

# GUREHLGAM

ABN: 91 103 222 411

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

### Introduction

This has been another fun packed year with no time to become bored. Yarrawarra has taken up a lot of our time with all the other programs contributing.

During the year we joined Supply Nation and the Indigenous Chamber of Commerce, mainly to allow us to promote Yarrawarra. In May Alison Williams attended the Supply Nation trade show in Sydney just as a flag flying exercise to let everyone know that the YACC was still alive.

We held seven Board meetings plus the AGM in October. Regrettably we have lost two good Directors as explained below.

The financial reports will show a more difficult year with some programs barely managing after three years of frozen funding. However, I am confident that we have managed to contain potential problems and look forward to a productive new financial year.

### Aboriginal Family Wellbeing Service

**CELEBRATING 15 YEARS**

AFWS staff would like to invite you and your family members to come and celebrate our 15 year anniversary.

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017  
**Time:** 10am – 1pm  
**Location:** Jetty Foreshores (South End)

Light refreshments and BBQ lunch will be provided

*Bring your own outdoor chairs, sunscreen and hats!*

**There will be activities for children:**

- +Face Painting
- +Kangaroo Race
- +Colouring
- +Making Dream Catchers
- +Jumping Castle

**There will be a raffle on the day, which will be drawn after lunch for all clients who attend on the day.**

Prizes are various hamper packs.

18-26 Victoria Street, Grafton, 2460

Fax 02 66421195

[manager@gurehlgam.com.au](mailto:manager@gurehlgam.com.au)

Ph 02 66428677

P O Box 1676, Grafton, 2460

0409428626

[www.gurehlgam.com.au](http://www.gurehlgam.com.au)

# GUREHLGAM

ABN: 91 103 222 411

Despite the program having been serving the people of Coffs Harbour for 15 years, there is no guarantee that it will continue. The IAS funding for the AFWS program expires at the end of December, 2017 with no guarantee of ongoing funding. When the IAS took over the Aboriginal programs, AFWS fell between the cracks to some degree. It is funded as a schools program and the team has concentrated on their work in that area but they also do a lot of good as a community service which is not acknowledged to the extent it deserves to be.

## **Many Rivers Family Violence Prevention Legal Service**

Providing a full basket of services has been harder this year with the pressure put on the budget in the third year with no cost of living increase in the allocation.

Benelong's Haven asked us to deliver the 'Being in Control' program to their clients which we were able to do throughout the year. Darryll, Kylie and Tammy all facilitated the program with positive feedback.

Through the FVPLS Secretariat, we received \$1,500 to engage a consultant to conduct a process review. This has been helpful in planning ahead for a potential restructure to meet budget pressures.

Julie Perkins and Gillian Edgar attended the annual FVPLS conference held in Darwin in May. Minister Scullion attended. There were several messages that came through:- the entire IAS tendering approach was reviewed in early 2016 by the Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee. Key recommendations have been accepted by PMC, a review of the tendering guidelines has been completed making the process easier. Two other points to note are that there is to be more support for smaller Indigenous organisations delivering programs but there is more focus on efficiency.

## **Clarence Valley Indigenous Support Service.**

This program has been through a number of frameworks. Originally started as an Indigenous Community Link program, the guidelines have shifted with each renewal. During this year it operated under Janelle Brown's leadership. She has made this program a hub of community activity, organising events through the year, like a Sister Girls program and the celebration of the Bringing them Home report; the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mabo decision and

# GUREHLGAM

ABN: 91 103 222 411

50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1967 referendum. She and her team also did a fantastic job organising the 2017 NAIDOC celebrations.

Aunty Lenore Parker



The ICL guidelines for 2017-2018 have been drafted. They have a youth, anti suicide focus which will mean closer cooperation with other service providers in the Valley.

## Clarence Valley Aboriginal Healing Centre

Sista Girls program in the Healing Centre



18-26 Victoria Street, Grafton, 2460

Fax 02 66421195

[manager@gurehlgam.com.au](mailto:manager@gurehlgam.com.au)

Ph 02 66428677

P O Box 1676, Grafton, 2460

0409428626

[www.gurehlgam.com.au](http://www.gurehlgam.com.au)

# GUREHLGAM

ABN: 91 103 222 411

In November, Janelle Brown and I attended a forum in Canberra with healing centres from around the country. It was an informative exercise. Inspiring to meet some of the people who are working so hard for their communities.

The Healing Centre was in limbo for part of this year due to funding overlaps. We were successful in winning a further two years worth of funding to keep the Centre running

The Healing Centre will host the regional Healing Forum in November with the help of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Healing Foundation.

Through the Healing centre we have built up a more collaborative approach, working with other services to achieve the outcomes required.

## **Specialist Homelessness Service.**

Our three year contract with On Track Community Programs expired in June, 2017. OTCP have morphed into 3AS. As we turned into 2017, FACS began working on ensuring continuity of service where it was working. We were offered a new Joint Working Agreement and Service Level Agreement which had more lawyerly print than needed. They have been signed and this program will continue through till 2020. Mavis Brown has undertaken a lot of training and has become a valued case worker in that program.

