



# elimatta

summer/autumn 2009

[www.asgmwp.net](http://www.asgmwp.net)

aboriginal support group – manly warringah pittwater

## Herb Smith – Community Facilitator, Aboriginal Child, Youth & Family Strategy



I am an Aboriginal man who was born in Wellington, NSW – a descendant of the Wiradjuri Nation.

For more than 35 years I have been employed in the government sector in the area of Police – Aboriginal liaison where I was actively involved in the development and delivery of programs and services to Aboriginal communities. I was a Sergeant of Police attached to the NSW Police

Force, Aboriginal Liaison Unit, until my retirement in late 2003 and had served for close to 31 years.

My management experience has included policy development and implementation and coordination of major programs, involving Aboriginal communities and government and non-government service providers.

I have been an active participant in the sports area, in particular Rugby League both as a player and administrator. My extensive experience in sports administration has included managing high profile international sports events and teams in both the Senior and Junior areas.

In April 2005 because of my genuine and deep interest in the welfare of others, particularly Aboriginal youth, I was appointed Community Facilitator, Aboriginal Child, Youth & Family Strategy (ACYFS). I work in outreach across the Northern Sydney region, covering the boundaries of the following 11 Local Government areas: Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Manly, Mosman, North Sydney, Pittwater, Ryde, Warringah and Willoughby.

Since commencing in the role of Community Facilitator my major thrust has been to engage with Aboriginal families to develop and strengthen relationships and identify Aboriginal families in Local Government areas.

The Aboriginal community in Northern Sydney is dispersed and individual families are often isolated and I think it is important to put them in contact with other Aboriginal families to build their identity and celebrate our culture.

I have been consulting with both the Aboriginal community and service providers across the Northern Sydney Region to identify community needs. I want to talk to Aboriginal families about the services which are both available and not available to them and any concerns they may have about these services. I will also continue to establish relationships between the Aboriginal community and service providers.

Following meetings with the Aboriginal communities in Hornsby, Ryde, Chatswood, Lane Cove and on the Northern Beaches, a network of people has been developed at these locations and they have started to be involved in a number of events and activities with their families. Some events held so far have been the *Christmas in the Bush* functions, a visit to the NSW State of Origin 'Blues' training camp to meet players, several NAIDOC events, an Aboriginal mural unveiled at the Hornsby Centre-link office, a Corroboree as part of *Seniors Week*, and a school holiday cultural activity.

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## ASG 30th Anniversary Celebration – Monday July 6

2009 sees the Support Group celebrating its 30th anniversary and you are warmly invited to join us in a special event to highlight this milestone in the life of a small but committed group of people.

The Hon Linda Burney, Minister for Community Services, will be Guest Speaker for this evening which will also be a NAIDOC Week and Guringai Festival event. Full details will be given on [www.asgmwp.net](http://www.asgmwp.net) closer to the date.

## Herb Smith

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An Aboriginal specific 'Supported Playgroup' was commenced at Hornsby towards the end of May 2006.

Last year I facilitated the process for the Hornsby Aboriginal Community Network to be successful in becoming the first Aboriginal Community Network in the Northern Sydney area to become an incorporated body. The same group was then recognised for their community development work by winning the inaugural New South

Wales Premier's Excellence Award in the category: Strong Communities, Family Support and Assistance.

I want to continue to hold more meetings and make contact with more Aboriginal families to develop community links in all areas across the region. I also plan to hold more exciting family events and activities this year to build relationships across the community and for families to meet and support each other. Planning has already commenced to hold a major 'Family Fun Day' to encourage and enable the Aboriginal

community to join together to strengthen relationships and form links with other families from across the Northern Sydney Region.

I encourage the Aboriginal community to make contact with me. I am located at the Community Services Branch, Hornsby Shire Council, 28-44 George Street, Hornsby Phone Switchboard (02) 98476850 or Direct (02) 98476052

Mobile 0438 777 545

email: [hsmith@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hsmith@hornsby.nsw.gov.au)

Herb Smith

# Northern Territory INTERVENTION POLICY

Guest Speaker Jeff McMullen

## A Reflection on the ASG Information Night on Monday 1st September 2008

It was a well-attended meeting. The publicity had worked. The name had drawn the crowd. Perhaps 140 people attended. All the supper was eaten. Just a crumb remained.

