

ACFE

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Neville Atkinson

ADULT LEARNER'S WEEK AWARDS

The Victorian Adult Learner's Week Awards showcase the many examples of personal success and community growth made possible by Adult Community Education (ACE).

The awards are presented during Adult Learner's Week, September 1-8, a week when the spotlight is focused on the benefits of ACE learners

They acknowledge outstanding learners, tutors, programs and providers, who through their commitment and talents highlight the high standard of adult and community education in Victoria.

KOORIE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The outstanding Koorie Achievement category recognises an outstanding achievement or contribution in a Koorie adult and community education setting. One award is presented although the award is open to the following categories – Koorie Learner, Tutor, Program or Provider.

CITATIONS FOR WINNERS AND FINALISTS – ALW 2004-09-24

WINNER - Robyn Bullock, from Campaspe College of Adult Education

Robyn has had a great involvement with Campaspe College for Adult Education and recently finished overseeing an education project that collated, recorded and catalogued indigenous memorabilia from Echuca and surrounds.

She has taken full advantage of upgrading her skills and has completed nine courses with Campaspe College, one of them being Aboriginal Women in Management.

Robyn has experienced great personal growth and has overcome a lack of employment opportunities in her community. She serves as an inspiration to young women and constantly encourages them to take advantage of lifelong learning opportunities.

Lorraine Motto, Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE

Lorraine Motto's passion for self-improvement, her determination to succeed, and a virtual lifetime of education and training culminated last year in a Diploma of Hospitality Management at the age of 60.

Having left school at Year 7, she had minimal literacy and numeracy skills, but took the bold step of returning to study as a mature-age student.

Lorraine is a single mum but has achieved some great successes. Since returning to study she has completed a

- Certificate of General Education for Adults
- Certificate II in General Education for Adults (Further Study); and
- was nominated as a finalist in the 2004 Victorian Training Awards, Outstanding Student of the Year in 2000.

Shane Cooper, The Centre in Wangaratta

Shane is one of many young Koorie men in the Echuca area who have been encouraged to participate in learning through local organisations.

Shane was placed with the Echuca Estate Winery to help complete his studies in a Certificate II in Food Processing (Wine). During his placement he was transferred to St Anne's Winery, where he altered his studies to incorporate the Viticulture stream.

The Centre created a flexible training environment and at a pace comfortable to Shane. He has used these employment experiences to persevere with his personal goal of lifelong learning.

Shane actively encourages other trainees to learn and enthusiastically volunteers his assistance. From this positive learning experience, Shane is now keen to commence a Certificate III.

VAEAI Committee of Management Meeting 14th & 15th April, 2005

Contact Details

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VAEAI TAFE UNIT

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Website: www.wurrekerstrategy.org.au

Welcome to the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated Wurreker Newsletter.

Firstly we would like to say goodbye to a few of our staff. Thelma Austin, Project Officer at Wurreker, Sheree Lowe Wimmera Broker and Julie Hodgkins as Goulburn Valley Broker, Olive Walsh Murray Valley Region and Troy Brickell have all said good bye to us recently.

TAFE Manager's report

2004 was a productive year for the TAFE Unit, I would like to acknowledge the staff that left VAEAI during this year they have left impressions of respect and admiration for their dedication in there positions. And welcome our new staff with open arms and look forward to the same commitment they offer.

I have found 2004 to be a good challenge, commencing in May and receiving a lot of support from staff in VAEAI was certainly welcomed. The TAFE unit have moved forward considerably in the past few months. We are now in the process of forward planning for 2005, we have seen a very successful Wurreker Conference occur in 2004, and Wurreker reaching new heights in the strategy being recognized as good practice in other State Education systems. We also saw the launches of the Wurreker website www.wurrekerstrategy.org.au and the Wurreker Industry cards in September; this will aid the Wurreker Brokers in the promotion of Wurreker to stakeholders in the regions.

We have seen TAFE's become more proactive in understanding the Strategy and the significance of it in there systems, we held a KLO in-service in September which was useful in building relationships with our Koorie educators in the TAFE units. We have supported the building of stronger partnerships between the LAECG's and training providers by way of the Wurreker Strategy, and we now have even more Koories in training courses here in Victoria than ever before.

I would like to extend my congratulations to all stakeholders who have made 2004 a memorable and successful year and look forward to further developing the partnerships and building stronger pathways.

