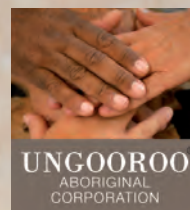


*Ungooroo would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land now known as the Hunter Valley, the Wanaruah and Awabakal people and all Aboriginal people who now call this region their home, as well as paying our respects to elders past and present.*



# UngoorooNEWS

DECEMBER 2011

## Ungooroo Aboriginal Youth Support for the Upper Hunter

The Specialist Homelessness Services Officer's role is to support young Aboriginal people (aged 15 – 25) by providing information, resources and practical assistance that empowers them towards self reliance and independence.

The Ungooroo Aboriginal Youth Support – Upper Hunter worker will be operating fulltime out of Ungooroo offices (26 George St, Singleton) and will provide support to Aboriginal youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with emphasis in the Singleton area as well as Muswellbrook, Scone and the Upper Hunter.

The successful applicant for this position is Ms Colleen Morgan who will be joining the Ungooroo proactive team in the New Year, starting date will be Monday 9th January 2012.



Colleen Morgan

## Upper Hunter Aboriginal Worker and Upper Hunter Accommodation Crisis Worker



Each Tuesday Ungooroo will be visited by Leanne Walklate (Upper Hunter Aboriginal Family Worker) and Janelle Monroe (Upper Hunter Crisis Accommodation Worker).

These services offer assistance to individuals or families living in Muswellbrook, Singleton, Scone, Aberdeen, Denman, Murrurundi and surrounding Upper Hunter districts.

**Leanne Walklate's** role is to assist new parents and families with children aged 0-8 years in culturally appropriate ways to enhance their parenting skills and to improve educational, social and health outcomes for their children.

**Janelle Monroe's** position services the Singleton, Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Shires. The UHCAS aims provide assistance in the form of short term and permanent secure accommodation for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or to assist with referrals to suitable support services in some cases where they may be unable to assist clients.



# Long Wall Conference:

As a direct result of our WUPA Exhibition for 2011, Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation were approached by BIS Industries to provide an Indigenous Theme for the Long Wall Conference held at the Winery's in the Hunter Valley. The event was a huge success for both the industry and community organisation working hand in hand to create an atmosphere of reconciliation and a great working partnership for all involved. Wendell Sailor was the guest speaker for the event and was able to showcase some of the artists involved in WUPA 2011. An art auction on the night helped raise \$13,000.00 toward Ungooroo's health and community services. A big thankyou from the Ungooroo team to Bernie and Joe and other BIS representatives and guests.



Wendell Sailor showing the footballs and boomerangs showcasing WUPA@Wanarah and Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation. Wendell is featured with representatives from Rio Tinto, which were one of the major supports of the night. Thanks to all involved.



Some of the WUPA artists and Wendell at the conference.



Annette Dunstan, Director & Site Coordinator of Ungooroo with Wendell Sailor at Longwall Conference 2011.



Denise Hedges (Director of Ungooroo) and Wendell Sailor at Longwall conference.



Longwall conference, Denise Hedges, Wendell Sailor and Taasha Layer (Manager UAC).



Jon Naden part of 'Riverband'.



Joe Thomas, Maree Simons, Wendell Sailor and Taasha Layer Manager UAC with the Ngurra Bu dancers who performed the 'Welcome Dance' for the evening.



Taasha Layer presenting a framed jersey to Joe Thomas from BIS Industries in gratitude of the success of the Longwall Conference for 2011.

## PRESS RELEASE!

## Hunter Expressway and Hunter Aboriginal Working Group (HAWG):

**22 Aboriginal People helping to build the way "It is not only a great job, It is the start of a professional long - term real career".**

Everybody who regularly travels the New England Highway between Singleton and the West of Newcastle knows about the travelling time and the usual regular congestion points. Everybody is looking forward to the completion of the Hunter Expressway linking the F3 with the New England Highway.

Reduced travelling time and congestion are not the only attractions of this important infrastructure; Aboriginal People are helping to build the way and to Close the Gap.

To date 22 Aboriginal people (men and women) have realised aspirations to enter planned and quality training toward Civil Construction Qualifications and potential long - term careers thanks to the patient and

collaborative approach of major contractors Abi group, I Recruit and The Hunter Aboriginal Working Group (HAWG).

From first tentative planning conversations to commencement of real jobs and first steps into professional careers took a tiny 4 months.

Abigroup F3 Indigenous trainees



### How did this happen? "Independent, Non-Aligned Aboriginal Volunteer Group linking up Hunter Expressway Project."

On 27TH May 2011, a small group of concerned individuals met in Kurri Kurri with keen intention to find a better way ahead to help in improving the vocational outcomes and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in the Hunter

Region.