Jeff launched into his subject with an attack on the then Governor General. That very morning all the major newspapers around the country reported the statement by Major General Michael Jeffrey of Indigenous disadvantage to about 100,000 Aboriginal people mainly living in the remote north. For Jeff there was the implication in the Governor General's remarks that integration by a vast majority of Indigenous people had created a sense of normalcy and as a consequence we never hear from them. This, for Jeff, was a gross error. The informed audience on Monday night was ready to agree with this judgement.

Jeff then went on to talk about the publicised topic. In mid-2007 Mal Brough and John Howard announced the Northern Territory Intervention. A state of emergency had been proclaimed. Children were being sexually abused. There was no other responsible course of action. Intervention must take place.

It was not until Jeff spoke that I thought about the word 'intervention.' It is such an unpleasant word. Immediately it implies power over somebody or something. By definition it is a divisive word. It is an interfering word. All these negative aspects of the word were put aside with the intention that the then Liberal Government would be seen as decisive and moral and right. And the Labour Party wanted to be seen as decisive and moral and right as well so it went along with a political fix for a problem that was not political.

Jeff then asked the question – *Can the Rudd Government refashion the Intervention into a policy of Australia-wide relevance and at the same time be co-operative and non-discriminatory?*

If any future policy is to be co-operative, the word 'intervention' will need to be struck not just from the documents but from the minds of all Australians. And let us hope that happens because the present situation of intervention implies that Aboriginal people are generally irresponsible and incapable of managing their own destiny. (If that was the basis for intervention – irresponsibility and incapacity – my friends and enemies would be arguing that I could do with a little intervention myself).

Some members of the audience saw Jeff as the next Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. He declined the offer and made the point that problems will not be solved by politicians, though they are not completely irrelevant. The major part of the solution is to be found, according to Jeff, in relationships and by being involved in small projects like rowing a surfboat together – Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal; like sharing in the normal fun and education activities of the other. (Create your own example.)

To those of us in the Support Group, Jeff's quoting of Charles Perkins was important. Charles said that *'the road to emancipation is a long one. Be patient.'*

Given that an Aboriginal person said that and that it is being quoted by Jeff McMullen seems reason enough for the Support Group to give heed. And take encouragement.

One final point. If you would like another perspective on the Intervention you might look at the Quarterly Essay Issue No. 30 – *Last Drinks* by Paul Toohey. It is excellent. Paul is correspondent for *The Australian*.

Grahame Ellis

To read the full text of Jeff's talk see

[www.asgmwp.net](http://www.asgmwp.net)

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# Indigenous Community Volunteers

Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV) is a not-for-profit non-government organisation which provides assistance to Indigenous communities in planning and implementing community development projects. Communities, organisations, businesses, families and individuals can apply for assistance.

ICV maintains a register of volunteers, containing details of their qualifications, experience and interests, and also a list of projects for which help is sought, with details of the skills required and contact information for the project manager. Applicants may seek help in identifying suitable volunteers, and volunteers may make direct contact with the managers of projects in which they are interested. The choice of volunteer is entirely a matter for the applicant.

Travel costs are met by ICV, which also pays volunteers a small living allowance. The applicant is responsible for providing on-site accommodation.

Further details can be found on the website – [www.icv.com.au](http://www.icv.com.au) or by phone – **1800 819 542**.

My first experience as a volunteer was in 2002 when I spent six weeks with the Minjilang community on Croker Island, just a few hundred metres off the east coast of the Coburg Peninsula in West Arnhem Land, a fifty minute flight from Darwin by light aircraft. My job was to help in the preparation of a Business Plan, a requirement imposed by the NT Department of Local Government. In practice it dealt almost entirely with the management of the funds which the community received from various government sources for road, airstrip, barge landing and building maintenance, and other municipal services. Power and water and sewerage were the responsibility of Territory statutory authorities.

For more than 300 years Croker Islanders and other Arnhem Land communities had traded with Makassans, exchanging trepang

for an assortment of goods. Their campsites, marked by the tamarind trees which they planted and by the large pots in which they cooked the trepang for subsequent export to China and elsewhere, can still be seen.

Because the Macassans respected the land and property rights of the Aboriginal people and were honourable in their observance of verbal trading contracts, there was little conflict, and some of them travelled to Makassar to sample the wider world.

