of students from each of the PCS erected tents and camped out under the stars on the back oval of the school. The following day, these students from the participating schools were taken up to West Head where they visited the Basin Aboriginal Site and told about local Aboriginal heritage and culture.

Students from each school showcased their artworks in the hall. A traditional welcome dance was performed by Gerard McMinn, AEO at Stewart House.



The PCS event also coincides with the Guringai Festival which celebrates Aboriginal culture and heritage across Northern Sydney. Founded in 2001, the Guringai Festival aims to raise awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the Northern Sydney region. The festival usually starts on Sorry Day, 26 May and goes through to the end of NAIDOC Week, the second week in July each year. The festival involves 11 Councils and numerous reconciliation and community groups. Events include workshops, art exhibitions, performances, films and talks. For more details on the Guringai Festival, visit:

<http://www.guringaifestival.com.au/>

Further information on the PCS can be found by contacting Sharon Smithies at sharon.smithies@det.nsw.edu.au



NAIDOC Artwork on show at the PCS art exhibition

Healthy Culture Healthy Country

Recently NSW AECG held Day 1 of the *Healthy Culture Healthy Country* course at TAFE Western in Dubbo with teachers from Coonamble High School, Coonamble Public School and Moree East Public School along with Aboriginal Education Workers from these same communities. This 3 day course has been developed by Dr Shayne Williams, Consultant in Language and Culture with the NSW AECG.

The *Healthy Culture Healthy Country* course comprises 3 days of learning that contributes 15 hours of Quality Teaching Council registered professional development from the Australian Professional Learning Standards for Teachers towards maintaining Proficient Teacher Accreditation in NSW.

The *Healthy Culture Healthy Country* course offers participants an opportunity to advance their knowledge and understanding of how to:

- Develop a local cultural education program
- Deliver a local Aboriginal cultural education program
- Work effectively with local Aboriginal peoples and communities

For further information, contact the NSW AECG Secretariat on 9550 5666.



NAIDOC

@ Bankstown

The Bankstown Local AECG in conjunction with nearby schools and the involvement of community organisations focussed their talents around art for their NAIDOC celebrations.

Lyn Martin, Vice President of the Bankstown Local AECG said the works produced by the young artists highlighted the local talent of these young people.

The works were displayed at the Bankstown Arts Centre during NAIDOC Week. The local Mayor, Linda Downey spoke of the strong connections to the Aboriginal community through the Dharug people. She explained how important it was to acknowledge this link.



Lyn Martin and Bankstown Youth Development Services Tim Bishop with some of the NAIDOC artworks.

NAIDOC

@ the AECG Secretariat

This year's NAIDOC theme 'We all stand on sacred ground' is as pertinent as ever. Over 50 people turned up to our place of work in Stanmore to join us in celebrating and recognising the importance of NAIDOC. Nathan Moran, CEO of the Metropolitan Land Council performed an Acknowledgement of Country. He explained the significance of land and water across the Sydney area and spoke of the sites that link our culture to the Dreaming and how the area has literally one of the biggest art 'gallery' in the world of Indigenous culture.

A sumptuous BBQ of kangaroo sausages and kangaroo kebabs, 'johnny cakes' and a range of bush tucker jams and dips provided those in attendance with a fine feed indeed.

Wood engraving of boomerangs, a weaving workshop and Aboriginal games complimented the afternoon proceedings.



NAIDOC

Week

@ St Scholastica's College, Glebe

NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee) week occurred nationally from 5th-12th July this year. At 'Schols' they celebrated NAIDOC in the last week of Term 2 with a range of activities and a poster competition to recognise the amazing contributions that our Aboriginal peoples make nationally, locally and there at the school. In the weeks leading up to the NAIDOC celebrations, the 'Schols' NAIDOC Committee organised a poster competition based



on this year's theme "We all Stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect, Celebrate". Individual and homeroom entries were submitted and the amount and quality of entries were overwhelming. The posters were displayed in the library and judged by the Principal. On the Tuesday of Week 9, the school held a Mufti Day to raise funds for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. Students were encouraged to wear black, red or yellow, as well as blue, green or white to represent our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags.



On the Wednesday the school's Aboriginal students formed the Indigenous All Stars and versed the Teachers in a volley ball game that was held at lunch. While the teachers had all the moves and were tenacious in their volley ball prowess, so were the students and by a stroke of luck the girls won both the games. It was a great game with lots of fun and laughing.