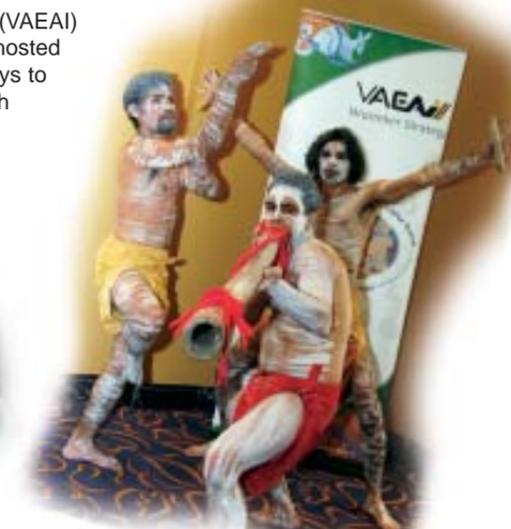
Deon Davis - TAFE Manager
deon@vicnet.net.au

Wurreker Partnerships and Pathways to the Future Conference

28th – 30th September 2004.



The Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc (VAEAI) and the Office of Training and Tertiary Education hosted the inaugural "Wurreker Partnership and Pathways to the Future conference, on Tuesday 28th, 29th & 30th September 2004.





The VAEAI and the Victorian Department of Education and Training have had a long and successful partnership in the development of collaborative strategies to meet the education and training needs of Koorie people. The conference built on the achievements of the Wurreker Strategy, identifying innovative initiatives and programs, highlighting successful pathways between sectors and providing participants with the opportunity to discuss challenges and opportunities in enhancing education and training outcomes, and employment and career opportunities for Koorie people.

Day one was the 2004 Wurreker Awards in recognition and celebration of the achievements related to the Wurreker Strategy.

The Awards were presented to individuals, training providers and employers who have demonstrated commitment to and achievements in training and employment partnerships and pathways which have improved the participation and outcomes of Koorie people in the Victorian Post Compulsory training system.

TAFE education has come a long way in a short time

The Awards went to:

- TAFE Institute
- ACE provider
- Koorie Organisation (Mary Atkinson Award)
- Higher Education
- Community Based Employee
- Private Sector Employee
- Community Based Employer
- Public Sector Employer
- Private Sector Employer
- Local Government Employer

South Western Institute of TAFE
Songlines

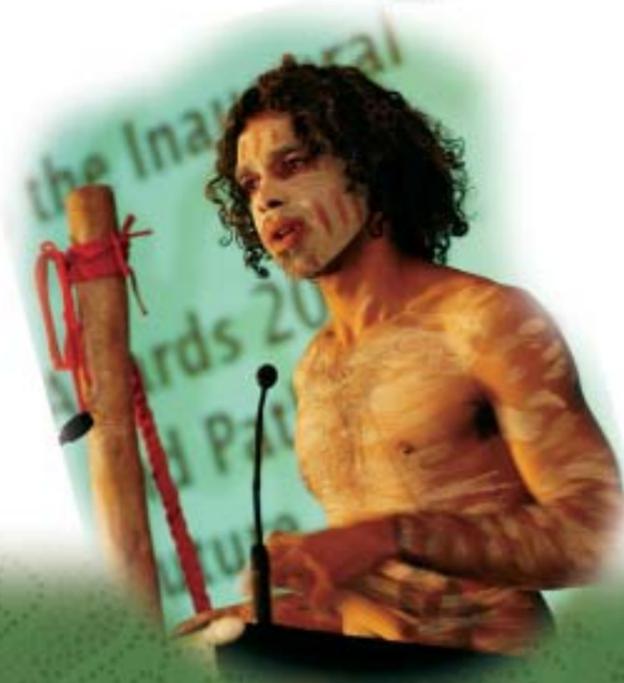
- Brambuk Aboriginal Cultural Centre
- Latrobe University
- Lillian Pettit
- Reanna Bono (Deadly Design)
- Koorie Employment Enterprises (KEE)
- Parks Victoria
- Snowy River Native Fish Hatchery
- La Trobe City Council



Day two saw the conference commence with an array of Guest speakers that included:

- Geraldine Atkinson
- Jim Davidson
- Angela Jurjevic, Katie Kresvan,
- Paul Briggs
- Ian Burrage
- Mark Edwards
- John Collyer
- John Martin
- Kylie Martin
- Lynne Guinan
- Jirra Harvey & Garry Saunders
- Lyn Wannan
- Mal Smith
- Jim Pascal & Grant Dreher
- Ron Wild
- Gail Rodgers
- Mikael Smith
- Byron Powell
- Charles Williams
- Vera Briggs, Karen Mobourne
- Helen Kennedy

- President VAEAI
- Office of Training and Tertiary Education
- Aboriginal Affairs Victoria
- Rumbalara Football Netball club
- Department of Education and Training
- Melwest CDEP
- Worn-Gundidg CDEP
- Koorie Employment Enterprises
- Snowy River Native Fish Hatchery
- CVGT Employment & Training
- "Having our say video"
- Adult Community and Further Education
- Songlines
- Goulburn Ovens TAFE
- Sunraysia TAFE
- Ford Australia
- City of Port Phillip
- Inter Council Aboriginal Consultative Committee
- Aboriginal Policy Officer
- Central Gippsland Wurreker Regional Committee
- VACSAL/RMIT Koorie Leadership



Lauch of the Wurreker Website

The Wurreker website was developed and was jointly launched by the Hon Lyn Kosky MP, Minister for Education and Ms Geraldine Atkinson the President of VAEAI, at the Inaugural Wurreker Training Awards on 28th September, 2004, and the website went live on this date.