These amicable arrangements were halted in 1906, when the South Australian Government, which then controlled the Territory, refused further entry to Makassan ships.

The mutually profitable international trade collapsed overnight. In place of honourable trading partnerships, the Arnhem Land coast was laid open to piracy by European and Japanese trepangers who showed no respect for Aboriginal rights or property. Conflict inevitably followed, and Australian law enforcement was directed not to the control of piracy but to the punishment of the Aboriginal people who resisted it.

Given this history, it is not surprising that when it came to discussing what income generating activities might be incorporated in the Business Plan, with the aim of making the community independent of welfare payments, aquaculture of one kind or another would be mentioned. Then *Catch 22* came into play. Aquaculture projects require a permit, for which a prerequisite is an Environmental Impact Study. This would cost about \$100,000 and might show that a permit should not be granted. The lack of up-front funding for this and other possible enterprises was an insurmountable obstacle to progress.

One project that did beat the odds was a distance-learning centre, opened with much fanfare during my stay. This small building, well furnished for study and computer equipped, had a direct satellite link to Batchelor Institute, which

provides trade and tertiary level courses targeted at the needs of Aboriginal communities. Its facilities allow students in Minjilang to sit in on lectures and to have face to face contact with tutors. It owes its existence to the persistence of three teachers' aides at the local two-teacher school. They were studying for their Dip Ed but were hampered by the lack of suitable study facilities. Minjilang is a *dry* community, and has been so for a considerable time. As a result violence seemed to be almost non-existent. An incipient petrol-sniffing problem was checked by supplying only avgas and diesel from the Council owned bowsers.

Despite the fact that there was no evidence of the problems found in many communities by the authors of the *Little Children Are Sacred* report, who found it unnecessary to even visit Minjilang, it did not escape the net of the Intervention, which of course was long after my time there.

My next ICV project, in 2004, was with the Kuku Yalanji community, located at the entrance to the Mossman Gorge National Park, just a few kilometres outside the town of Mossman, NQ. It runs a successful award winning tourist business, Kuku Yalanji Dreamtime Tours, providing guided walking tours in a confined section of rainforest adjoining the National Park. It had been trying for years to obtain a lease of a larger adjoining area. Because of the complexity of land management in the Queensland wet tropics, half a dozen or so state authorities and the local council had to approve this lease. Seven years before my arrival all had agreed that the lease should be granted, but none was sufficiently motivated to start the necessary action. My job was to act as a circuit breaker and turn the promise into reality. With the help of the community and some of the agencies involved I was able to do this, although the lease was not signed and sealed until some months after I left.

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Warringah Council

# Warringah and Brewarrina Sister City Youth Exchange



In July 2000 Warringah Council signed a Sister Cities Agreement with Brewarrina Shire Council.

The idea of the relationship is to promote friendship between beach and bush communities and allow a greater understanding of the issues facing each area. The Councils agreed that one way to achieve this is by a youth exchange, where young people would be able to meet, form friendships and learn about each other's lives and communities.

Brewarrina, or *Bre* as it is known to locals, is a remote community located in north-west NSW, 800kms from Sydney, and has 2000 residents, spread over an area of 19,000 sq. kms. It has a large Indigenous population, is home to the World Heritage listed Fish Traps and has a wonderful history of both Indigenous and white settlement.

Warringah with a population of 141,000 people encompasses a total land area of 153 square kilometres, of which a large proportion is National Park, bushland or reserves, including coastal foreshores, beaches and waterways. It has an abundance of surfing beaches, is relatively affluent and has a very small Indigenous population of 0.3%

The Sister City Youth Exchange Program consists of six young people from Warringah spending a week in Brewarrina in the winter School holidays (July) and a reciprocal visit by six Brewarrina young people for a week in the summer school holidays (January). The program is free for those participating and the groups are accompanied by Council's Youth Worker staff.

The 2009 visit to Warringah by the Brewarrina young people has just taken place and has again been very successful. Activities undertaken included visits to Circular Quay, the Opera House, Paddy's Markets, lunch in China Town, a walk across the Harbour Bridge, meeting Manly Sea Eagles players, meeting *Home and Away* actors at Palm Beach, Twilight Sailing in Pittwater, shopping at Warringah Mall, Learn to Surf, North Fort Tour, a visit to Manly Dam and Brookvale TAFE, a visit to Warringah Council's YOYO's Youth Centre and a Beach Safety day at Dee Why beach with Council's lifeguards.