## **Grants..**

Chris Gulaptus, Kenn Payne and Alan Schofield (Sisters of Mercy) testing the new stair lift.



# GUREHLGAM

ABN: 91 103 222 411

We won two contracts through the Social Housing Improvement Fund; \$35,000 to install wheelchair toilets, a stair lift and carpets at Gurehlgam and \$10,000 for the community garden. The work on the toilets has dragged on. The Healing Garden has benefitted from a project Janelle Brown set up with Novaskill to train a group of young people who carried out most of the work on the garden.

## Yarrowarra

Where sunsets are beautiful



Gurehlgam took over ownership and responsibility for the Yarrowarra Centre in early 2016 with expectations of support funding from Prime Minister and Cabinet. By the start of this financial year, we had secured some funding from the Social Community Housing Infrastructure Fund to carry out essential repairs. Unfortunately Yarrowarra had aging infrastructure and we have spent much time and money juggling the need to repair or replace electrical wirings and fittings, stoves, cool room, septic and more.

By mid 2016, the Board was considering all options to keep Yarrowarra alive. It was decided to seek a commercial arrangement with the Bank of Queensland that should, and did, tide us over till support was secured from PM&C.

Bob Palmer came on board in May as hospitality manager with some very strict targets to make Nuralamee a success. He is very well connected in the tourism industry around this area.

Northern Pathways won the tender to build and run the proposed new Grafton correctional facility. They have kept in touch with Gurehlgam and see us as a prime partner

18-26 Victoria Street, Grafton, 2460

Fax 02 66421195

[manager@gurehlgam.com.au](mailto:manager@gurehlgam.com.au)

P O Box 1676, Grafton, 2460

0409428626

[www.gurehlgam.com.au](http://www.gurehlgam.com.au)

# GUREHLGAM

ABN: 91 103 222 411

once they are open. We are mainly dealing with Serco, the future operator. Our plan is to be able to utilize Yarrawarra and get trained Aboriginal people meaningful work once it is open.

There is still a lot we need to do but progress has been made.

The six former Yarrawarra housing units are under the management of Many Rivers Housing Management. During the year we had one tenancy change and one tenant taken to the tribunal over rent arrears. That seems to have been resolved. We are slowly building a cash reserve for the inevitable time that major works are needed on the houses.

The Wadjar Gallery is the flagship of Yarrawarra. We have been able to keep it open through difficult times. Alison Williams and Julie Park have been the mainstays. Both have put in the extra effort to help Gurehlgam straighten out the legacy issues and begin to head toward viability. Whilst the Gallery has made healthy sales, it isn't expected to ever make a profit and will always rely on grant funding. Alison seems to know the places to look and has attracted a couple of grants to stage exhibitions. The Dreaming Trails one opened July 2017 with funding from Arts NSW.

In June we were notified that PMC were allocating over \$217,000 to YACC under the Jobs, Land and Economy strategy.

## **The Gurehlgam Building.**

Occupancy has remained at capacity and casual letting for training has greatly increased. With a grant from FACS, we have been able to install chair lifts to the first level and wheelchair toilets for both male and female use.

The Sisters of Mercy had smoke detectors installed through the building in August to meet their compliance obligations.

## **Governance.**

All our policies were reviewed this year as part of the two year cycle and to better meet the demands of accreditation as a SHS provider to State government. We are now in line with those standards and able to use the ACNC 'Charity Tick' if we wish to.

During the year we lost two valued Directors. Andrew Hegedus had to resign to avoid any perception of conflict of interest in his new senior role with the NSW government. We

# GUREHLGAM

ABN: 91 103 222 411

wish him well and will miss his drive and initiative. Terry Kapeen has resigned because he is retiring. His expertise has been a valuable asset to Gurehlgam and we wish him well.

We have made good use of volunteers this year. Trish Kelly helped review our policies, Erin Phillips and Merryl Wilson have provided valuable help with drafting submissions and Julie Klement Bruce is essential to keeping the gallery open at Yarrawarra.

## **Challenges**

Our biggest challenge is still to do with scale. We need to increase income to be able to engage the full range of skills we need; technology, compliance, volunteer management and strategic focus.

Maintaining services within the funding cap is becoming harder. Since 2013-14 we have had wages increase by a bit over 10%. So where the wage component was typically 60% of the budget, it is now about 65% which impacts on the operational budget.

Generating revenue to achieve better than break even by the end of the next financial year at Yarrawarra.

Managing a diverse portfolio with existing resources.

Better evaluation of everything we do.

## **Opportunities.**

Building on the IDX program. We are looking at fee for service holiday activities as well as diversionary programs to fit in with the S.A.Y. program.

A number of commercial activities, some associated with the new correctional facility. These will be investigated to focus on the core opportunities.

More collaborative efforts with large and small community sector players.