

Annual Report to Members - 2005/2006

As always we acknowledge that we meet on the land of the Ngunnawal people, and thank them for their generosity in allowing us to meet on their country. We would also like to thank the Yurauna Centre for providing a meeting place for our various meetings and networking discussions over the past year.

Sorry Day 2006

A small organising group, Helen Moran, Liz Rothe and Pauline Quinane, worked very hard to prepare for Sorry Day events this year. This resulted in a number of events held over several days.

On 24th May at Parliament House, Senator Rachel Siewert launched Pledge Books, which enable people to re-commit to justice for the stolen generations. The launch was co-hosted by Peter Garrett. A number of politicians started the ball rolling and signed the pledge books afterwards.

On the eve of Sorry Day, a candle-light vigil was held at 5.30pm, at the Centre for Christianity and Culture in Barton – *Honouring the Sorry Business with the Stolen Generations*.

On 26th May the troops got up early and planted black, yellow and red 'feet', after spending the previous evening attaching the wires. The feet symbolised the 'walking away' of children who were removed from their families.

Walking the History was a guided walk that began at 9 am that morning. The walkers paused at various spots along the way to hear speakers outside the High Court, the Tent Embassy, the Centre for Christianity and Culture, old Parliament House, and ending at the Stolen Generations' Memorial. There a barbecue was held, with music from the Stiff Gins, Duncan Smith, and Johnny Huckle.

Quiz

This year two of our Members developed a quiz for schools on Aboriginal history. This included questions on topics such as Truganini, the Aboriginal flag etc. The quiz was released before Sorry Day, and was used during NAIDOC Week in July. Journey of Healing Certificates were prepared for presentation to students completing the quiz.

National Sorry Day Committee

For the first time this year we had two elected representatives on the National Sorry Day Committee, Helen Moran and Liz Rothe. They attended a number of interstate meetings during a time of review and change.

A range of topics were covered at our meetings during the year. I presented a paper at one of our meetings about the *Forcible Removal of Aboriginal Half-cast Children from their Mothers, People and Land*. There was a good discussion afterwards.

One of our volunteers has developed a website and offered to maintain it for *Journey of Healing ACT*. Thank you for your contribution Karen Ott. You will find it at: www.johact.org and comments will be welcomed.

I want to thank the Committee members for their work during the year, especially those who worked on Sorry Day arrangements. Thanks also to Paul Falconer who has been our Treasurer for the past year, and Pauline Quinane who has been a very able Secretary.

Also, we are grateful for the many donations towards our expenses, as this is our main source of income. We received generous donations from a number of organisations such as the Canberra Baptist Church, ACT Baptist Association, the Canberra Presbytery of the Uniting Church, the Catholic Diocese, the Southern Cross Club, the Canberra Tradesmen's Club, and the National Sorry Day Committee. We have also appreciated donations from a number of individuals during the year.

Jilpia Nappaljari Jones
Co-Chair

David Wilson
Co-Chair

Sustaining Ngunnawal Culture Strategy

Since late 2002, this Ngunnawal initiative has been supported by *JoHACT* and managed by a small sub-committee of members. The Project Manager is Ms Roslyn Brown, who is also a member of the Ngunnawal community. Ricki Dargavel provides secretariat assistance, and advisers are Mrs Agnes Shea, Senior Ngunnawal Elder, and Mr Fred Monaghan

The strategy aims to increase social capital amongst traditional owners through cultural camps for Ngunnawal Elders. Objectives are:

- reconciliation of the Elders of Ngunnawal families;
- strengthen Ngunnawal culture and community by bringing Elders together to share cultural knowledge, expression and development;
- develop the capacity for stronger partnerships between Ngunnawal Elders; and
- help foster the capacity of Ngunnawal Elders for effective and cooperative leadership, so they can encourage wider participation by their community in addressing social issues.

Only three Elders' camps were held during the year, due to difficulties in attracting adequate funding for this developmental process.

A cultural camp in August 2005 was called *Ngunnawal Histories, Part 2*, as it followed on from the previous camp dealing with Elders' stories. Some of the draft stories were read during the camp. One of the highlights was a bus trip to Yass to see places relevant to some of the stories: Hollywood 'Mission', Oak Hill, the 'Blacks Camp' sometimes called the Weir Camp. Another highlight was an old document that had been found in historical archives. This was an 1831 diary describing a corroboree held at Tuggeranong Homestead

The theme of the Elders' camp held in November was *Strengthening Relationships*. There were workshops on anger management, which a number of people had asked for. In addition there was a visit to Tuggeranong Homestead, to see where the 1831 corroboree had been held.

Both these camps were funded by Healthpact ACT, with a contribution from Environment ACT through the Community Partnership Program. The next camps were funded by ACT Government.

The eleventh Elders' camp was held in May 2006. The theme was *Developing our Community*. Facilitators from the Community Development Department of Canberra Institute of Technology led workshops on this subject. It was useful to hear about community development projects in various places where people lived. There was discussion about the proposed Aboriginal Healing Farm; also about Judy Atkinson's book, *Trauma Trails: Recreating the Songlines*.

The book of seven Ngunnawal stories has been completed, and a consultant has designed the cover and format. The full draft book is being sent to each author, and a workshop will bring them together to finalise it before publication later this year.

Roslyn Brown
Project Manager

Ricki Dargavel
Secretariat

MEMBERS in 2005/2006

Agnes Josephine	Shea
Allan	Carriage
Anna Lena	Pahlman
Carrie Ann	Fowlie
David	Wilson
Dierk von	Behrens
Fred	Farzan
Gary Warner	Hilton
Helen	Moran
Jane	Donnelly
Janet	Hunt
Janice Clare	Tynan
Jeanette	Regan
Jeanette	Mathews
Jilpia Nappaljari	Jones
Joanna	Abernethy
John	Bond
John	Burnett
Joy	Edwards
Keith	McEwan
Linda	Carney
Lindsay	Cleland
Liz	Rothe
Lois	McRae
Margaret	Speed
Pamela	Terrill
Paul	Falconer
Pauline	Quinane
Peter	Walker
Ricki	Dargavel
Roslyn	Brown
Tanya	Mark
Thorwald	Lorenzen
Wendy	Proctor



JOURNEY
of
HEALING
(ACT) Inc.

Annual Report

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