In recent years the Brewarrina group has comprised those young people who have gone on to Year 11 at the local High School. This is proving to be a great incentive for them to continue with their education. Where possible the groups are integrated with young people from the local community. This has proven to be one of the most popular and important aspects of the exchange. The Youth Exchange provides outstanding opportunities for young people to share aspects of their lives and culture with others from outside their region and also receives excellent and very positive media coverage.

*Justin Burke*

For more information contact  
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Warringah Council  
(02) 9942 2401

[youth@warringah.nsw.gov.au](mailto:youth@warringah.nsw.gov.au)

[www.warringah.nsw.gov.au](http://www.warringah.nsw.gov.au)

[www.breshire.com](http://www.breshire.com)



*Brewarrina Youth Ambassadors: Kyla Boney, Haelene Boney, Brenton Wright, Martin Boney, Iesha Mchughes, Bobbie-Sue Wright – Photo courtesy Justin Burke*

## Indigenous Community Volunteers

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At present I am involved with Nyikina Inc, based in Derby, WA, which has an ambitious plan to develop the Nyikina Cultural and Interpretive Centre. It will be a repository for historical material, both Aboriginal and European, a centre for post

graduate study in association with universities, and a place for Aboriginal school students to learn to know and appreciate their heritage and language.

The local council has given its enthusiastic support, and the WA Government has provided some

seed money and granted a lease of a choice site. Preliminary designs for the landscaping of the site and for the innovative buildings that will be needed have been prepared. All that is needed now are a few sponsors with a million or so to spare. Any offers?

*Henry Wardlaw*



## Demons at Dusk

By Peter Stewart  
Sid Harta Publishers

As a child I grew up knowing that there were certain 'givens' in life. I was an Australian, Australia belonged to 'us' the whites, it was discovered by Captain Cook, migrants were suspect because they came from somewhere else and didn't, couldn't, really belong, that this was always a great nation and we were fair to everybody. As you can imagine, since I left school and went on to Teachers' College and into life I've had a few surprises and hopefully learnt a bit, one thing being that the only true fact in the above list, is the first.

In 1968 I unexpectedly met some Aboriginal people and as they spoke, I began thinking about their situation. Where did they fit in? I couldn't work it out, at first finding it rather embarrassing. Then I became curious. How could they have owned the country? The facts came on gradually and then almost as a deluge. I sometimes discussed it with friends and family.

'One thing you can be sure of' my older brother said 'is that we were always good to them. This stuff about poison, massacres, and all that simply isn't true. It's been proven.' By then I knew that this was wishful thinking. My own church, in fact all the denominations, as well as the Government, had recorded in detail many of the

horrible shootings and massacres which had occurred all over Australia as by force the newcomers took over the land that the traditional owners had occupied for many thousands of years. But I didn't know much about it.

Later I heard the book *Demons at Dusk* by Peter Stewart reviewed. It was the story of a few white people, convicts, minding one of the outstations of an original land baron in the Bingara-Myall Creek area in the mid 1800s. They became friendly with a small group of around thirty displaced Aboriginal people who had taken shelter on the edge of a nearby creek. Each group helped the other – the Aboriginal mob providing fish, then teaching the convicts how to fish their way, and the convicts sometimes sharing flour and tea. Relationships grew, helped greatly by the spontaneity of the children.

However behind the scenes different relationships were being fostered by people more selfishly inclined, and the threat of violence was never far away.

The story is true, well documented, interesting, demonstrating the strength of the human spirit on all sides. A powerful and unforgettable story.

Ruth Sutton

## Macquarie Pen Anthology of Aboriginal Literature

Edited by Anita Heiss and Peter Minter

While walking through Forestville Library recently (taking my granddaughter to Story Time) I noticed on a shelf a book called *Macquarie Pen Anthology of Aboriginal Literature* edited by Anita Heiss and Peter Minter.

I do not usually borrow library books these days as I have so many books at home which I still have not read. However, I borrowed this book as it looked interesting.

The book contains a wonderful and inspiring collection of written work by Aboriginal writers beginning with a letter from Bennelong in 1796, other letters, some political, poetry, snippets from stories and plays, speeches, and other writing from 1796 until contemporary times.

