



stepping stones

ISSUE 22 · DECEMBER 2017

DRIVING OPPORTUNITIES



CEO MESSAGE



STEPHANIE HARVEY, CEO

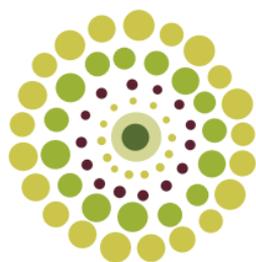
Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities to sow the seeds of positive change is what ICV is all about.

We develop long-term and meaningful relationships with each of our community partners. We don't just leave after an activity is finished. Instead, we follow up asking 'is there anything else that we could do to support you?'

It's not uncommon for ICV volunteers to continue their own relationship with communities and support them for many years after the initial activity is finished.

These committed relationships show the power of people supporting people, which of course, includes our wonderful supporters who help all of this to happen.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Stepping Stones and the inspiring success stories.



Readers should be aware that this newsletter may contain images and names of deceased people.

On page 6, you can read about a community organisation in Perth assisting ex-offenders to reintegrate into society. *Ngalla Maya* provides holistic care and job training for its participants. ICV volunteers Bruce and Lynette have worked with Ngalla Maya on a funding submission to expand and grow their vital program.

Then on page 10, you can read about a community in Central Australia aiming to support men who are struggling with serious issues. *Blokes on Track* will provide a healing environment out on Country so men are feeling healthy and confident. ICV volunteer Stephen has been helping the group with a plan to get this resource up and running.

And on page 15, ICV volunteer Russell gives a fantastic insight into the support provided and relationships built between our volunteers and community members.

There are many positive stories of remarkable things happening within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

I see it every day in the work we are doing in partnership with people, and I hope you see it too in the stories inside this edition of Stepping Stones.

Thank you for all your support throughout 2017.



Ngalla Maya provides literacy and numeracy education for participants in a range of West Australian prisons and juvenile justice centres.



Securing land to mentor youth in Townsville

The Garbutt Magpies Sporting and Cultural Association located in Townsville have had a significant impact on the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Many members of the Association are today's respected community leaders who have lived healthy, active and highly engaged lives, and are valuable role models for younger generations.

The dream for the Garbutt Magpies is to have their own clubhouse and ground to meet and deliver mentoring programs and activities. ICV volunteer Colin worked with the community organisation on a successful submission which secured the Magpies a 30 year lease on unused government land.



Services for Aboriginal men who use violence

Supporting remembrance in Walgett

The Dharriwaa Elders Group in Walgett NSW aims to promote local Aboriginal cultural knowledge and identity in the community.

The Elders are planning to build an Aboriginal Memorial Garden in the local cemetery as a place for community members to gather and remember those who have passed.

With land at the cemetery allocated for the project, the Elders approached ICV for support on a funding submission to develop the Memorial Garden.

We connected the Dharriwaa Elders with skilled volunteer Steve who worked with the group on the submission which has now been lodged with the Walgett Shire Council.

We look forward to keeping you up to date with their progress.



You can visit the AMHC website at www.amhc.org.au

Building a platform for healing and support in Pilbara

Aboriginal Men's Healing Centre (AMHC) is being established to put a stop to domestic violence in the Pilbara Region of WA.

ICV and AMHC partnered on a range of activities over the past year, including funding submissions and land surveying, to ensure this vital resource gets off the ground.

Another key activity has been a website which ICV volunteer Peter has been supporting the community group to develop. Now complete, the new website will play a significant role in marketing AMHC to attract potential clients, supporters and funders.

PILBARA,
WA



Walgett cemetery



WALGETT,
NSW

SUPPORTING A SECOND CHANCE AT POSITIVE CHANGE IN WA



Ngalla Maya is a not-for-profit organisation located in Perth WA, designed to reduce Australia's disturbing Indigenous incarceration rate and bring about positive change within the prison system.

Operating since 2014, Ngalla Maya supports Aboriginal people of Western Australia who have been released from prison to reintegrate into society. They aim to inspire current and former inmates to commit to training and education opportunities that lead to employment.

Ngalla Maya provides literacy and numeracy education for participants in a range of West Australian prisons and juvenile justice centres. Once released, they organise employment training that prepare people for a variety of industries, then find them job placements and provide ongoing mentoring.

The strength of Ngalla Maya lies in its ability to form relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and create a safe and comfortable space for clients.

The organisation has achieved enormous success rehabilitating and finding employment for ex-offenders. Running on only the passion of volunteers, Ngalla Maya's founders Merv and Aaron knew they could achieve even greater success with funding support.

They invited ICV to assist on a funding submission to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. ICV connected Ngalla Maya with skilled volunteers Bruce and Lyn who have worked with them over the past few years, building a business case and finalising their funding applications.

Excitingly their submission was successful, with the Department deciding to invest heavily in Ngalla Maya's Reintegration Program, allowing the organisation to grow and reach even more people.

"The support given by ICV and its volunteers has been instrumental in the successful approval of numerous grants and funding applications," said Aaron from Ngalla Maya.

"Ngalla Maya's funding enables us to carry on our vital work to the most critically vulnerable and to their families also."



Ngalla Maya participants displaying their hospitality skills

"Ngalla Maya's funding enables us to carry on our vital work to the most critically vulnerable and to their families also."

- AARON FROM NGALLA MAYA

WILUNA

OPEN DAY 2017



Muntjiltjarra Wurrugumu Group (MWG) is an Elders group in the remote town of Wiluna, WA which helps to break down communication barriers between the local Aboriginal community, industry and government agencies.

