

stepping stones

Please give what you can. Thank you.

Name

Address

State Postcode

Phone

Mobile

Email

My supporter number is

Please accept my one-off gift of: \$ OR

I would like to become a monthly donor

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

Please find enclosed a: Cheque Money order
(payable to Indigenous Community Volunteers)

OR

Please debit this card:

Visa Mastercard Amex Diners

Card No:

Expiry date:

/

Name on card:

Signature:

Please send me more information about leaving a gift to ICV in my Will

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

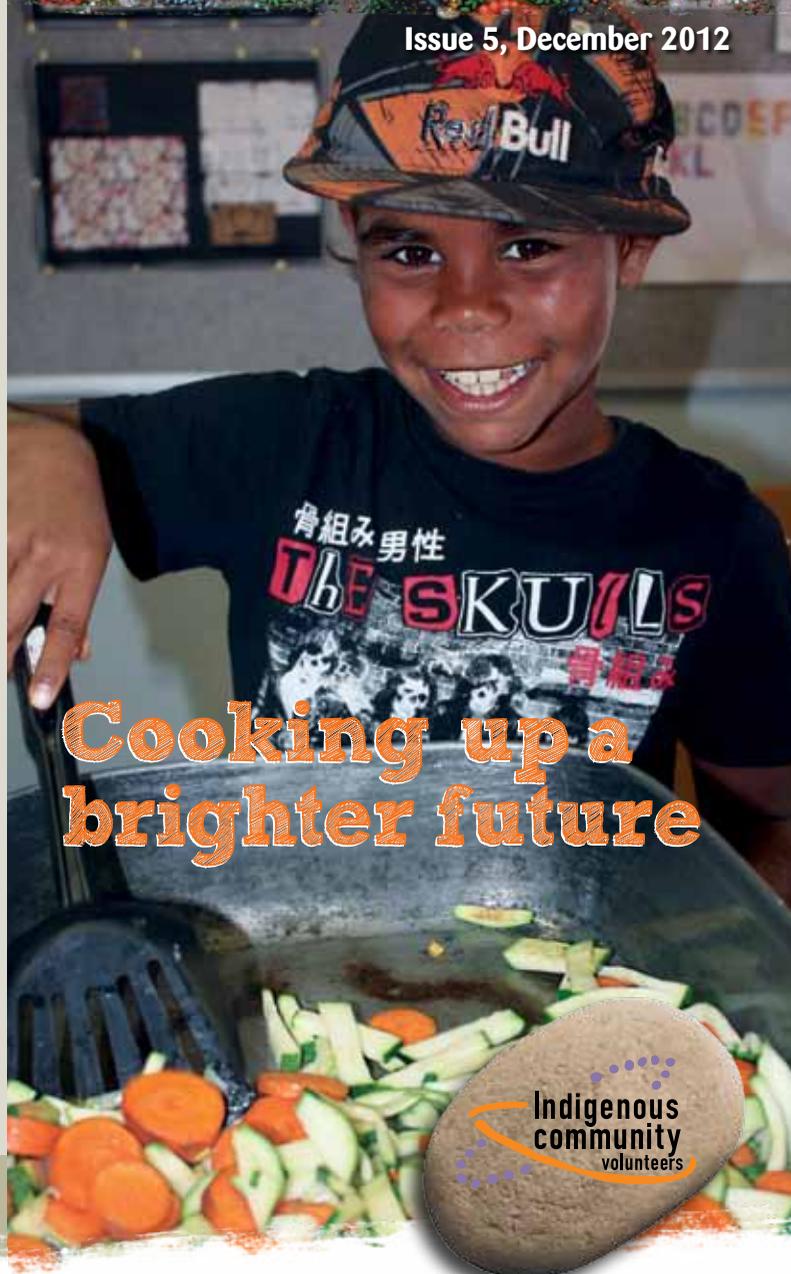
Call 1800 639 565 or visit www.icv.com.au/donate

Please return in the reply paid envelope or post to: PO Box 6155 Mawson ACT 2607

Indigenous
community
volunteers

stepping stones

Issue 5, December 2012



Cooking up a
brighter future

Indigenous
community
volunteers

Welcome to Stepping Stones



Stephanie Harvey, CEO

Welcome to a fresh edition of Stepping Stones.