The Wurreker Website has the internet web address of: www.wurrekerstrategy.com.au

and provides a range of information about Wurreker and related issues, containing links to education related websites.

The website contains the following information:

- Nationally accredited courses
- Contact details of training providers
- Links to TAFE courses, VCAL, VAEAI and OTTE
- News
- Frequently asked questions
- Publications and reports

Currently being updated

- Information on Koorie courses
- Key contacts – LAECGs, KLOs, Wurreker Brokers
- Koorie Training Plan 2005
- News items
- Koorie Liaison Officer discussion room

The website will become fully operational this year, and new items added periodically as they are developed and updated.

Industry Cards

Regionally specific "Industry" cards were developed and these were jointly launched by the Hon Lyn Kosky MP, Minister for Education and Ms Geraldine Atkinson, President of VAEAI, at the Inaugural Wurreker Training Awards.

These Industry cards provide a useful tool for starting discussion, especially with newer un-informed stakeholders, engaging a wider participation for the Wurreker Strategy. The Industry Cards contain regionally specific information relating to Koorie Population, age breakup, post compulsory education and training qualifications, the high unemployment rates for Koorie's, and speak of employment incentives for Industry to employ Koorie's, and is a brief indication of the Wurreker Strategy itself.

KLO Inservice

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Lance Briggs

The 2004 KLO Inservice was held in Warrnambool over a two day period. The in-service covered such topics as:

A current briefing from VAEAI and OTTE, updating issues and procedures. A look ahead toward the Abstudy changes.

An in house discussion of challenges facing KLO's and Koorie TAFE Units. Then a briefing from Neville Atkinson from VAEAI regarding Adult and Community Education (ACE) and Adult Community & Further Education (ACFE). Neville gave an informative briefing regarding the wide diverse area of education which is under utilised by the Koorie community and the many factors explaining this. For many Koories the correct usage of this education sector will assist, and be of benefit in bridging the education gap, and needs to be considered by all in education services.

This in-service brought together several KLO's that were new to the role, and direct networks and associations across TAFE's were formed.

The next KLO in-service would be held at Namalaata, the Wurreker TAFE Unit offices in Northcote, during late March or early April 2005, and will be a one day workshop.

New Staff



DANNIELLE HAMILTON
TAFE Office Manager

Danni is employed by VAEAI for a total of 10 years. Prior to commencing as TAFE Office Manager at Wurreker Danni was employed as Lionel's Executive Assistant before moving across to the role of Capacity Building. As the TAFE Office Manager, Danni is responsible for the provision and support to the eight Wurreker brokers across the state. She is also involved in the establishment of office administration for each staff member and broker.

LANCE BRIGGS
Senior Project Officer



Lance Briggs commenced employment with the Wurreker Team in June, 2004. Lance has taken over from Mikael Simpson as the Senior Project Officer. Lance is a Boonerwung man, with family ties across the state, being born in his traditional country in Toorak, Melbourne, and never being able to afford to move back there since, and yes the hospital has been demolished. Lance has lived in Melbourne all his life and has broad and varied employment background working in positions in the Commonwealth Government, Victorian Government, private enterprise, and self employment. He has worked voluntarily on past occasions for the Aboriginal Legal Service. Lance enjoys being involved in discussion leading to resolution or outcomes, and has a long term personal involvement and interest in the TAFE sector.

ROBERT BRITTEN
Goulburn Valley Broker



Wurreker Regional Broker for the Goulburn Valley based in Shepparton. Married with four children two boys and two girls. Prior to my appointment as a Wurreker broker, I was employed as a Koorie Liaison Officer for six years at Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE, 8 years as a Koorie educator at Mooroopna Secondary College and Shepparton South Technical College also one year as a Liaison officer for the Aboriginal Employment Unit.

I commenced as the Wurreker Regional Broker in July 2004 and see the Wurreker strategy as one of then best strategies developed for training and employment I've been involved in, as the Wurreker strategy gives Koorie's a clear path way into training and employment.

I plan to run a number of key stakeholders forums for the Koorie community, Koorie organisations, mainstream employers and mainstream organisations.

My main aim in these forums is to promote the Wurreker strategy for it gives businesses and the community a say on how training should be delivered to meet their needs for a successful outcome and promote positive outcomes in employment and that Koorie's are an untapped asset in our community.