It really tells so much about the culture, life and history

of Aboriginal people in their own words since the arrival of settlers onto their lands. It is certainly a book which showed me once again the strengths of Aboriginal people, as well as reinforcing to me their intellectual abilities.

Since beginning to write this review, I have received the latest ANTaR catalogue which has this book as part of its book review and is available for purchase from them. Also, the book won the Literary Award recently at the *Deadly Awards* presentation. No wonder it attracted my attention at the library.

Absolutely a book I would recommend to everyone.

Carol Ritchie

# 2008 *Christmas in the Bush*

*Christmas in the Bush*, held on Saturday 13 December at McCarrs Creek Reserve near Church Point, was as big a success as our four previous *Christmas in the Bush* picnics.

So much organising and on the spot preparation goes into such an event. So many people to thank for their willing time, care and muscle! The two large shady marquees, the children's jumping castle, the good food bbq, salads, snacks and drinks, Black Santa, Murri Magician, information table and smiles all round. Not to mention the free buses to and from Hornsby and Manly.

More than 100 adults and children were there, from all over the north side, and also from other Sydney communities, through family,

community and work networks. Elders came from the Central Coast and Mt Druitt to join with us. To share the 'in the bush' experience of bush, creek, Guringai history and connectedness. The large midden along the creek here linking us to the people who enjoyed this sheltered, beautiful place before us, maybe smiling and enjoying with us.

Well, nature turned on a scorcher of a day, so marquees and shady spots under the trees were welcome and the kids spent most of the day in the cooling creek. Watching the kids at play in the creek, we could have been in so many places in NSW, down at the creek on a hot day. Memories were shared, as well as the 'here and now' of our lives, and good laughter.

Great thanks go to Herb Smith, (Community Facilitator, Aboriginal Child Youth & Family Strategy) for having the terrific idea and to Sue Pinkham (Project Officer, Northern Sydney Aboriginal Social Plan) and Herb for the organising of all that made this day so relaxed and all-round enjoyable.

Thanks also to Pittwater Council for waiving fees and to the ten Northern Sydney Councils for their funding, to Sue Downer and Adam from Hornsby Council, to Ruby Jo and Larry from DoCS, and to all the members of the local communities who pitched in on the day.

And to all who came. See ya next year.

*Clair Jackson*

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## BIALA Hostel Report

Another busy, busy year over – and a pretty successful year too, I think.

After a few comings and goings, we finished the year with a really nice bunch of girls who all tried very hard with their education.

This year we had no Year 12 students to make it through to the HSC, but we had one Year 11 student, whom I hope will return to complete her High School education. We had two Year 10 students at the end of the year and hopefully they will also be back to continue their education.

I was able to use both TAFE and a private tutoring college this year for the older girls which made it much easier for us all as their school work is pretty hard for many of us to help them with.

The homework centre continued and our thanks to Pauline (who helped our Year 11 student), Suzen, Jocelyn and Carol for their much appreciated efforts this year. The girls, as well as myself and the other staff, appreciate their help very much.

Socially, this year the girls have been able to do some great things too.

A visit to the Australian Reptile Park and to the Australian Museum via the Botanical Gardens (with Carol) were both enjoyable. The outing to the Aboriginal Support Group's *Sorry Day* commemoration was also a memorable day. Various other outings were organized and appreciated by the girls including a bushwalk and picnic with the Harbour to Hawkesbury Reconciliation Group.

Aboriginal Hostels held their Graduation at Newcastle this year and a great time was had by all of us. Of course, all the girls looked fabulous and enjoyed getting dressed up for this special night. Our two Year 10 girls received their graduation certificates.

There were quite a few Year 12 graduates from the other hostels this year which was really great to see.

Our staff at the end of the year consisted of Di Olson as my deputy manager. Di has been the night-watch person for many years, and hopefully will also gain her bus

licence over Christmas, which will be great for me and the students. Zita, our long term cook, is still with

us, having taken some long service leave this year – and did we miss her. My relief manager is Denise who has been here since last year and is a very experienced person.

At the end of the year the students held an Art Exhibition at Mackellar High School. They had been assisted to do this by the school and their works consisted of both paintings and digitally produced works. They were very proud of what they had achieved and welcomed people to the exhibition, talking to them and relating what their pictures signified. A big thank you to all those people who were able to purchase these works – the girls were over the moon with the response they received.