I am thrilled to be able to share more stories about the work we do, responding to the hopes and goals of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

In our first annual supporter survey you ranked education as one of the most important building blocks of community development.

ICV is invited by communities to listen to what people have and need. We don't actively go looking for project work which happens across this vast continent. Education often features in the community-driven projects we support.

We know that education opens doors. It promotes human development by building understanding, confidence and opportunities for a better life. When education is combined with training and employment, people's lives are often more stable and their futures brighter.

Luke Watson is an ICV volunteer who values education. Luke is a trained teacher who shares the experience of his recent assignment. He spent time in a remote part of Western Australia keeping kids safe, active and engaged in a school holiday program. The program motivated more kids to get back to school the following term. But it also inspired a career-change for Luke. Read all about it on page 10.

On page 6 you can find out about the Muru Mittigar Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Sydney's west. It is a big employer of Aboriginal people. It provides accredited training and a range of services

to make Aboriginal culture strong. ICV has worked with Muru Mittigar to improve existing and future buildings so more visitors can access and enjoy the cultural centre.

You can also read about the work with the Aboriginal community in Cherbourg outside Brisbane. There, locals are passionate about preserving their history and educating students and other visitors about that history. ICV is working with Cherbourg elders to improve historical buildings, develop a promotional newsletter and a website.

Elders in Cherbourg have a lot of energy to ensure the community teaches Aboriginal history to local schools and that their historical precinct creates lasting jobs. We are delighted that Elders have invited us back again and again to work with them. We have the flexibility to do that. We understand, too, that sustainable change takes time.

I hope you are encouraged, as I am, about the positive changes happening in Indigenous communities around Australia and the role ICV can proudly claim with your support. Thank you.



ICV is invited by communities to listen to what people have and need.

Out and About

ICV is scoping the needs and aspirations of artists with the Tiwi Design Aboriginal Corporation. Artists produce a variety of highly collectable traditional carvings, ochre paintings, prints on paper and canvas. Two projects are being considered. The first involves creating an inventory and catalogue of all artwork currently stored in a back room. The second, reliant on external funds, is the construction of a weather-proof art studio.



Groove is in the art



A Tiwi artist with a cross-hatch design



Training in Townsville

Volunteer Terrence Edge has mentored the retail manager with the Townsville Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre. Together they created a handbook for daily reference. The retail manager, Wilma, found the training condensed and jammed packed, but so useful that she would like the volunteer to return. Wilma said, "Terry's teaching really empowered me to take control in a leadership role... And it provided structure."



Training for success

Major flooding in the remote Kimberley town of Warmun inundated the town's famous contemporary art centre. Volunteer Anthony Green spent a month living in a caravan and assisting locals reconstruct the centre and surrounds. He helped build the capacity of locals to develop strategies to withstand future floods. "I can say we achieved the main objectives and the community was happy with the outcomes," Anthony said.



Vital repairs to flood damaged art centre



Volunteer Anthony Green in Warmun



Architect and ICV volunteer Adam Haddow

Developing pathways to friends in Western Sydney

It may come as a surprise that 30,000 Aboriginal people live in Greater Western Sydney. That population is growing and therefore our focus on its communities is also expanding.

Penrith in Western Sydney is home to the cultural and training centre, Muru Mittigar, which means 'Pathways to Friends'. It is a pioneering non-profit organisation that provides a range of services to the local Darug and wider Aboriginal community.

Most staff are Indigenous.

The organisation asked for ICV's help to develop a master plan - concept designs and drawings to improve existing infrastructure and provide an architectural blueprint for future site construction. Muru Mitigar wants to develop a national skills centre and have an upgraded interactive tourism, knowledge and community hub on the site.