DEON DAVIS
TAFE Manager
deon@vicnet.net.au



Deon was born in Mt Isa, Queensland. Deon is married with 5 beautiful daughters. Deon moved to Melbourne in 1991, undertook the MOSA course for one and half years, commenced employment at Dept of Social Security at the Dandenong Office, then moved interstate to Bathurst NSW as a Training Employment Officer with the CES, also worked in the prisons as an Official Visitor, Youth Justice Convener & Homework Centre coordinator.

Moved back to Melbourne in 2000, and have worked in Department of Justice with the RAJAC network as an Executive officer for Gippsland, then moved into the Corrections as the then Manager of the Indigenous Service Unit, I worked in that system for 2 years and now have commenced employment as the TAFE Manager for VAEAI. I also have completed two years of a Law Degree at University of New England.

I am a very passionate Aboriginal man who acknowledges the diversity of regions and communities of Victoria. I have the great challenge of implementing the Wurreker Strategy.

My firm belief is that if you have a well structured and unified team it makes the goals to achieve outcomes so much easier.

I enjoy the challenges and look forward to a very satisfying time in VAEAI and with a great network of workers.



SANDRA STEWART
Murray Valley Broker

Sandra was as employed as the Regional Wurreker Broker in December 2004. Sandra is a Wamba Wamba woman living in Mildura and has 2 sons, 2 daughters and 3 granddaughters who are the joy of her life.

Before her appointment as the Regional Broker Sandra spent 4 years as the Aboriginal Business Development Officer for the North West Region. Previously to this Sandra spent 7 years as the Koorie Education Development Officer for the Murray Valley Region.

Sandra has a passion for education for our people and sees the Wurreker Strategy as a critical component to the success of education and training for Indigenous communities.

Sandra Stewart won the State Training Award for Koorie Student of the year for 2004 She was also runner up for the National Indigenous Student of the year award - 2004.



SURAYA BIN TALIB
Wimmera Broker

My name is Suraya Bin Talib, I am a Bardi/Nyul Nyul woman from Broome, Western Australia.

Prior to becoming a Regional Broker, I was employed with Centrelink at the Wendouree Call Centre as a Customer Service Officer having been transferred from Knuckey Street Customer Service Centre in Darwin. I was employed in Employment Services area which encompassed providing information and advice on income support payments and support services for job seekers. Also the recommending of other income support payments such as Family/Parenting, Disability, Study and Age/Retirement payments. I have gained greater knowledge of the barriers faced by Indigenous people in terms of the government system, and how easily the system can fail in supporting Indigenous people to overcome these barriers to finding gainful employment.



I was also previously employed in Broome with the Department of Western Australia as an Aboriginal Liaison Officer for the West Kimberley. The West Kimberley comprising of 1 high school, 3 district high schools, 3 town based primary schools and 7 remote schools. In this role I was proactive in providing

liaison, advice and support to District Office staff, school staff and parents/guardians to improve learning outcomes and student participation in schooling and learning programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from Kindy to Yr12. Some of the things that I have been involved with include providing advice on the development of an local assessment tool for assessing Aboriginal students from an ESL background, providing Cross Cultural training to District office staff and school staff, conducting conferences for Aboriginal and Islander Education Officers and conducting parent/community forums, etc...

I commenced in the role of Regional Broker for the Central Highlands Wimmera Region in late June. I look forward to learning more about my local region, building networks with all key stakeholders and working with the Ballarat, Halls Gap and Horsham communities to implement Wurreker's ongoing vision. Which is that vocational education, training and employment for Koorie communities support pathways and employment, Koorie community development, Individual learner development and self determination.

Broker Updates

Melbourne Metro Broker

metro@bigpond.com

Wayne Clarke

Over the past few months the Melbourne Metropolitan Region has experienced a quite intensive period which included the planning and implementation of Wurreker Local and Regional Forums.

Local & Regional Forums

Forums were held at the Gathering Place in Maribyrnong for community members in the Western Suburbs, at the Aborigines Advancement League for community members in the Northern Suburbs and at Dandenong Sports Club for Community members from Healesville, Dandenong and the Mornington Peninsula.

The forums were well attended by representatives from LAECGs, Community Organisations, CDEP, TAFE Institutes, Training Providers and Job Network Providers. The main aim of the forums was to collect data and information for the development of the 2005 Training Plan. In addition, the forums also gave us a clear insight to determine what the training priorities were in the local area, in particular, where employment opportunities were the greatest and training pathways could be established to complement potential employment.

Latrobe University Employment Initiative

Latrobe University's Koorie Employment Initiative. Latrobe University has targeted 30 employment positions across all campuses. The newly created positions will be across all levels of the University which include employment in Administration, Lecturing, Maintenance and Landscaping.

