

## REPORT OF BAABAYN ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2013

This year has been another very busy year for all of us women as we participate in the community and try to make a difference wherever we are able.

**PREMISES:** Many contacts were made and meeting held with various organisations including Blacktown Council, MacKillop Family Services, Local Federal Member, Ed Husic and State member Richard Amery, Penrith State member Stuart Ayres, Mamre House, Penrith Council, Penrith Womens Health and Ted Noffs Foundation. We have not been able to secure a place that is ours as yet but have accepted the offer from the Jesuit Parish to run a family group each Tuesday. Also the offer from Blacktown Council to run a Homework Club every second Tuesday at Mt Druitt Library.

**WATER BLESSINGS:** During this past year we have given Water Blessings as follows:

St Clair Parish, St Clair Catholic High School, Hassal Grove, Yenu Allowah, at the turning of the soil for the new building, Jarara Indigenous Unit, Animals of the Dreaming for NAIDOC, Special school, North Rocks, Australian Catholic University, Catholic Missions, Conference, Department of Human services, Mt Druitt, Chifley College, Mt Druitt.

**YOUNG MOTHERS GROUP:** In partnership with Parent, Infant, Australia a Young Mothers program began operating in April 2013.



### FAMILY

**WEEKENDS AT GERRINGONG:** Margaret has worked in partnership with Kuri-ngai Partners and organised two family weekends at Gerringong.





**FIRST COMMUNION AND BAPTISMS:** These were held at Holy Family Church on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2013. Fr Pat Mullins conducted the ceremony. Four young people received First Communion, Benjali Ebsworth, Bayley Simon, Jenna Roberts and Deykodah Ebsworth. Four adults and four babies were baptised.

**NATSICC MEETING IN MELBOURNE:** The five Directors of Baabayn plus Leonie Ebsworth attended the NATSICC meeting in Melbourne. Funding was donated from the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in Sydney together with donations from Religious Congregations.



**FINANCIAL RECORDS:** Nalin Perera, Tower Accountants donated his time to keep our financial records up to date. Ann McDonald and Naomi Smith were appointed to assist with this work.

**MERGE WITH MACKILLOP FAMILY SERVICES:** Following three meetings held with the executives of this organisation Baabayn decided to remain independent.

**T-SHIRTS:** Funding for these shirt was provided by John McCann.

**KURI-NGAI PARTNERS MEETINGS:** Some members of Baabayn have occasionally been available to attend Kuri-ngai Partners meetings.

**CAR:** Second hand car was donated by Andree and Richard Johnston. Funding for the maintenance of this car and for the cost of petrol was provided by MacKillop Foundation.

**REFLECTION DAYS AT GERROA:** Baabayn accepted the offer of use of the Presentation Sisters beach house at a reduced rate to provide a short break and a reflection time for Baabayn members.

**RED DUST HEALING:** A four day Healing Program was held in Wentworth Falls. in partnership with Red Dust Healing. A further 4 day Mens program was held at Mamre House.



**YENU ALLOWAH CHILDRENS' SERVICE:** Two Baabayn Directors, Jenny Ebsworth and Rhonda Randall have been appointed as Committee members to attend meetings. Baabayn members took photo for a display launched at Mt Druiitt Hub.



**JARARA INDIGENOUS UNIT:** Baabayn Directors attended the Launch of Jarara's Cultural Program for Catholic Schools. Also attended 'Yarn-up' with Greg Whitby, Director of Catholic Schools regarding Aboriginal children in Catholic schools. Jenny and Daisy attended a conference for grandparents with children in Catholic schools.

Baabayn members attended Jarara Education Workshop held at Windsor.



**COMBINED CHURCH SERVICES:** Baabayn initiated and then assisted with the organisation of two very successful Combined church services at the Indigenous church for Christ and Aboriginal Sunday. Both days were very well attended.

**NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS:** A NAIDOC day was held at The Mens Shed in partnership with Richmond Fellowship, Baabayn and The Mens Shed.





**BOOK LAUNCH FOR 'DECISION TO DISCRIMINATE':** In partnership with Marrin Weejali this launch was held at their premises on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2013. Jeff McMullen was the main speaker. The launch was attended by over 70 people from Mt Druitt and district.

**PENRITH COUNCIL SCULPTURE DAY:** Rhonda participated in the creation of the sculpture for Emu Plains Park. Rhonda spoke at the Launch by Penrith Council.

**HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL, EMERTON:** A container has been painted in memory of Baabayn's involvement in the school.

**RICHMOND FELLOWSHIP:** Janice, Rhonda and Margaret taught art/craft for clients from Richmond Fellowship.



**AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS:** Baabayn women participated in a trip to Bowral with Red Cross clients. Also attended Red Cross NAIDOC celebrations. Jenny gave a short talk.

**TED NOFFS FOUNDATION:** Jenny responded to a request from Julie Dubuc, Manager of Street Uni, Mt Druitt to mentor her regarding their work with young Aboriginal clients. Two Aboriginal young men Aaron Saunders and Jai Pittman, who work with Ted Noffs Foundation created a DVD. Baabayn members attended the launch of this DVD.

**CATERING FOR WAKES:** Baabayn members have catered for three funerals for families whose relative has died in tragic circumstances.

**SUPPORT CIRCLE FOR JANICE BONAVIA:** Two Baabayn members, Rhonda and Janice are members of the Support Circle for Janice Bonavia to help her manage the Supported living Fund for her disabled daughter.

**COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES:** Baabayn members attended as a reference group to a meeting regarding employment of Aboriginal people.

**AWARD BREAKFAST WITH LOCAL FEDERAL MEMBERS, ED HUSIC:** Two Baabayn members attended and made some very good contacts.

**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY:** Baabayn members attended the Launch of artwork from Warmun in the Kimberleys.

**CATHOLIC MISSIONS CONFERENCE:** Stones were painted for a ceremony at the completion of this conference. Baabayn were invited to perform this ceremony.



**FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY AT NURRANGINGY PARK:**



This was held on 15<sup>th</sup> December. Donations of presents were received from many places including Emmaus Catholic College, Jarara Indigenous Unit, Santa Sabina, Kenthurst and St Clair Parishes, individual donations and St Vincent de Paul. Elizabeth Burke and her family provided tea, coffee and the BBQ. The Coptic church gave us the loan of their bus and a driver and John McCann drove JCA bus. Santa gave gifts to over 170 children and families joined in the BBQ.

**BAABAYN LOGO:** An agreement was made with Janice Brown, the artist for the Baabayn logo that this logo is now the property of Baabayn. The original painting remains the property of Janice.



**RE-DEVELOPMENT OF MT DRUITT HOSPITAL:** Baabayn was represented at meetings called for the re-development of Mt Druitt hospital and for the opening of the Childrens' garden.



**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, MT DRUITT:** A combined effort by Baabayn members produced a painting requested by the Human Services Department to depict all the Government services provided in Mt Druitt. These services have merged to form the Department of Human services.

**FAREWELL TO ELSIE HEISS:** Baabayn attended a farewell to Elsie Heiss, former Co-ordinator of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry at La Perouse.

