

MLAHMC NEWSLETTER

30 July 2019



Words from the General Manager

Hi All ☺

Welcome to the July 2019 edition of our newsletter, its been another busy 3 months for MLAHMC, something dear to my heart I would like to start with the acknowledgement of **NAIDOC Week** being held and celebrated around the country in communities during the week of 7 – 14 July 2019 and also customary in some areas delayed until September due to weather. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920's which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. NAIDOC week is a week of recognition, reflection, sharing and listening to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

This year's theme **VOICE. TREATY. TRUTH.** *"We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future"* were three key elements of the The Uluru Statement and is built on generations of consultation and discussions among Indigenous people on a range of issues & grievances and about the further reforms necessary to secure and underpin our rights and to ensure they can be exercised and enjoyed by all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

MLAHMC held a NAIDOC event in Parkes to huge success even after a change of venue due to the rain. Their were two NAIDOC awards announced;

- Michael James Indigenous Community person of the year 2019 Supported by ICON@Gracelands Hotel PARKES
- Kyah Turnbull Indigenous Community youth of the year 2019 known as the Annette Sloane award and supported by the Hartley Family and SportsPower PARKES

MLAHMC would like to thank the following organisations/businesses for their support;

Parkes High School, Parkes Shire Council, Family and Community Services NSW, ICON @ Hotel Gracelands Parkes, National Rugby League Local Development Office Parkes, Regional Business Supplies Parkes, Woolworths Parkes Store, Col Fletcher Ford, Medlyn's Auto Service, SportsPower Parkes, Central West Commodities, River Spirit Cultural Arts Forbes, Galumaay Dancers Orange, North Parkes Mines And Holy Family Catholic School, MLAHMC personnel Charlie Trindall, Rachel Hoy And Board Member Karen Hartley as well as all stall holders on the day and community kids Parkes Early Education Centre (Bluebirds).

A special mention to Talisha Kuras on her appointment to the New South Wales Land Council Youth Advisory Committee attending the global forum at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland and Thomas Toomey for his nomination of Dubbo's NAIDOC Indigenous Community Person of the Year 2019. We are proud of you both.

Please enjoy the rest of the newsletter, we've listened to what you have said and added the things you love with lots of photos and information. Remember if there's something you'd like to see please get in contact with us – after all this is your newsletter.

Seth Toomey General Manager, MLAHMC Ltd

Meet the Staff

Seth Toomey
General Manager



Seth is a proud Aboriginal man from Dubbo which is part of the Wiradjuri Nation and currently works out of the Parkes office (HQ).

The GM has lead the team for the past 9 years and has overseen many changes within MLAHMC as well as the sector. Seth is very passionate about Aboriginal housing, and the betterment of his people, to which sector he stumbled into over 15 years ago beginning as the property manager of Dubbo LALC.

He has a wealth of knowledge in the Aboriginal sector and sits on various Board's & Committee's

"I am humbled by the resilience of Aboriginal people, in part by the great leader's footsteps we follow in and never forgetting where we came from" Seth Toomey

The GM is also a long suffering Penrith Panthers supporter with no ending in sight ☺

Charlie Trindall
Operations Manager



Charlie was born in Armidale Aniwan country and now lives and works in Dubbo in Wiradjuri Country. Charlie has cultural ties to the Thunghutti people (Mother) and Gamilaroi people (Father).

Over the last 12 years Charlie has had experience in the private real estate industry, having gained most of his experience managing in Sydney before moving back to the country. He has also worked with the Aboriginal Land Rights Act through Local Aboriginal Land Councils and has now been with MLAHMC for the past 6 years.

As Operations Manager at MLAHMC Charlie says he enjoys being a part of a great team of passionate staff who continually want better and more fulfilling lives for Aboriginal Families across our communities. Charlie also says Aboriginal housing is a very rewarding job as he gets to play a role where he can assist disadvantaged families with an important aspect of their lives, through provision of secure and safe housing options.

Contact Details and Office Hours



MLAHMC

Office Hours

Monday: 9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Tuesday: 9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Wednesday: **1.30 pm - 5.00 pm**
Thursday: 9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Friday: 9.00 am – 5.00 pm



MLAHMC

Contact Details

4/91 Clarinda Street, PO Box 810 Parkes NSW 2870
P: 1800 231 160 or 02 6816 3777 F: 02 6816 3799
E: admin@mlahmc.org.au

MLAHMC Staff Training and Achievements

MLAHMC is passionate and dedicated to the ongoing training and personal development of its staff members. To ensure we can provide the best service to our tenants, staff are consulted on a training plan yearly that identifies qualification's and courses that would be beneficial to our organisation, the families and communities we service, the various organisations we work in partnership with and our employees career ambitions.



All of Staff undergoing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid Training facilitated by NESAI



Staff member Talisha Kuras has completed a Diploma in Aboriginal Studies and a Cert III in Business Administration.