ICV matched and connected a volunteer with a Sydney-based architect and interior design firm to develop a 'Master Plan' for the organisation based on Muru Mittigar's vision.

"We have a cultural connection to this land. It has so much

potential, and we needed the strategic expertise to make the best use of the available space we have," said Culture Tourism Supervisor, Erin Wilkins.

The volunteer work was valued at \$20,000 and will potentially benefit hundreds, if not thousands, of people.

Muru Mittigar has used the plans to consolidate its cultural and retail spaces - an art gallery and museum - into one main venue to be known as the 'Ngara Traditional Knowledge Centre'.

"Ngara will enable us to provide a central venue to educate thousands of expected visitors about Darug history, our land, our culture and our people. We are most grateful to ICV for supporting us in our quest to realise our vision for both Muru Mittigar and our community," said Erin.

This is the second project ICV has worked on with Muru Mittigar. The first was aimed at developing an education program for visiting primary school students, in line with the national curriculum.

With good rapport between ICV and Muru Mittigar, ICV was invited to locate its new Western Sydney office at Muru Mittigar earlier this year.



"We have a cultural connection to this land"
Erin Wilkins, Muru Mittigar



Lending a hand to Indigenous communities

Here are some of the bright and colourful postcards you sent us to show your support for Indigenous communities. Together we are changing lives and building a brighter future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.





Volunteer Luke Watson among kids in the holiday program.

Volunteering with ICV can be a career-changing experience

Luke Watson inspired to get involved with ICV through his wife, Shreen, and ICV employee based in Perth. He had a long-held desire to gain a greater understanding of Indigenous culture. He told Stepping Stones that “Indigenous Australians’ strong connection to the land has always fascinated me. Reconciliation was also a great motivator.”

Last year Luke spent two weeks volunteering with a remote school holiday program at Burringurrah Community School in far north Western Australia. The ICV project involved liaising with community partners to provide a range of creative and fitness-based activities for kids aged five to 15.

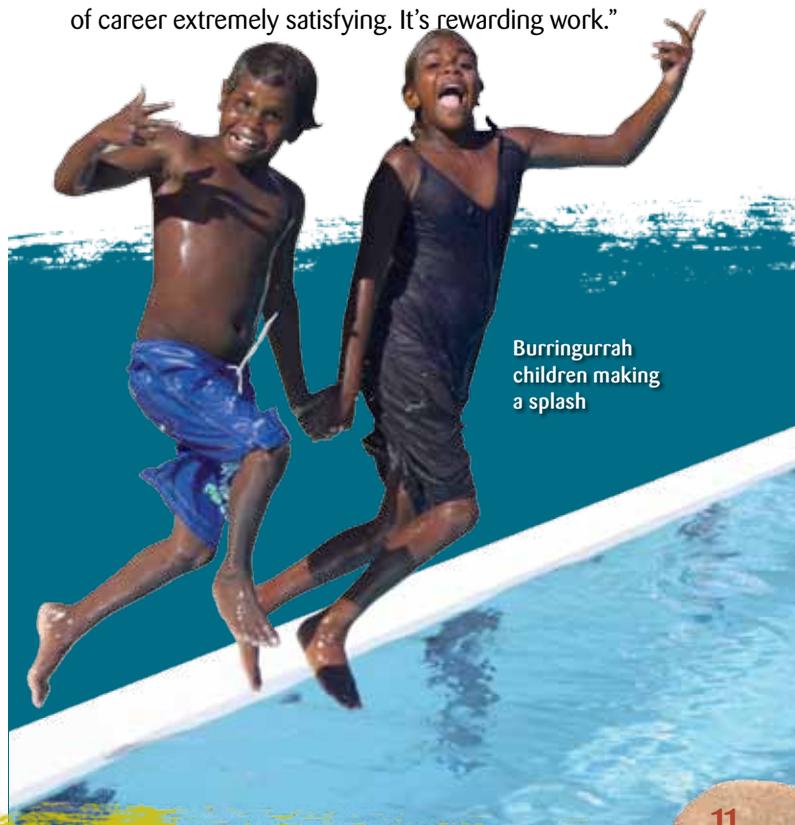
“I think this helped keep kids out of mischief. Teachers

reported 100% attendance on the first day of the subsequent term because of the school holiday program.

