



stepping stones

ISSUE 16 · APRIL 2016

**BUILDING  
BRIGHTER FUTURES**



## CEO MESSAGE



### STEPHANIE HARVEY, CEO

**As you know many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities around Australia are reeling from the effects of deep funding cuts. Organisations and associations are closing their doors, unable to continue providing their much needed services.**

It's now more critical than ever for ICV to be there for communities in need.

When communities come to ICV for support, they know they'll be treated with respect, they will be in control of their own development, and they'll be supported in the right way.

ICV's skilled and talented volunteers live and work alongside communities, often for months at a time, sharing their skills and knowledge.

**For communities, this is a breath of fresh air. No red tape, no hoops to jump through. Just easy access to experienced volunteers who can support them in building a brighter future.**

The stories in this edition of Stepping Stones show what's possible when people come together in the spirit of community and reconciliation.



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

On page 6, you can read about Gerard community in South Australia. They've taken bold steps to make their land work hard for them, and are building a successful hay making business, creating employment opportunities for local people.

Then on page 10, we bring you the latest from Lismore in New South Wales. Jarjum Centre, a well-loved and respected Preschool, is turning families away because it's run out of room. But staff have ambitious plans for expansion, to help meet the growing needs of local families.

Likewise in Victoria, Healesville Indigenous Community Services Association (HICSA) has also listened to the needs of its local community. ICV volunteer Noel helped with the renovation of an old metal workshop. It's now a year-round multi-purpose space for art exhibitions and community events. You can read more about this on page 12.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people around Australia are fighting to keep their communities healthy and happy, to create education and employment opportunities for their children and young people.

**At ICV we're doing all we can to support them.  
And we couldn't do any of it without you.**

**Thank you**

**"The stories in this edition of Stepping Stones show what's possible when people come together in the spirit of community and reconciliation."**

# OUT & ABOUT

## Building skills to improve housing in WA

Katampul Aboriginal Corporation (KAC) manages a small village of several families in the town of Leonora, north of Kalgoorlie. A shortage of housing led KAC to explore the option of renovating several currently uninhabitable dwellings in the village. ICV volunteers helped scope the work and provide plans and costings, which helped KAC secure government funding to complete the work. In addition to better housing options, local people will also benefit from training opportunities in building and construction skills.



NSW & ACT,  
NEAR YASS



ICV's Anito  
with NAC's Laurie

## Supporting reintegration in to community in WA

Ngalla Maya is a not-for-profit organisation which aims to reduce the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in custody in Western Australia. Its programs target at risk youths and help people being released from prison to reintegrate successfully into society. Currently running on volunteer time, Ngalla Maya is hoping to employ full time staff to deliver its new Reintegration Program. ICV volunteers have helped develop a business case to improve its chances of securing longer term funding for these vital services.



LEONORA,  
WA



## Better access to health and wellbeing services in Yass, NSW and ACT

Ngunnawal Aboriginal Corporation (Ngunnawal Community Care) is a registered charity dedicated to advancing the interests of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In 2013, ICV volunteers helped redesign its premises for the planned expansion of health and wellbeing services. Now ICV IT expert Anito has been volunteering his time to help Ngunnawal Community Care develop its first ever website, giving the local community easier access to information about its services.



WESTERN  
AUSTRALIA

ICV's Doyen with Ngalla Maya's  
Aaron and Merv



# MAKING HAY WHILE THE SUN SHINES



Gerard Community Council members Barney, Hartley and Dean Lindsay

**The Gerard community is a small, resourceful Aboriginal-controlled local government area in The Riverland, South Australia. Heavily dependent on the Murray River, including for its horticulture and grazing activities, community members also produce traditional crafts which are sold to tourists, contributing to the local economy.**

The Gerard Community Council manages a property stretching over 5,000 acres of fertile land. A few years ago, community Elders approached a well-known and respected local farmer and accountant, Colin Milburn, with a bold idea to make their land productive.





At the time, the land needed significant work to bring it back in to use. An extensive irrigation system already in place meant that producing hay could be a viable and sustainable economic activity. Today, with Colin's help, the community benefits from abundant crops of hay including lucerne and oaten.

Hay is very often sold over the internet due to the long hours farmers work. To maximise its economic benefits to the community, the Gerard hay making business needed better advertising, including a website and social media.

ICV volunteer Pete has helped design a fantastic new website which will help Gerard community market its hay. And he's passed on valuable skills to community members who can now maintain their website and promote their products.