Members of the Latrobe University Employment Committee include: Wayne Clarke (Chair) Kerry Ferguson (PVC) Julie Andrews (ISU), Michael Coll (DEWR), Terry Garwood (DHS), Leanne Miller (TA), Dr. Ian Anderson, Joel Wright (NTEU) Bill Della (NTEU), Karen Milward (AAV) and Jeanenne Terry (Latrobe)

The Employment Strategy will be implemented over a 3 year period 2004 – 2006. The Strategy is a joint initiative between the Koorie Community, Latrobe University and the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) and will be funded under the STEP Program.

TAFE News

The Institute of Food, Land & Resources (ILFR) working in partnership with Melbourne University's Department of Buildings & Properties are currently developing an Employment and Apprenticeship Strategy. The strategy will target opportunities for Koories in the Melbourne region. As part of their training the students will undertake placements in Country Regional areas. ILFR Campuses include, Burnley College, Longerenong College, Dookie College, Glenormiston College, Creswick College, Gilbert Chandler, Parkville Campus and McMillan College.

The Employment Strategy is being headed up by Wayne Williams. Wayne can be contacted at Melbourne University on 8604-5391.

Jon Belling has been employed as the Koorie Liaison Officer for the Institute of Food, Land and Resources (ILFR). Jon is based at the Burnley Campus and can be contacted on 9250-6809.

William Angliss Institute of TAFE has recently employed a Koorie Liaison Officer. The appointment has been well received and will put William Angliss in a great position, delivering courses in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry. Many Koories have expressed an interest in the Hospitality and Tourism Industries and will have an opportunity to undertake study both in Metropolitan and Country regions.

Josie Atkinson has been appointed as the Koorie Liaison Officer and has already started to build her networks in the community. She is keen to establish a Koorie Advisory Committee and commence extensive consultations with the community, particularly working with the Northern, Western and Broadmeadows LAECGs.

Josie can be contacted on 9606-2675.

TAFE Koorie Liaison Officers Contact Details

Chisholm TAFE:		
Dandenong	Ashleigh Peters	9212 5304
Frankston	Alyson Walker	9238 8446
Kangan TAFE:		
Broadmeadows	Malvina Moffatt	9297 2359
NMIT:		
Preston	Stephen Van Nus	9269 1339
RMIT:		
Carlton	Stuart McFarlane	9925 4885
Bundoora	Cinnamon Stewart	9925 7501
Swinburne TAFE:		
Prahran	Verity Higgins	9214 6905
Lilydale	Shane Charles	9215 7094
Healesville	Anne Jenkins	5962 3039
VUT:		
St Albans	Rebecca Gerrett	9365 2228
William Angliss:		
Melbourne	Josie Atkinson	9606 2675



Loddon Campaspe Broker

loddoncampaspe1@bigpond.com

Barry Fary

Over the last 12 months the Loddon Region has conducted local and regional forums in the planning of our regional training plan. Three local forums were held in the Loddon Campaspe Region, for the local Koorie communities to see what they wanted in Education and Training and to help them gain employment.

Local & Regional Forums

3 Local forums were held in Bendigo, Echuca and Kerang and were well represented by the LAECG's and local community members.

The Regional Forum was held in Moama and was attended by the chairs of the Bendigo and Echuca LAECG's, ACFE, ACC, ACE, La Trobe University, KLO's and students from Bendigo TAFE, Koori Educators and Community members. A Regional Training plan was put to the Wurreker Regional Committee.

The aim of the regional forum was to collect and gather data and information for the regional training plan e.g. where the jobs are and what type of training that could be provided and by whom. We also looked at pathways for Koori students who were looking at a university course.

La Trobe University Employment Initiative

La Trobe University Koori Employment Initiative has targeted 30 employment positions across all campuses. The newly targeted 30 employment positions will be across all levels of the University. The Employment Strategy will be implemented over a 3 year period.

Department of Human Services.

DHS in the Loddon Mallee Region have rolled out their Indigenous Employment Strategy which will increase the number of Koori People working with DHS by 3% over the next 3 years.



Tafe News

The Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE has increased the overall module completion rate by 4% this year by Koori students. One student in particular was on work experience in her course Indigenous Welfare Studies and while working for an organization was offered a fulltime position when she finished her course at the end of the year.

Tafe Koori Liaison Officers Contact Details
Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE

Vicki Walker	Echuca Campus	54 831 340
Leanne Fary	Bendigo	54 341 462

East Gippsland Wurreker Broker

eastgippsland1@bigpond.com.au

Ivy Yarram

I would firstly like to thank the VAEAI staff, my LAECG Chairperson's and their committees, staff at Namalaata, the Koorie Community, my fellow Brokers and my Wurreker Regional Committee for their commitment and support throughout the year.

They have been a driving force to the success and outcomes that have been achieved this year in regards to the Wurreker Strategy.