The biggest event of their NAIDOC Week celebrations was held on the last Thursday of Term 2. A Welcome to Country and Flag Raising Ceremony was conducted on the school grounds led by Aboriginal Elder Uncle

Greg of the Eora Nation from the La Perouse Community. The Aboriginal Studies students, school leaders and special guests also witnessed a performance by Yapa Mala (the 'Schols' Aboriginal dancers) followed by a morning tea in the Boarding School where artwork, the HSC Aboriginal Studies Major Projects and the Aboriginal Studies blog were all unveiled.

Ryde Local AECG Partnership Signing with Gibberagong Environmental Education Centre

Gibberagong Environmental Education Centre is located within the Ku ring gai Chase National Park. This centre has established an ongoing working relationship with Ryde Local AECG to develop a number of programs for staff, schools and their students. A partnership was signed to endorse this relationship. The Partnership Agreement is important in fostering collaboration between Aboriginal and non- Aboriginal people in promoting a better understanding of our shared history, respect and acceptance of both cultures and recognition of the unique place Aboriginal people have in this country.



**Jules Woodhouse, Ryde Local AECG President,
David Smith, Principal at Gibberagong EEC and
Aunty Kerry Smith, AEO at Marsden High School**

Gibberagong Environmental Education Centre supports student learning and teacher training in the integration of environmental education and fieldwork into the school curriculum. The centre has the unique opportunity to enhance teaching and student learning by direct interaction with the environment. Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and Muogamarra Nature Reserve provide diverse habitats for a variety of fieldwork options. The centre's programs are based on experimental learning. Student centred activities form the basis of our fieldwork methodology. Best environmental practices are used in teaching, learning and the centre's management.

The partnership signing was a state first between an Environmental Education Centre and a Local AECG.

For more information on visiting this Environmental Education Centre, contact Gibberagong Environmental Education Centre at <http://gibberagongeec.nsw.edu.au/>



Better Thinking

A Short Course in Critical Thinking Skills for AECG Members

This course run in conjunction with NSW AECG and Sydney Institute of TAFE, Petersham College is designed to challenge the way you think.

The latest delivery of this course for AECG members was held at Lightning Ridge in north western NSW.

Members attended the 2 day course and learnt a number of skills including:

- The difference between critical and uncritical thinking
- About blocks to critical thinking
- A practical approach in how to think critically
- Ways you can use critical thinking to solve problems





Connecting to Country

Inner City Local AECG



The Inner City Local AECG ran a successful Connecting to Country Program for teachers from Alexandria Park Community School and Green Square school. The Connecting to Country Program consisted of visits to local Aboriginal organisations such as the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Council, National Centre for Indigenous Excellence and Koori Radio, a day in the city at the Botanical Gardens and on the Tribal Warrior Cultural Cruise, and a day talking to parents, students, and community members about what they want from teachers, schools and education. Students from the University of Sydney Aboriginal Studies Teaching methods class also joined the group and completed an assessment task on the importance of the experience for teachers, schools,

Aboriginal students and their families and communities.

There was much positivity from all involved in the program and the following comments reflect this:



... because the people who were involved got a positive response from the teachers and there was a friendly atmosphere and the teachers wanted to hear what we had to say it was breaking the barriers for us ... parent

As a non-Australian/non-Indigenous person I have sometimes felt shy when speaking or reaching out to the

Indigenous community fearing that I would do something culturally incorrect or not be accepted. Today I feel honoured to be part of this immersion course and feel confident and empowered by what I have learnt to go out into the community and connect ... teacher

The quantity and quality of knowledge available to us through our meeting at the MLALC (land



council) was immeasurable. The expertise of the community was the focus of the experience, and that expertise was profound, engaging, and incredibly educative ... university student

The Connecting to Country experience was then followed up with teaching and cultural mentors for each of the teachers involved in the program. The aim of this is to support them integrate what they had learnt from the cultural immersion into their daily teaching practice to create better learning environments for their students and engage more effectively with parents and community members. Again everyone involved in this part of the program reported that it has made a difference to how they approach teaching Aboriginal students and curriculum. One teacher talks about how much she learnt from her cultural mentor:

My cultural mentor had a great amount of knowledge which was fantastic and we had a lot of really good conversations. We created a three-week program structured around public speaking as I am running the Great Debate program at my school this year ... we created three afternoons and I mean kids stayed after school which is unheard of...