The future is bright for Gerard community and we look forward to working on future projects involving their land, including renovating the old yabby ponds and feedlot, and possibly even a tourism plan for a site next to the mighty Murray.

**"People from all around are coming and just looking at our hay fields and seeing what we have achieved, it has made our community feel really proud."**

**Kingsley Abdullah, Elder and Gerard  
Community Council Chairperson**



# MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

## SHOW HOW MUCH YOU CARE



You might remember John and Kitty Tabuai from our October 2015 edition of Stepping Stones. This visionary husband and wife team dreamed of providing an affordable and personal transport solution for their remote local community in Bamaga, far north QLD. With a bold vision and help from ICV volunteers, a thriving local business was born. We asked you to send in your messages of support and were overwhelmed by your responses. We're sending your messages on to Bamaga to show the community just how much you care!



iving!  
-a luck with



Congratulations John and  
Kitty on your fantastic  
achievement. What a differ  
this must make to your  
community. You should be  
very please  
Regards

SHARE A MESSAGE  
OF SUPPORT  
FOR JOHN & KITTY

PLEASE RETURN TO ICV IN  
THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED

URN TO ICV IN  
LOPE PROVIDED



SHARE A MESSAGE  
OF SUPPORT  
FOR JOHN & KITTY

PLEASE RETURN TO ICV IN  
THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED



Dear  
I am truly  
that my  
lives. One  
true. Wishi  
endeavour a  
you safe in  
and a drive

ANY GOOD WISHES TO YOU  
OUR COMMUNITY.

A GOOD TRANSPORT SERVICE  
BEYOND MEASURE. ITS BRINGS  
PEOPLE TOGETHER. WE ALL NEED  
EACH OTHER. ENJOY.

SHARE A MESSAGE  
OF SUPPORT  
FOR JOHN & KITTY

PLEASE RETURN TO ICV IN  
THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED



MESSAGE  
RT  
KITTY

Dear John and Kitty,  
Thank you for being the  
who make things happen for  
their community.  
Kindest regards

SHARE A MESSAGE  
OF SUPPORT  
FOR JOHN & KITTY

PLEASE RETURN TO ICV IN  
THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED

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SHARE A MESSAGE  
OF SUPPORT  
FOR JOHN & KITTY

PLEASE RETURN TO ICV IN  
THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED



Congratulations  
your great idea to  
Sure regular transport  
just add to a sense  
connection for your  
community

ff you  
can

SHARE A MESSAGE  
OF SUPPORT  
FOR JOHN & KITTY

PLEASE RETURN TO ICV IN  
THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED



Dear John and Kitty,  
Congratulations on your amazing work  
in getting the bus company up and running.  
It's so great that you had that vision and  
worked hard and with determination  
it came into being. How  
be a blessing.

## FOUNDATIONS FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE IN LISMORE

**Jarjum Centre, a 20 place non-profit Preschool in Lismore, NSW, is bursting at the seams. Places at the Centre are in such high demand that staff are having to turn away children because they have simply run out of room.**

The Centre's valuable programs include language and numeracy groups and cultural programs accommodating Indigenous and non-Indigenous children. Jarjum also provides for children with additional needs.

Even its existing facilities, a converted residential property, aren't up to scratch. The run down building no longer meets the safety needs of the children or their families. To add to their worries, staff are regularly confronted by ongoing vandalism in the neighbourhood, and people engaged in risky behaviour in the local area; the staff regularly find used syringes in the play area.

In 2015, Jarjum's Director, Maurita Cavanough, began liaising with the local Council to find a solution regarding possible sites for a new centre. Jarjum Centre reached out to ICV for help with the design of the new Centre.



LISMORE, NSW



Jarjum Centre Preschool  
is running out of room



ICV was asked to find a skilled volunteer to work with Jarjum on developing a design that meets the Jarjum community's needs. Experienced Architect and ICV volunteer Rogier met with staff and community members and translated their ideas into a draft concept of their new Centre.

Maurita and her staff are really excited that their dream of a purpose-built centre is becoming a reality. "It would provide a greater chance for the community to take ownership. Real change only takes place when it is community-led," Maurita says. "I'm also excited about providing more employment opportunities for young Aboriginal women," she adds.

"We all know how important the first five years of a child's life is, so when children have the odds stacked against them from the start, what we are hoping to achieve is tangible change within our community."