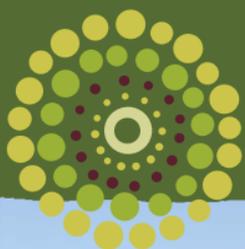
Each year, MWG holds the *Wiluna Open Day* to provide community members with an opportunity to access vital government services.

On the day, government agency representatives attend Wiluna to offer driver's licence testing, assistance applying for identity documents and cards (such as birth certificates and Medicare cards) and aid paying off fines.

This year, ICV was invited to support MWG with organising and coordinating this important day.

A good turnout ensured many Wiluna community members benefitted from resources and assistance that will support them to access employment and lifestyle opportunities.





BLOKES ON TRACK



Blokes on Track Aboriginal Corporation (BOTAC) is a group of men who have big ambitions. BOTAC plans to play a role in addressing some of the significant challenges facing Aboriginal people and communities living in Central Australia and contribute to a more positive future.

Some of the major problems BOTAC is aiming to address are low life expectancy, homelessness, high incarceration rates, domestic violence and suicide.

BOTAC organisers will tackle these issues by working closely with men who have been struggling for a long time, helping them to get their lives back on track.

The men will be given ongoing education and support from outstanding male role models in a safe environment, where they can feel secure and connected to Country.

ALICE SPRINGS, NT

The program will help the men to take responsibility for their actions. It will provide them with life skills, helping them to contribute to society and becoming respected members of their own communities.

Experienced ICV volunteer Stephen travelled to Alice Springs to work with BOTAC members on a concept plan which will firm up the group's ideas, objectives and direction.

Stephen developed an excellent rapport with the BOTAC members, and together they created a plan that sets short-term goals plus a path to their overall dream.

BOTAC will present the plan to the local Land Trust with an aim to securing a lease of land to run the program and to form a partnership between the two parties.

Some of the major problems BOTAC is aiming to address are low life expectancy, homelessness, high incarceration rates, domestic violence and suicide.



ICV volunteer Stephen (right) working with BOTAC members

LARAPINTA CHALLENGE 2017

By ICV Regional Manager Nina Tsernjavski



ICV Larapinta trekkers

The Larapinta track is considered one of the top ten walks in the world. This year a group of ICV supporters travelled to Central Australia to trek through the West MacDonnell ranges, learning about Aboriginal history and culture while raising funds for ICV.



A key focus of the trip was incorporating Aboriginal cultural activities which gave participants a better understanding of the local Arrernte people and demonstrated ICV's work in action.

Arrernte woman, Deanella 'Dee' Mack was invited to be a part of the trek. Since her first project with ICV in 2014, Dee has continued to grow her tourism business 'Cultural Connections NT', in an effort to share her culture and make positive change in her community. Dee facilitated cultural conversations and gave a guided walk into the dramatic Standley Chasm.

Raylene Brown spent time talking about her bush foods business 'Kungkas Can Cook'. She brought along a mouthwatering platter of wattle seed and saltbush dukka, quandong jam and kangaroo fillet to sample.

Besides the majestic landscape, the comfortable camping and getting lucky with the weather, everyone agreed that the cultural component was a highlight of the trip.

Thanks to everyone who helped make it such a rewarding experience. **Nina**

ICV has been organising treks along the Larapinta Trail for a number of years now. It's been an incredible experience for all who've taken part.

We'd love for you to join us on future treks which raise much needed funds for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Walking the trail



Below:
Dee Mack (right)
talks to trekkers



"Thanks to everyone who helped make it such a rewarding experience."

- NINA

MEET TÉA AND BELLE



Meet Tea, aged 11 and Belle, aged 8. These two budding entrepreneurs have teamed up to create a socially conscious business with support from their parents and ICV.

Téa&Belle is a new Indigenous Australian clothing collection established in the spirit of reconciliation, acknowledgement and respect.

With an emphasis on Indigenous culture and imagery, Téa&Belle embraces the kookaburra (derived from the Wiradjuri word “guuguuburra”) as its logo. The kookaburra is a healer of the past, an image significant to Australia and its journey for reconciliation with its past.

Just like the Kookaburra’s bubbling laugh, Tea&Belle’s logo represents joy and hope for recognition, an action so important to the future success of all Australians.

When you buy an item from Téa&Belle, packages include bespoke cards which explain the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin of the words and stories associated with your product.

And the unique stamp “your product has travelled over many Indigenous Nations” hopes to educate people in increasing their understanding of acknowledgement and reconciliation.

ICV is excited to be working with Téa&Belle, providing business development support.

You can purchase Téa&Belle products at www.teaandbelle.com

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

WORKING WITH WILLUM WARRAIN

Willum Warrain (meaning 'home by the sea') is a place of hope and healing for people living on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula.

As the only Aboriginal gathering place in the area, the vision of Willum Warrain is to build a vibrant and confident community, strengthen culture and create a safe place to come and enjoy.

They provide a range of vital services to their members that improve their health and wellbeing and provide links between the local Aboriginal people and the broader community.

With many non-Indigenous friends, family and supporters as members too, they are a destination for reconciliation.

ICV volunteer Russell Jaffe has supported Willum Warrain over the past four years to achieve their dream of becoming an independent organisation and to improve their service to the community.

Russell explains his role working with Willum Warrain as "primarily that of facilitator and mentor".

"One asks such questions as 'Why are you doing this? What are your intentions? If you do X, you realise it will result in Y'. These questions encourage those involved to consider their actions and ensure that their intended outcomes are viable".

During their time together Russell and Willum Warrain, formed a strong relationship which is continuing to this day.

"I have loved having an extended involvement with Willum Warrain, an involvement that I am now continuing outside ICV given my original ICV tasks have been completed," Russell says.



"But it was only through ICV that I was able to assist Willum Warrain to a great point of stability and sustainability".

Russell Jaffe, ICV Volunteer

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