Staff members Cindie Riley, Sue McGrath and Thomas Toomey have successfully completed the Cert IV in Social Housing.



MLAHMC staff attending a Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA) Workshop



MLAHMC's General Manager and Operations Manager attending the Brothers in Arms Leadership Breakfast



'Dodge City' Clean up in Brewarrina



MLAHMC Staff and Housing for Health partners in Brewarrina



All of Staff Development Day



MLAHMC staff undertaking Governance training



MLAHMC staff undergoing systems training



MLAHMC's Board of Directors and the Exec Team undergoing an Indigenous Corporate Partners (ICP) workshop



MLAHMC staff and Governor of NSW Margaret Beazely



Field Officer Thomas Toomey, community elders / members at the Dubbo LALC NAIDOC event



Field Officer Rachel Hoy and Tenant Skyanne Fernando at the Queanbeyan NAIDOC event



MLAHMC and Currajong services supporting Pyjama Day in aid of children in foster care

NAIDOC 'Voice, Treaty, Truth'

On the 8th July 2019, MLAHMC hosted a NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) event in Parkes with support from the Parkes Shire Council and Neighbour Central. Following the official ceremony, the event included entertainment, activities and a free lunch.

This year's theme 'Voice, Treaty and Truth' focuses on the three key elements stated in the 'Uluru Statement from the Heart' for constitutional reform that enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to have an enhanced role and participation in decision making in Australian democracy.

Despite the poor weather conditions and the relocation of the event, it was a success with a large crowd gathering to celebrate NAIDOC.



MLAHMC Chair Robert King, Parkes Mayor Ken Keith, Deputy Mayor Barb Newton, Councillor Kenny McGrath and MLAHMC staff



Galumaay & River Spirit Dance Group opening the event



Community attendees during official ceremony



Various services and stalls at the NAIDOC event

New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) Youth Advisory Committee

MLAHMC staff member Talisha Kuras and MLAHMC tenant Wesley Kelly had the privilege of attending the 12th Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous people in Geneva Switzerland as a part of NSWALC Youth Advisory Committee on the 14th-19nd July 2019.

Talisha is a proud Gamilaraay woman from Coonabarabran and is the Northern Region Representative.

Wesley is a proud Kunja and Yuwaalaraay man from Enngonia. He is the Western Region Representative and is the son of Enngonia Local Aboriginal Land Council's (LALC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Tannia Edwards.

During their time at the convention, they proudly represented their people, families and communities on a global forum and presented on issues faced by Aboriginal people in their local communities with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous people (UNDRIP).

Their participation in such a significant event is testament to the strength and capacity of Aboriginal people and the leadership abilities of our youth.

The collaboration of MLAHMC staff and tenants whose community we service is a valued partnership and is a key driver for the progression and better outcomes for our people and communities.



Talisha, Wesley and other Australian Delegates



The Youth Advisory Committee at the United Nations Building

MLAHMC Activities

Since our last newsletter we have:

- Conducted **150 Property Inspections**
- Completed **599 Repairs and maintenance requests**
- Signed up **31 new tenancies**

Service and Support Spotlight



IBA is a service that was created to assist and enhance the economic development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within Australia.

It serves, partners and invests with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who want to secure their future. The service goes further than financial support by investing in people, places and ideas.

IBA can assist you in;

- Owning your own home
- Help you start or grow a business
- Help you invest in your future

To be eligible for IBA's program you must be 18 years or over and be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent

For further information on how IBA can assist you, contact IBA on 1800 107 107 or visit their website <https://www.iba.gov.au/home/> for further information about their service.

Employment Related Accommodation

Applying for ERA

To apply for ERA you must:

- be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person over 18 years old
- have a family connection to remote NSW
- prove your enrolment in an education or training course at an approved institution such as university or TAFE or
- show that the potential employer offers long-term opportunities

What are the houses like?

ERA accommodation is similar to student accommodation at universities and TAFE NSW.

If you're a single person taking up this option you will move into a fully furnished share-accommodation house. You will have your own room and share the living, kitchen, laundry and bathroom areas with other people in similar situations.

If you have a family and you take up an opportunity to work or study in a regional centre, you can take your immediate family with you. Accommodation will be unfurnished so that you can bring your own belongings with you.

Find out more

For an application form or to find out more, please call, email or visit our website.

W: aho.nsw.gov.au/era
E: era_aho@facns.nsw.gov.au

Sydney South East region:
02 9354 1550

Northern region:
02 6691 7000

Western region:
02 6841 9100



Live or relocating to Parkes or Orange for long term employment or employment related study?

In need of affordable accommodation?

We have Employment Related Accommodation (ERA) vacancies for fully furnished, shared accommodation available in these communities

Contact our Tenancy Team on 1800 231 160 for further information on eligibility or assistance in submitting an application.