Connecting to Country

Nambucca

Earlier in April, the Nambucca Valley Local AECG held a three day Connecting To Country experience inviting Principals and Teachers from the Valley 10 Schools to participate in this program. Over day 1 explored the Nambucca Valley, visited Aboriginal Agencies, gained an insight to Culture and how all service Aboriginal families. ie: Muurrbay Language & Cultural Center, Giiguy Gamambi Preschool and Darrimba Maarra Health Clinic. These three days highlighted the Connection to the three Towns Nambucca, Bowraville and Macksville, the family connections and Gumbaynggirr People. Thanks to Aunty Violet Perry, Uncle Bud Marshall and Uncle Robert Edwards for their time.



Day 2 We travelled around the country town of Bowraville which included the History of The Stolen Generation and Testimonies, Bowraville Land Council where Freedom Ride was discussed, Miimi Mothers, Ngambaga Bindarray Girrwa (Gumbaynggir Elders), Racecourse History & Saint Mary's Primary School, and finally Bowraville Mission. Thanks to Aunty Sandra Buchanan and Aunty Ann Flanders for travelling with the staff and sharing their time and journey of this little old town of Bowraville.

Day 3 kicked off with the Gaagal Wanggaan National Park History which led to a 2.5 hour walk through South Beach (Gaagal Wanggaan). During this tour we heard about Gumbaynggir peoples creation story and how the Sea was made. We also learnt spiritual connection of the Ocean, Land and Rivers we became aware of the endangered marine life as well as climate change and impacts on our beaches. Thank you to Unkya Local Aboriginal Land Council and their Rangers.



A History of the AECG Building



Many of our members have visited the NSW at 37 Cavendish St, Stanmore. This building is quite large and was built over 100 years ago. This article will provide a timeline account and history of this significant place.

The area around Stanmore is located on Cadigal Country. The adjacent harbour and waterways provided most of the food sources for these Aboriginal peoples. The arrival of the First Fleet changed this area and the lifestyles of the Cadigal peoples forever.

Stanmore was given its name by the prosperous saddler John Jones. Stanmore was his birth place in Middlesex, a north London suburb. He purchased his land where the current site of Newington College is. The area became known as the Stanmore Estate. Stanmore Road opened in 1835 and Stanmore railway station in 1878. The growth of Stanmore boomed in the 1890s and 1890s.



The building where NSW AECG now resides was built in 1888 during these growth times. A search of the property valuations for 1928 shows the building valued at £300. Today this value is equivalent to just over \$1 million.

The current name of the house, *Garfield*, was given in 1923.

Property Owner Details – 37 Cavendish Street, Stanmore

1888	John BARDSLEY A single lot is recorded	New building House
1889	John BARDSLEY Owner Occupies the property later known as number 37. Note: two separate lots are recorded, each containing a house. BARDSLEY is listed as the owner of both.	House
1902-10	John BARDSLEY Owner/occupier	House – 9 rooms
1914	John BARDSLEY Owner Note: BARDSLEY owns both numbers 35 & 37	Brick dwelling House name – <i>Garfield</i> Note: the name of house number 35 is recorded as <i>Centennial</i>

1914	Note: Houses in Cavendish Street were renumbered in 1914. House number 37 was previously number 4; 35 was previously number 2	
1917	John BARDSLEY Owner	Brick dwelling – 7 rooms No house name is recorded for either number 35 or 37
1920	Property transferred from John BARDSLEY Occupation: Merchant to Vera Ellen SAXBY Occupation: Domestic Duties There is a connection between BARDSLEY and SAXBY. SAXBY'S father John Hindle (former member of the Legislative Council) was a manager at John BARDSLEY & Co. Hindle's obituary in 1927 states that his home was in Cavendish Street. Note: SAXBY purchased both number 35 & 37 from BARDSLEY	Brick dwelling - 9 rooms House name - <i>Centennial</i> Note: it seems the house names were recorded incorrectly for the years 1920-1923, as house number 35 is recorded <i>Garfield</i>
1924- 1926	Vera Ellen SAXBY Owner <u>Building application</u> 1926 – Application for subdivision Application #87 Note: although this application was submitted to Petersham Council, there seems to have been no subsequent subdivision.	Brick dwelling - 10 rooms House name - <i>Centennial</i> Note: house Number 35 was named <i>Garfield</i>
1927	Property transferred from Vera Ellen SAXBY to Cornelius John O'BRIEN Owner/occupier Occupation: Merchant <u>Building applications</u> 1928 - Building Application seeking conversion to flats Application #187 1929 - Application for Subdivision Application #4 Note: This was a large property. Although it was known as number 37, the number would have been 37-41.	House House name - <i>Garfield</i> Sec 7 Lots Pt 15/16 59' x 198'