Hopefully I will be able to report more often in 2009, however things are usually pretty hectic here so please forgive me if I don't get around to it. Thank you all at the Support Group for your continued interest and support – it is much appreciated.

*Lara Rutley, Senior Houseparent  
Biala Aboriginal Hostel  
December, 2008*

# Indigenous Students Art Exhibition

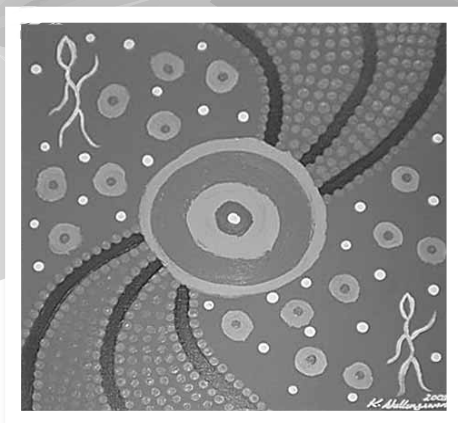
## Mackellar Girls High School

The Indigenous students at the Mackellar Campus have many talents and much youthful energy. One avenue, showing both talent and pleasure, is their combined and individual visual art works which were exhibited at a one-evening exhibition on December 4, 2008.

The works on show were computer-generated prints and acrylics on canvas and were of great variety, colour and expression, all of high quality. The imagery ranged from Indigenous-themed designs, some of great sensitivity, to expressions of feelings and experiments in form and technique. Those for sale were snapped up quickly by genuinely delighted buyers.

Showing one's art publicly can be rather daunting but the young artists, from Year 7 to Year 11, showed great aplomb, welcoming guests to the show and talking with them about their works.

Artists showing were Natasha Barker, Karsha Bergan, Tamalee Bradfield Robbins, Lakeshia Brown, Hannah Craigie, Tanika Cran, Amy Cutmore, Larka Cutmore, Kunama Flett, Danielle Hodges, Gabie McKellar, Ainslie Orcher, Tamika Otton, Janie Panton-Roberts, Christina Roberts, Maleika Roberts, Keisha Ann Shillingsworth, Merinda Simpson,



*Painting by Keisha Shillingsworth  
Photo courtesy Carol Ritchie*

Samantha Simpson, Tatyana Slemnik, Sheree Stevens, Tashala Torrens and Ketahlea Williams.

The girls who live at Biala during school terms regularly workshop their art as a group, sometimes on a Saturday under the supportive eye of teacher Anna Naidu. Rosa Docker, AEA at Mackellar, and Clair Jackson, Aboriginal Academic Partner and sometime artist, as well as interested art and TAS teachers add their expertise/support when time allows. Special mention must be made of Anne McAlpine, Head Teacher and Co-ordinator for Aboriginal students at Mackellar, who initiates and coordinates this program.

The exhibition was opened by Mackellar School Principal Christine

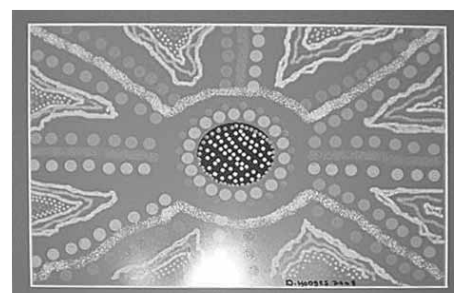
Del Gallo. Major guests attending were Maurice Brunning and Janet Wasson (NSW School Education Directors), Steve Pickering (Principal, Northern Beaches Secondary College), Kevin Keller (Director, NS TAFE), Lynne Mabb (VET Coordinator, NS Region), Frances Plummer and Kerin Wood, who head the AGQTIP (Quality Teaching Indigenous Program) in NSW, Nina BurrIDGE (UTS and QTIP research consultant for Northern Beaches) and Clair Jackson (QTIP Indigenous Academic Partner to MGC).

Thankyou all for your support and participation.

The exhibition opening was also well attended by interested members of the local community, including a local prominent artist, teachers and members of north side Reconciliation groups.

We look forward to next year's show!

*Clair Jackson*





*Digital print by Danielle Hodges – Photo courtesy Carol Ritchie*



**elimatta** is now a bi-annual publication. It is included in the Pandora Website, Australia's Web Archive set up by the National Library of Australia.