The group quickly recognised the need to focus on improving access to employment, training, long term careers and the creation of viable business opportunities through an inclusive and more co-

operative approach than what had been experienced for decades in the Hunter.

At the time, several large civil construction projects had been announced and it became obvious to the group that many individuals, agencies, community groups and businesses were facing quite a confusing web of options and a range of challenges around recruiting, access to pre - employment training, long - term post - recruitment support and skill development generally.

The group made a commitment together to volunteer individual time and expertise free of all charges,

fees or other individual business interest in working together to give support services for Hunter businesses, agencies, Aboriginal People & their existing and potential employers.

The Hunter Aboriginal Working Group was formed. One of the major civil construction projects (the Hunter Expressway Project) was targeted as a prime opportunity for an independent and non - aligned group to help guide, consult and refer, support and connect the employers and contractors with Aboriginal People who held aspirations for careers in the civil construction industry.

Pro - bono (free) consultancy meetings were held with Abi-Group and one of the main sub-contractors I Recruit to understand the challenges and needs of the project.

**The Result?** Upon completion of a pre-employment training program 22 local Indigenous recruits commenced work on the Hunter Expressway Project.

For further information on the Hunter Aboriginal Working Group - HAWG or if you have a project you would like assistance with please contact us on 0432 075 059 or email [bakontrac@bigpond.com](mailto:bakontrac@bigpond.com)

**UNGOOROO<sup>®</sup>**  
ABORIGINAL  
CORPORATION

**2011**  
HUNTER REGION  
**BUSINESS**  
EXCELLENCE AWARDS  
**WINNER**

**Winners of  
the Hunter  
Region BEC  
Indigenous  
Business of the  
Year 2011**



At the 2011 Hunter Region Business Excellence Awards Ungooroo won Indigenous Business of the year, this was a great honour for us and we were also finalists for Wupa@Wanarah.





# services schedule and Information:

The Board and staff  
of Ungooroo also wish  
everyone a safe holiday  
season and happy new  
year in 2012.

## Dental Services

If you require a visit to the Awabakal dentist, Ungooroo organise trips in our community mini bus to Newcastle when we have sufficient numbers of patients. Should you like to schedule an appointment please contact the office on **6571 5111**.

*There is a very good chance of a bus run in February 2012 as we currently have a few names down.*

## Training Room

Ungooroo have a training room that is available for hire by any organisation or group for any meetings, conferences or other such instances.

Catering is available if required and should be requested when checking availability of the venue. Please contact us on **6571 5111** for enquiries.

## Community Bus Hire

Ungooroo has a twelve seater bus that is available for hire. Please note that for insurance purposes we must supply a driver and would appreciate as much notice as possible pre hire to organise this. To check availability please phone the office on **6571 5111**.

## Specialist Homelessness Services Officer (S.H.S.O)

This service will be available at of the 9th January 1012

If you wish to make an appointment to see the caseworker, Colleen Morgan, please contact the office **6571 5111**.

## Awabakal Health Services

GP access is available Thursdays fortnightly. Appointments fill quickly so please contact the office to make a booking asap. The last GP access for 2011 in Thursday, 15th December 2011, so please make a booking now to ensure you have updated scripts and medication to carry you over the Xmas break.

Awabakal services will be closed from the 20th December till mid January 2012, date yet to be confirmed.

To make an appointment please contact the office on **6571 5111**.



## LandCare

Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation is a registered Landcare Group. Landcare is a national network of thousands of locally based community groups and organisations who care for our community and environment.

## Elders Morning Tea

The first Elders Morning Tea for 2012 will be held on Tuesday, 21st February 2012 at 11am. If you are wanting to attend, please rsvp and call Jess on 65 715111 for catering purposes.



## ABORIGINAL TRAINEE OPPORTUNITIES!

**Downer EDI Mining in partnership with Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation** are looking for Aboriginal trainees as part of our ongoing commitment to the mining industry in New South Wales.

We want to hear from you if you have a positive attitude, a willingness to learn and a strong desire to work.



We are having an information session at Singleton Youth Venue, 7 Pitt Street Singleton, on Tuesday the 10th of January 2012 at 11:00am. Bring along a current resume as we will be recruiting after the information session.

To apply, you must be over 18, hold a current drivers license and be prepared to complete a medical as part of the recruitment process.

For more information about the information session, please call Taasha Layer at Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation on **6571 5111**.



Contact: TAASHA LAYER Manager  
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SINGLETON NSW 2330  
Ph: 02 65 71 5111  
Fax: 02 65 71 5777  
taasha@ungooroo.com.au  
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