Local & Regional Forums

In 2004 I have run Wurreker Local Forums as well as a Regional Forum which were all successful in that they provide valuable information and training priorities for the state training plan.

These local forums were held at Sale, Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Lake Tyres Trust and Orbost with the regional forum being held in Lakes Entrance with positive outcomes and attendance at each forum.

At the local and regional forums I was able to promote the Wurreker Strategy and explain to key stakeholders the planning and implementation process. It was also a means of linking different service providers, key stakeholders and strategies and partnerships were developed and positive outcomes were achieved.

LAECG

During 2004 Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust have now come on board and has been endorsed by VAEAI Committee of Management as an LAECG. This I believe is a positive outcome and exciting time for the Trust. The Trust can now move forward and have a say in regards to their own aspirations and directions for their future in education, training and employment, especially with their new training centre.

I have found in the consultation process that the community is now ready for the next phase. The Trust can invite industry, employers and service providers to speak with the community.

This will be a priority for early next year to run forums across the region.

TAFE News

The East Gippsland TAFE in Bairnsdale has a new Director –Angela Hutton, who has shown her commitment and support to both the Wurreker Strategy and the Koorie community.

Strategies have been put into place to improve the communities' perception of TAFE and the delivery of courses. There is a high number of CDEP participants in the East Gippsland region. As of next year in our local forums Job Network Providers and Industry will be invited to communities to inform participants of services and support that they are able to offer.

Industry and employers are keen to tap into Wurreker to provide employment and outcomes for our community, so I look forward to being part of that process.

TAFE Koorie Liaison Officers Contact Details:

East Gippsland TAFE

Jamie Williamson	Bairnsdale Campus	0438 509 809
		5152 6642

Central Gippsland Broker

centralgippsland1@bigpond.com

Alice Hughes

Wurreker Regional Committee

Firstly I would like to acknowledge the Central Gippsland Wurreker Regional Committee for their great support and contribution. Since my commencement as the Regional Wurreker Broker they have been very co-operative and committed to improving Koorie Training needs and outcomes by supporting the implementation of the Wurreker strategy.

Local & Regional Forums

Throughout last year as part of the process for developing the Regional Training Plan there were a number of Local Community Forums that were held throughout Central Gippsland. The Forums were successful, although not high numbers attended the local forums the information gathered from those that attended was highly informative covering important issues and great ideas to improve the of delivery training and pathways to employment for local Koorie Community.

The forums were Held as followed:

• Local Forums

1 @ Drouin = 10 participants
(This forum was held in Drouin to cover both Warragul & Drouin areas)

1 @ Morwell = 8 participants
(This forum was held in Morwell to cover the Traralgon, Morwell & Moe areas)

• Regional Forum

Held at the Department of Education & Training
Moe Regional Office = 15 participants

TAFE News

Koorie Unit:

The Gippsland Institute of TAFE Koorie Unit has gone through a few changes and extensions this year. Firstly the commencement of a new KLO (Naomi Murphy) who replaced Paula Morrison who had been the KLO at TAFE for 9 years.

Secondly TAFE has received funding for the development of a workshop shed to expand on their existing art & design, Horticulture & Building Courses already being delivered. TAFE are looking at having the Launch for the workshop middle February.

TAFE Council:

As part of Gippsland Institute of TAFE's commitment to Implementing the Wurreker Strategy. TAFE have included the Wurreker Strategy as part of their strategic Planning and are encouraging interested Koories to put in expressions of interest to apply for the vacant position on the TAFE council.

Also TAFE will be delivering an Indigenous land management course for the first time this year.

Latrobe City Council:

Latrobe City Council was recognized by VAEAI at the Wurreker awards receiving the Organizational Award in the category of Local Government for their ability to demonstrate achievement in training and employment partnerships and pathways.

Through the STEP Program they have employed over 10+ Koories this year either in Traineeships, apprenticeships or full time employment.

Share the Knowledge

"Share the knowledge" Koorie Jobs, Education & Training Fair was designed to break down the barriers between our people being unemployed and wanting to access employment, education and training through mainstream departments and agencies.

One of the real issues around is that many of our community people are not aware of what is available to them through the job network centers and training Centers, so the fair encouraged the people from those centers to come along and walk and talk with the community.

The Target Group for the Fair was broad, it included our Koorie Youth, Koorie disability support pensioners, Mature aged unemployed, Students of all ages and of course our elders.

A diverse working party was set up including agencies such as: GVTU, Gippsland Group Training, LLENS, Centerlink, Gippsland TAFE, VAEAI Wurreker Broker, Youth Substance Abuse Services, Gippsland Area Consultative Committee, Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, Central Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative, & Job Network Providers to broaden the input of knowledge and access to mainstream services.

