

THE BULDAU YIOOHGEN PROGRAM PRESENTS

BIG DREAMS

EMBRACING CULTURE AT ANGLICARE VICTORIA

BULDAU YIOOHGEN NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021



AUNTIE AND UNCLE'S UPDATE

Hey all you mob!

As Aboriginal people, connection to Mother Earth, family and our people is so important to us. We found it difficult being unable to come together on Country and connect with each other last year. But through these challenges, we were able to continue guiding our young people and keep the connection to culture alive. 2020 also gave us the opportunity to set the Buldau Yioohgen (BY) program up for an exciting 2021. Here are some of the things we did:

- We recorded Welcome/Smoking Ceremony videos to use online in Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week; as well as video COVID-19 messages for our community
- We grew our relationships - new and old - with Anglicare Victoria's (AV) wider community of young Indigenous people

through online video calls and 200 care packages delivered (more on this further down the newsletter)

- We created a First Nation's Network Group for all Indigenous people employed here at AV
- We engaged two BY Alumni to produce original artwork for branding our program (more on this further down the newsletter)
- We ran a country camp and canoe trip in Moulamein in preparation for a new cultural experience in 2021
- We started fortnightly yarns with senior management to bring more culture into AV's programs and teams

We're excited about getting back together again in 2021 with all you mob. Hope you have a very safe and happy start to the new year.

Uncle Ian Goolagong and Auntie Kellie Hunter
AV Cultural Advisors
Buldau Yioohgen Leadership Team



WORDS FROM THE CEO

Welcome to the first Buldau Yioohgen (BY) newsletter for 2021. These quarterly newsletters will offer our staff and partners updates on the BY culturally-based youth leadership program and also news on AV's progress on the embedding of Indigenous perspectives and culture at AV in general.

Last year was challenging, but our commitment and action towards reconciliation and championing Indigenous culture at AV has never had more momentum. This progress has been driven by the BY program, increasing awareness and demand for our services, and from an organisation-wide appetite to ingrain culture into AV's way of delivering care.

INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Quarterly Update from General Manager David Law

Hello all, I hope you and your family have entered this year with a renewed sense of hope for 2021 and beyond. The team at Buldau Yioohgen (BY) have been working with real passion during the last year to deliver our children in care the best possible culturally-led program in 2021. The BY program will continue to be led by Anglicare Victoria's Cultural Advisors Uncle Ian Goolagong and Auntie Kellie Hunter.

Here's a few things to get excited about in early 2021:

- In March 2021 we'll be running our 25th Hike Toward Higher Education on Maria Island Tasmania. Over 60 students are already signed up for three days of adventuring, connecting to country and guidance.
- The Lake Mungo Cultural Program (5 days) will once again be running in April 2021. Applications will open February 2021, and young people will be invited to join the trip where they will learn and connect to some of Australia's oldest knowledge with stories of people, culture and country.
- Roadshow to AV offices across Victoria.
- Heading to Sydney for the City to Surf fun run in August.

Despite the hurdles of 2020, we have made much progress. Most significantly, Auntie Kellie Hunter joined the Agency, becoming our second cultural advisor alongside Uncle Ian Goolagong. Auntie Kellie is adding important support to AV's Indigenous community and our own teams as we bring greater awareness and better practise to our programs. Welcome Kellie!

I look forward to another busy year for the program team, participants and supporters.

Paul McDonald
Anglicare Victoria CEO



The mob at BY are currently in consultation with numerous stakeholders to secure a physical centre and home for the program. Ideally, the venue will be in central Melbourne and offer numerous culturally-focused programs. The venue would run weekly programs accessible to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait people in the Anglicare Victoria and BY partner network.

We are also going to buy a BY mini-bus to transport our program participants around. We have secured finance and the search is on! The bus will be painted in original artwork created by our talented Buldau Yioohgen alumni. We are excited to see the finished result. Keep an eye out for it in our upcoming newsletters.

I look forward to connecting with you in the not too distant future.

Go well,

David Law
General Manager

STAYING CONNECTED

When Victoria went into lockdown in 2020, the Buldau Yioohgen (BY) team could see that young people in the network might soon become isolated and at further risk. To maintain connection and positivity, the team reached out in several ways.

As well as individual video check-ins with those on the program, they recorded heartfelt video messages of strength and unity that went out to all Indigenous young people, AV staff and BY partners.

The team also sent out 200 care packages to the young Indigenous people in our network. The packages contained an iPad case or pencil case, a USB data stick with a personal message of support from Uncle Ian and Auntie Kellie, healthy exercise and eating tips, a Telstra phone voucher, healthy snacks, and stationery kits to support their schooling.

"When I got my cultural pack I was really excited; learning more about my culture and meeting my Elders." – Tasha, 14 year old Aboriginal girl in Out of Home Care.

General Manager David Law said: "It gave them something to work on, to keep their minds off COVID. They weren't able to do a lot, so it gave them something to look forward to; a sense of connectivity. It also made sure that when we resume our normal programming, it won't be a cold start."

The efforts to maintain connection appear to have been successful. Several new children and young people have opened up to Uncle Ian and Auntie Kellie, and the program is now inundated with referrals and enquiries for BY's services.



This piece represents diversity within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander diaspora of Australia.

RAISING ASPIRATIONS

The Buldau Yioohgen (BY) program provides an opportunity for young and vulnerable Indigenous people to ground themselves in their cultural identity as they move forward in both Indigenous and non-Indigenous worlds. As well as leadership opportunities, the program will increasingly provide avenues for program alumni to give back using their unique skills and passions. One of our first examples is the commissioning of Indigenous art from Larroom Art - a collaboration between program alumni and Gunditjamarra artists Jaya Foy and Elias Jarvis.

Their art will be purchased and licensed with rolling commission for use on BY's t-shirts, collateral and the soon-to-be purchased mini-bus. The partnership is being celebrated as "walking-the-talk" and another great example of giving real opportunity to our program alumni.

"We use art as a way to express our emotions and our truth as young and proud Aboriginal people."
– Elias and Jaya, BY Alumni.

Elias and Jaya describe their work saying: "Each piece embodies both modern and traditional ideals such as gathering, unity, identity, diversity as well as friendship. There are countless reasons as to why we do art, we see it as a way to express our beautiful culture and maintain connection with our ancestors and land."

Art gives us the opportunity to display our heritage and traditions, while also delivering the viewer with a story significant to us and our people. We use art as a way to express our emotions and our truth as young and proud Aboriginal people."

If you are interested in hearing more about anything you've read in this season's newsletter, please contact the BY program via **email: by@anglicarevic.org.au**

anglicarevic.org.au



OUR FOCUS IS ON TRANSFORMING THE FUTURES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, FAMILIES AND ADULTS. OUR WORK IS BASED ON THREE GUIDING PILLARS, PREVENT, PROTECT, EMPOWER.

**BETTER
TOMORROWS**