#### Architect and ICV volunteer Rogier



## NEW GATHERING SPACE BRINGS BIG BENEFITS TO HEALESVILLE COMMUNITY



HICSA's Anne Jenkins and Doseena Fergie with ICV volunteer Noel

**Healesville Indigenous Community Services Association (HICSA) provides a range of vital services to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in and around Healesville, Victoria. Its current site, on a long term lease from Yarra Ranges Council, includes a basic shed which has been used previously as a metal workshop and for storage and art related programs.**



HEALESVILLE,  
VIC

As part of a wider upgrade of its facilities to improve community infrastructure, HICSA needed to renovate the shed to make it fit for year-round use, and for a wider range of activities.

With funding in place and local builders sourced for the renovation, HICSA approached ICV to find a skilled volunteer who could help scope, plan and supervise the works.

**“Without Noel’s support this project would have taken us much longer to complete. His expertise in the area was exactly what we needed, and more!”**

ICV volunteer Noel generously offered his time and experience to HICSA, helping identify the materials required, liaising with council and builders regarding permits, and supervising the renovation.

HICSA is delighted with the results. New reverse cycle air-conditioning was installed for year-round comfort, and a tracking system was installed for hanging art exhibitions in the ample space. Showcasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art is now raising much-needed revenue for the HICSA and local artists.

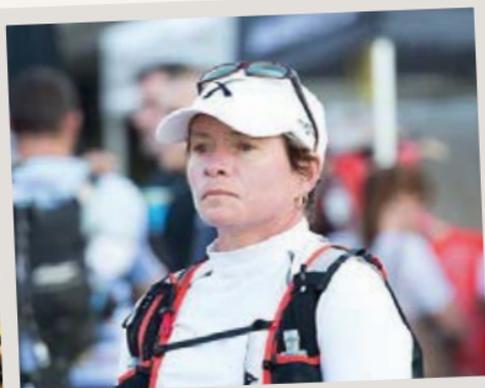
HICSA Executive Officer Health Promotion, Anne Jenkins, said the shed would be used for youth activities, including dancing and painting, and as a meeting space.

**“We are always in need of assistance from volunteers as it’s what helps keep our organisation running.”**

The newly renovated shed is now a useful space for the community



## GET INVOLVED!



**ICV staff member Nikki has just completed an epic challenge, taking part in the Canberra 100km challenge to raise funds for ICV.**



The walk included seven of the mountains around the Bush Capital and a trail along the NSW/ACT border. She completed the walk in 21 hours, a mighty effort given that the daytime temperature was 36 degrees!

“What a challenge,” says Nikki. “I always set myself challenges to make sure I stay fit and healthy, so for my 50th birthday I thought there was no better way to challenge myself than a 100km walk around the Canberra Centenary Trail. It was probably the hardest thing I’ve ever done mentally, physically and emotionally. But to be able to do something like this, not just for myself but for a worthy cause like ICV, was such a great opportunity. I encourage everyone to set themselves health and fitness challenges, no matter how small or large, and to support a great cause like ICV along the way.”

**Thank you Nikki for your fantastic effort, and for raising over \$1,200 for ICV!**



**There are many ways to fundraise for ICV. Whether you raise money through a fitness challenge, collecting donations at a work event or running a bake sale, or asking your friends and family to donate to ICV in lieu of birthday gifts, you can make a big difference to the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.**

If you have a fundraising idea and are ready to get started, you can set up your own fundraising webpage at <http://www.gofundraise.com.au/beneficiary/IndigenousCommunityVolunteers>

For more information visit <http://icv.com.au/how-you-can-help/fundraise-for-icv/> or call us on 1800 639 565 or email [donate@icv.com.au](mailto:donate@icv.com.au).



# PLEASE GIVE WHAT YOU CAN. **THANK YOU**

Name

Address

Suburb  State  Postcode

Phone  Mobile

Email

My supporter number is

**I would like to become a Community Friend:**

Please deduct \$  from my credit card on the 20th of each month (or the next working day)

**Please accept my one-off gift of \$**

## **PAYMENT**

Cheque (payable to Indigenous Community Volunteers)  
or  Money order  
or debit my card  Visa  Mastercard  Amex  Diners

CARD NUMBER

NAME ON CARD

EXPIRY

/

SIGNATURE

- Please send me more information about leaving a gift to ICV in my Will
- Please tick here if you do NOT want to receive future communications from ICV

Call **1800 639 565** or visit **[www.icv.com.au/donate](http://www.icv.com.au/donate)**



**Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible**

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