The first "Share the Knowledge" fair took place in Morwell, March 2004 and was a complete success with plenty of positive training and job opportunity outcomes for the Koorie Community in the Morwell and surrounding areas.

With the successful outcomes of the first fair, the working party put in a Community Initiatives Program (CIP) submission to the Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee (RAJAC) and have been successful in gaining further funding.

This funding will be auspiced through Gippsland Area Consultative Committee and will enable the fair to be run right across Gippsland in areas of the Baw Baw, Latrobe, Wellington, East Gippsland, South Gippsland and also one of the prisons either Wron Wron or Fullham.

The second Fair is already underway and will be held in Drouin on Thursday 18th November, 2004 and is predicted to be as successful as the first. We also welcome any other Koorie organization or Department to join us in making the joint effort to break down the barriers with our people and mainstream, through making connections on the ground and in our peoples comfort zone.

ACFE Regional Council:

In the middle of last year ACFE invited me to their regional council meeting at Yinnar to give a presentation on Wurreker and to meet all the Regional councilors along with some of the co-ordinators from RTO's.

Neville Atkinson and I attended and presented on the Wurreker Strategy and the Regional Training plan.

As a result of our meeting with ACFE they have revisited and made more commitment to the Wurreker Strategy which is also included in their Regional Plan. ACFE are also seeking Koorie Representation on their Regional Council.

If anyone is interested in becoming involved in the ACFE regional council please contact: *Walter Aich – Regional Director Department of Education, P.O Box 923, Moe 2825 Ph: 5127 6000*

South Western Region Broker southwestern@bigpond.com

Kathy Travis

Last year has proved to be very busy with the planning and implementation of Wurreker local and regional forums, the inaugural Statewide Wurreker Awards and conference as well as the networking and implementing of the Wurreker Strategy on the whole.

Local & Regional Forums

3 local forums were held in the south west region, one in Warrnambool, Lake Condah and Geelong. In total there were 40 participants across the three forums. There were many issues raised however three main areas were discussed and the communities have worked hard to address the issues: Students not staying at school, Personal Development for LAECG and developing programs for students who are at school in relation to career prospects.

The regional forum was held at Warrnambool and everyone was welcomed by Uncle Ivan Couzens and the forum was facilitated by Daryl Rose – Heywood LAECG. The forum was attended by TAFE's, Job Network Provider, members of the LLEN, Employment Agency and community members. There were presentations made to the forum by Gail Rodgers – Corporate Citizenship Manager of FORD who highlighted the success of the two Employability for Life pilot programs for Indigenous people. David MacMahon of West Vic who demonstrated how the partnership between themselves and Worn Gundidj CDEP operates and third speaker was Gail Lowan – Teacher of the Koorie Transition Program in Warrnambool.

TAFE News

In 2004 South West Institute of TAFE was the recipient of the Wurreker award for its Koorie Transition Program. This program was designed to develop a pathway for Koorie students currently in the secondary school system and at risk of dropping out, and is based on attendance at their school for 4 days and then one day at TAFE. The day at TAFE is designed to give them practical and hands on approach to training. The award is a significant achievement for the Institute in acknowledgement of a very worthwhile program that began on 30 April 2004 with eleven Koorie students enrolled. These students from Warrnambool Secondary College and Brauer College attended the program which consists of selected modules from the Certificate 1 in Learning Pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

LLEN

As part of the Smart Geelong Region Local Learning and Employment Network's Strategic Plan 2003-2005 the LLEN have developed an Employer Reference Group.

This was formulated to meet their Aim of: *Sustainable improvement to relationships – Between education and training with industry.*

I am an ex-officio member and attend their breakfast meetings. I have been able to encourage them to become involved in education, training and employment partnerships that support Koorie employment. There is a range of members from: Frank Costa (Costa's Pty. Ltd) – Patron, Telstra, Quiksilver, Alcoa, Geelong Business Network, Chamber of Commerce, Area Consultative Committees, Schools, (Victorian Farmers Federation) and Business and Community Links (BAC-Links) plus many others.

Some of the issues that are discussed are Workshops on:

- How do we sell the message to employers that supporting young people in Structured Workplace Learning (VET and VCAL) and SBNA's is an INVESTMENT in their business and in the community?
- How can we encourage employers in the Region to support young people from the following target groups to provide opportunities for workplace learning?
- Koories.



Central Highlands Wimmera Region Broker wimmera1@bigpond.com

Suraya Bin Talib

The Central Highlands Wimmera Region has experienced a very intense and somewhat chaotic period over the last year which included the planning and implementation of Wurreker local and Regional forums, and the turn over of staff within this region. Sheree Lowe resigned as the Wurreker Regional Broker in April to continue her higher education studies, and a new broker was appointed to the position in late June.