The Support Group's first newsletter was produced in March 1982. The 1987 Winter edition was named *Elimatta* for the first time. In one Aboriginal language *Elimatta* means 'our home'. With this name we express our dream for this country – a real home to both Aboriginal people and later settlers. That depends on us being 'at home' with each other and to each other.

## Thankyou to

- Mark Ansiewicz for designing the new **elimatta**
-  Manly Council for its grant which will be used to update and reprint the ASG information and membership forms
-  Forestville RSL for assistance with expenses for special activities at Biala Aboriginal Hostel, Allambie Heights
- Our many members who regularly and generously send donations for the education programs the ASG supports



# Coming Activities

All details at [www.asgmwp.net](http://www.asgmwp.net)

The ASG is now holding **Information Nights** and **Business Meetings** on *ALTERNATE* months – on the first Monday of each month.

**Monday March 30**

**Seniors Week Film: *Harry's War***

**FREE** screening at Warringah Council Chambers of this thought-provoking film about Indigenous servicemen. Morning Tea at 9.30am, film and discussion 10-11.30am. Bookings: Carol Ritchie **9982 1425**

**Monday April 6**

**Business Meeting**

at Waratah Room, Nelson Heather Centre, North Narrabeen, at 7.30pm

**Monday May 4**

**Information Night**

Avalon filmmaker Gillian Moody will speak and present Indigenous short films at Angophora Room, Nelson Heather Centre, North Narrabeen, at 7.30pm

**Sunday May 24**

**Sorry Day 2009**

A local event to remember, honour and acknowledge the *Stolen Generations* to be held at the Scout hall, Bilarong Reserve, Wakehurst Parkway, North Narrabeen. 2.30-5pm. Enquiries Helen Ford **9451 3299**

**May 25 to July 12**

**Guringai Festival** – a celebration of Aboriginal Culture and Heritage across the Northern Sydney Region. The festival theme is *Star Dreaming*

**May 27 to June 3**

**Reconciliation Week**

**Wednesday June 10**

**River Of No Return**

Aboriginal filmmaker Darlene Johnson will be present for the screening of her film. 10am at Collaroy Cinema. Rated PG. Donation \$5 **No Bookings** Enquiries Pat Frater **9971 0735**

**Monday July 6**

**ASG 30th Anniversary Celebration** with Guest Speaker The Hon Linda Burney, MP.

*An Invitation  
to join us*

**Aboriginal Support Group  
Manly Warringah Pittwater**

Founded 1979

Membership is \$20 per year

**(02) 9913 7940 (02) 9982 1685**

P.O. Box 129 NARRABEEN NSW 2101

[www.asgmwp.net](http://www.asgmwp.net)

**elimatta** is the newsletter of the Aboriginal Support Group Manly Warringah Pittwater.

Articles are welcome with the understanding that editorial changes may be made and that contributors agree that the material will be archived by the National Library of Australia.

Contributors to **elimatta** are from many different cultures and backgrounds. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editors or members of the ASG.

Please email articles where possible to [annadbel@bigpond.net.au](mailto:annadbel@bigpond.net.au)

If you use any of the material it would be appreciated if the extract is set in context and the source acknowledged.



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## YARRAWARRA WOMEN'S GATHERING

The Yarrowarra Women's Gathering on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 March will be a spiritual and cultural retreat for women of all cultures and age groups. Hosted by Aboriginal women of the Gumbaynggirr Nation it will provide the opportunity to feel a special connection to the richness and diversity of Aboriginal culture.

In the midst of beautiful bushland, the Gathering will be held at the Yarrowarra Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Red Rock Road, Corindi, (halfway between Coffs Harbour and Grafton) less than five minutes drive from the Pacific Highway. Yarrowarra means *happy meeting* in the Gumbaynggirr language.

The weekend will include smoking ceremonies, basket weaving, dance, beach activities and stories around the campfire. You will enjoy bush tucker with a contemporary twist and you will be able to help gather bush tucker plants for the meals. Also, as keepsakes to take home, you will have a water urn you have weaved and your own personally screen printed t-shirt.

Packages include accommodation with meals, camping as well as participation without accommodation. Facilities for the disabled are available.

For details please call Sally Wilson on **0409 824 803** or email [yarrowarra\\_womens\\_network@bigpond.com](mailto:yarrowarra_womens_network@bigpond.com)