The community members were friendly and welcoming, the culture was richer than I could ever have imagined. The kids were bright and really responded to a little individual attention.”

The highlight for Luke was developing relationships with kids. “I enjoyed being a young male role model for the boys. We had a lot of fun.”

The experience was life changing. Luke had been a teacher at an exclusive boys high school in the city but decided to move into a sports development role with an Indigenous community organisation in Nyoongar country in south west WA. “I wanted to go where there was a need and I could make more of a difference. I have found this change of career extremely satisfying. It’s rewarding work.”



Burringurrah children making a splash

Remembering ICV in your Will

If improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is important to you, leaving a gift to ICV in your Will is your opportunity to make a lasting and meaningful difference.

You will be creating a brighter future for Indigenous Australians. There could be no greater gift.

“The biggest reason I support ICV is because of the value it places on bottom up social change driven by needs of Indigenous communities who have a real power in the process. Anyone who believes in grassroots social change and the volunteer ethic will find ICV a natural fit”

Stephen Young, ICV Volunteer and donor

If you make the wonderful decision to leave a gift to ICV in your Will or you require further information please contact Alicia Edwards on **1800 639 565** or at **aedwards@icv.com.au**.

Closing the gap in education, one student at a time

Mitchelton State High School in Brisbane's North West is home to an exciting initiative that is closing the gap on Indigenous educational disadvantage, one student at a time.

A newly established homework club at Mitchelton is providing close, personalised academic support to students in years 8-10. ICV's Becky Bligh has partnered with Mitchelton's Merle Cashman to set up a sustainable structure for the homework club including:

- Linking Mitchelton's homework club with an ongoing source of enthusiastic tutors.
- Partnering with other services to find a supply of low cost, nutritious snacks to keep students healthy and focussed.

The homework club has since gone on to obtain valuable assets such as laptops.

The initiative was a result of Brisbane's Northwest Urban Participation Reference Group's Action Plan.

The plan was developed by the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and outlines some of the challenges and opportunities that they face.

A donation today will help ensure we can keep working on projects like this as we head into 2013.

Visit www.icv.com.au/donate or call 1800 639 565.



ICV's Becky Bligh
with Merle Cashman



Volunteer workshop participants in Cherbourg.

Going from strength to strength in Cherbourg

Exciting things are happening in Cherbourg northwest of Brisbane. It's a community ICV has partnered with for some years as it works to conserve, share and strengthen local history and culture.

The town, formerly known as Barambah, was founded as a settlement for Aboriginal people in the early twentieth century. Families were moved off their land and taken to Cherbourg where they lived segregated lives and were given weekly rations from the 'Ration Shed'.

Senior women in the community worked to restore the Ration Shed as a museum and conference centre that now forms the centre of the locally owned and run Cherbourg Historical Precinct. The precinct is a cluster of historical buildings with stories about life under the Aboriginal Protection Act told by former and present Cherbourg residents.

ICV has worked with the community on projects in the precinct including improving visitor access to the historic Boys' Dormitory. With local partners, a wheelchair accessible ramp was built. Another project involved renovating a building now open for business as a cafe. A consistent and dedicated volunteer has been Ian Straker of Gympie.

ICV will continue to support Cherbourg's vision as required by the community.

ICV has just held a volunteer screening workshop in Cherbourg. It was the first time a workshop was located in a discrete Aboriginal community. It proved to be a powerful experience. Participants were transfixed as locals, Aunty Sandra Morgan and Aunty Ada Simpson shared compelling stories about their experiences of dormitory life.

Aunty Sandra said hosting ICV was a pleasure, a contrast to the days where community members needed government authority to simply walk alongside non-Indigenous people living in Cherbourg.