



Issue One

Newsletter

20th June 2021

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our first official newsletter. This is an update on our journey so far to opening an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school in Mt Druitt area. It is exciting that we have come this far!!! It makes it all feel very real and possible (I must admit there have been some shaky times, COVID 19 who knew?)

CommunityXchange

A bit of a recap on the legal business side. We are registered as CommunityXchange. The name came from a lot of discussion and debate. We concentrated on defining why we think this school is so important and how we wanted it to be, we also focused on how we were going to get to completion. During this process we realised, for this all to come to fruition there must be an exchange of culture, knowledge and experience to ensure all voices are heard, with views, opinions and expectations considered. It takes a village to raise a child, it takes a community to start a school! thus COMMUNITYXCHANGE.

Our Team

Let me introduce you all to our team. Firstly, the Elders who are guiding us with their



Uncle Greg Simms

- an activist for reconciliation,
- a traditional woodcarver,
- Aboriginal cultural educator and storyteller
- Gundungurra (Water dragon Lizard people) of the Blue Mountains and the Gadigal (whale people) of the Darug nation.

Bronwyn Penrith

- Senior Director Burbarangga Group
- Chairperson of Mudgin - Gal Aboriginal Women Centre
- Member of City of Sydney Aboriginal Advisory Panel
- Trained facilitator and a registered Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner

Uncle Wes Marne

- Bigambul man and community elder
- lived in Mt Druitt, Sydney for over 45 years.
- Shares traditional knowledge of his grandfather's creation and dreaming stories

wisdom and knowledge

This is our wonderful diverse management team, each bringing their own unique skills and experience.

The Management Team

DANE MCCARTHY	GRANT McDOWELL	FRAN MCCARTHY	SUPIPI JAYAWARDENA
KAREN ISAACS	JULIANNA MCCARTHY	TAYLAH GRAY	
LOU KNOWLES	MANFRED SCHROEDER	SAMMI PANG	LYNDA LOVETT
			ELISE PERPETUA

We are very lucky to have the support of Minter Ellison who worked with us on our constitution and this enabled us to be registered with ACNC and recognised as a Benevolent institution so we have not-for-profit status and can receive tax-deductible donations.



8 Calala Street Child Care Centre

We have found an amazing child care centre in Mt Druitt. 8 Calala street. Fresh Hope, the organisation who owns the place, are aligned with our vision and happy for us to occupy the centre at a very minimal rent. We hope to have all the paperwork completed and lease signed in July 2021. Then the real fun begins.



Calala St is a perfect building for what we need to start and it covers all the early childhood regulations. Our first step is a smoking ceremony with Uncle Wes and then we will engage in the consultation process and begin creating a culturally sensitive space for our first group of preschool children. The aim is to create a sense of ownership, purpose and belonging.

Fundraising

We are continuing to work on fundraising.

1. Raising seed funding for the preschool to cover expenses until we can access Government funding.
2. Investigating every philanthropic organisation who could help us achieve our long-term aim of purchasing our own land and having a purpose-built independent Preschool to Year 12 school self-governed with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Our Official Opening Celebration

The date of this event is to be advised. This will be an opportunity for everyone to join us to celebrate the First step of this exciting journey.

We have a website: www.communityxchange.com.au; an active Facebook page and you can also find us on linked in, our email is talk2us@communityxchange.com.au or you can just give me a call 0450601484

Warmest regards

Fran

representing

CommunityXchange