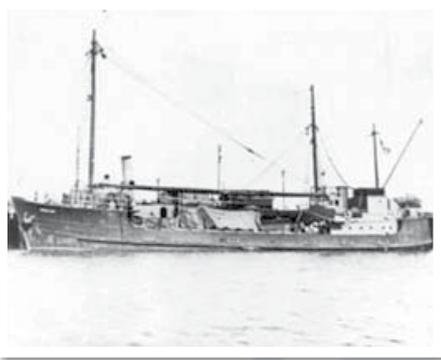
1930	Cornelius John O'BRIEN	2 Flats
1949	Property transferred from Estate of Cornelius John O'BRIEN to George William MILES Owner Occupation: Storekeeper	2 Flats
1950	Property transferred from George William MILES to Mrs Jean Eva COUCH	Flats
1959	Mrs Jean Eva COUCH Owner/occupier Occupation: Domestic Duties	Flats & car shelter House name "Garfield" Sec 7 Lots Pt 15/16 59' x 198'
1974	Property transferred from Mrs J E COUCH to Inner city Education Centre Co-operative Limited	Sec 7 Lot Pts 16/16 17.98 x 60.35
1984	NSW AECG Inc.	



Aerial photo of 37 Cavendish St, Stanmore circa 1943.

The NSW AECG has now been at this address since 1984. Those who have visited us will be familiar how busy it can get here and appreciate the role that we play in Aboriginal Education throughout the state.

The Loss of HMAS Patricia Cam



A routine mission near Darwin during WW2 ended in disaster for one Navy ship.

The HMAS Patricia Cam was a wooded-hulled former fishing boat built at Brisbane Waters near Gosford in NSW.

With the outbreak of war, Patricia Cam was requisitioned as an auxiliary minesweeper and was commissioned on 3 March 1942.



Patricia Cam survivors back in Darwin

On 8 March 1942 Patricia Cam sailed from Sydney and headed north. Arriving in Darwin on 5 April, she was employed as a general purpose vessel, which included store carrying and in May salvage on the wreck of the American ship *Don Isidoro*. The transportation of personnel and supplies around the north and north-western coastline continued throughout 1942.

On January 13, 1943, the ship sailed from Darwin carrying stores and passengers for the outlying missions. En route from Millingimbi Mission to Elcho Island with a ship's company of 18, the Methodist Reverend Leonard Kentish and five Aboriginal parishioners, including Paddy a local pilot from Millingimbi Mission, Patricia Cam was spotted by a Japanese Navy float plane and bombed.

The bomb scored a direct hit on the vessel and it subsequently sank. Both lifeboats were destroyed, leaving survivors clinging to the one remaining raft and other floating debris. Ordinary Seaman Neil Penglase and 2 Aboriginal passengers were killed. The sea plane returned to drop another bomb and circled to shell the remaining survivors.

The 18 remaining survivors clung to the raft made it ashore to a rocky islet in the Cumberland Strait in the early hours of the next morning. Two of the survivors, Stoker 2nd Class Percy Cameron and an Aboriginal passenger succumbed to their injuries during the first day of landing ashore.

On the island, there was plenty of fresh water and the surviving Aboriginal passenger's knowledge was invaluable in providing food in the way of edible roots and shellfish. The survivors were eventually rescued by HMAS Kuru and on 27 January 1943 and returned to Darwin 2 days later.



Patricia Cam beach message which read, 'PATCAM - Bombed - No Food - Plenty Water'

Did you know...

1982

5th March:
NSW Department of
School Education
Aboriginal Education
Policy (first in Australia)
launched, Redfern.

1968

27th February:
Lionel Rose wins the
world bantamweight
title from Japan's
'Fighting' Harada in
Tokyo.

1955

3rd January:
The film Jedda, co-
starring Aboriginal
actors Tudawali &
Ngarla Kunoth, is first
screened in Darwin.

1902

28th July:
Central Australian
artist Albert
Namatjira is born.

1999

18th March:
In its first adverse report on
a western nation, the United
Nations Committee on the
Elimination of All Forms of
Racial Discrimination states
that the amendments to the
1993 Native Title Act are racially
discriminatory and not comply
with Australia's international
obligations.

1931

6th November:
Aboriginal cricketer
Eddie Gilbert bowls Don
Bradman for a duck at
the Gabba in Brisbane.

2000

28th May:
More than 250,000
people march across the
Harbour Bridge in support
of reconciliation. Prime
Minister John Howard
declines to participate.

2000

1st August:
Justice Maurice O'Loughlin
rules that the Stolen
Generation does exist,
stating that 'Neither the
evidence nor the reasons
for judgement deny the
existence of the Stolen
Generation'.



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