Local & Regional Forums

Local and Regional forums were held by the previous broker, these forums were held at Brambuk Cultural Centre in Halls Gap. The forums were well attended by representatives from LAECGs, Koorie organisations, TAFE institutes, private business and representatives from Government agencies. The main aim of the forum was to provide overview of the Wurreker Strategy and to collect information for the development of the 2005 Training Plan. The forums also provided the opportunity to ascertain community needs thus to determine what the training priorities were in the local area.

TAFE News

The University of Ballarat has developed an Indigenous Employment Strategy which recognises the need to take positive action against the continued disadvantage experienced by Indigenous Australians in the labour market. Over the next three years from 2003-2006, the strategy's objective is to provide 15 employment places at UB for Indigenous Australians and to provide those recruits with training and career development assistance. An Indigenous Recruitment Co-ordinator position was created to work on the projects development in accordance with the framework statement approved by the Vice-Chancellor. A local Koorie woman was appointed in the position on the 28th January 2004, she is located in the Human Resources at the Mt Helen Campus, but is working with a range of stakeholders across all campuses and the local community to achieve the UB employment targets.

Angela Singh commenced in July 2004 as the new Manager for the Aboriginal Education Centre and is based at the Mt Helen Campus.

The staff of the Aboriginal Education Centre have had a very intensive year having been involved on a number of projects this year which has seen national recognition such as the organisation of the 3rd National Indigenous Education Conference that was held at the Mt Helen Campus in November. Jasmine Morrison, Koorie Liaison Officer has also been involved on working with the School of Human Service on a tool as part of the RPL process, and incorporating on-line access to determine competency in designated TAFE courses.

TAFE Koorie Liaison Officers Contact Details

University of Ballarat:

Ballarat Campus	Jasmine Morrison	(03) 5327 8260
Horsham Campus	Jenny Beer	(03) 5362 2662



Goulburn Valley Regional Broker

goulburnvalley1@bigpond.com

Rob Britten

Local Forum

Over the past five months 7 forums were held in Shepparton 4 in Wodogona and 1 in Seymour. The main for these forums were job networks which was 4. The forums well represented by 1 or 2 from each of the Job Networks throughout the region to develop a strategy for Koorie jobseekers to be placed in long term sustainable employment.

Attending the forums were Workways, CVGT, Worktrainers, Mission CWC, IEC, Surway, GMGT, Key Solutions, Parkside House, Salvation Army Plus, NEIS, DEWR and Centerlink.

TAFE

Goulburn Ovens TAFE working in partnership with ASHE (Academy of Sports, Health & Educational and Yenbena). The main focus for ASHE running courses in the field of cert 2 & 3 in sport & recreation with Yenbena focusing on land management.

The Koorie Education Unit at G.O TAFE are focusing on career orientated courses running cert IV in Health (Nursing) management, VCAL, Cert IV in Assessment & Workplace training, IT, Transport & Distributions, Building and constructions, Administration and Aboriginal Art & Design, Culture with Wodonga Koorie Unit offering pc app, Aboriginal management and aboriginal Art & Design.

Tafe Koorie Liaison Officers contact details:

Goulburn Ovens TAFE	Charles Atkinson	(03) 58332705
Yenbena	Grant Dreher	(03) 58693336
ASHE	Jason Briggs	(03) 58236600
Wodonga	Noel Doyle	(02) 60556638

Local Businesses

Local Business have been very receptive to the Wurreker Strategy with over 40 local businesses to date forming 2 business network forums in 2005. The focus of the forums to understand what their needs are before employing a person and networking with the purpose on generating business within the Group.

KEE OPEN DAY

Koorie Employment Enterprises



Keel open day was to raise awareness on programs and services for career options that are available through KEE, Wurreker Strategy, TAFE's, Job Networks and Universities in the Shepparton region. With 15 sites and over 100 people attending the open day included schools, local community organizations and the general community with one lucky students from McGuire Secondary College winning a personal computer.

COAG Trials

Shepparton is the Victorian location for the COAG sponsored whole of government trials in indigenous communities, Shepparton was chosen because of; size of the Aboriginal community breadth 7 Strength at the community leadership and infrastructure and the large amount of Government Programs and expenditure relating to Shepparton's Aboriginal Community.

Objectives:

- Building on and promoting the strength, assets and contribution of the aboriginal community to shape and manage it's own affairs.
- Develop a strong and productive partnership with all levels of Government
- Change the way government work with all levels so that they can respond in a collaboration and holistic way to support community aspirations and approaches

Priorities:

- Strengthening Families
- Governance
- Strategic Planning
- Leadership Strategy
- Pride, Image, Social Connectedness and Respect Strategy
- Cultural Enhancement
- Education and Training Strategy
- Job Strategy
- Economic Development Strategy
- Justice Strategy
- Community Health Strategy
- Housing Strategy