

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS UNDERTAKE INDIGENOUS DESIGN PROJECT FOR MAARI MA



University of Technology Sydney students put their holiday time to good use and visited Broken Hill to focus their attention on a new challenge – to design a Knowledge and Healing Centre. The group is pictured above during their week long visit with Executive Manager Social and Community Programs, Justin Files and Maari Ma Board Chair, Maureen O'Donnell.

Maari Ma welcomed a group of students from the University of Technology Sydney for a week in February. They are undertaking Indigenous Design for their summer studio project and are engaging with Maari Ma in the design of a Knowledge and Healing Centre in Broken Hill, developing space to engage community in language, the arts, health and other issues. The students were from the faculties of Information Technology and Engineering, Landscape Architecture, and Architecture and their week was a busy one with briefings on Maari Ma

and its vision for the centre. The students were given information on local health planning from the Far West Local Health District and Indigenous engagement in that process. They were provided with an insight to the Barkindji Native Title and the Healthy Country Project and were given a tour at Mutawintji National Park. At the end of the week the students presented their initial conceptual ideas to senior Indigenous staff who were able to provide feedback to enable them to refine their concepts. (The story is continued over the page).

MAARI MA HEALTH
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INDIGENOUS DESIGN PROJECT

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Barkindji man, Murray Butcher, provided the students with the opportunity to gain insight and inspiration for the design concepts with a tour of the sacred historic site, Mutawintji. The National Park has one of the best collections of Aboriginal rock art in the state. The students heard how Aboriginal people have been utilising the natural food and water resources at Mutawintji for thousands of years, and that the land and waterways and the plants and animals that live there feature in all facets of Aboriginal culture. With their new knowledge and inspiration, the students will be presenting their concepts for the Knowledge and Healing Centre back to Maari Ma.

“We have a vision of the merging of ancient technology with contemporary technologies for a place of knowledge and healing for our people” Bob Davis, Maari Ma CEO.

CONTINUING EDUCATION ENCOURAGED



(left to right) Marsha Files and Renae Roach are pictured with a fellow student at a study block at UNE.

Maari Ma encourages and fosters the continuing professional development of its employees and this year two senior staff have started an Advanced Diploma in Leadership and Management at the University of New England in Armidale. Social and Emotional Wellbeing Manager, Marsha Files and HR Coordinator of Maari Ma's Indigenous Remote Service Delivery Traineeship program, Renae Roach – who are pictured left and centre with a fellow student, are doing the course under the Federally funded Indigenous Remote Service Delivery program. It comprises on-the-job learning, workplace practice, self-directed study and assessment preparation. They will be studying alongside other Indigenous students from across New South Wales, Echuca and Albury-Wodonga.

BES MURRAY CENTRE IN BALRANALD MEETING SERVICE DELIVERY GAPS



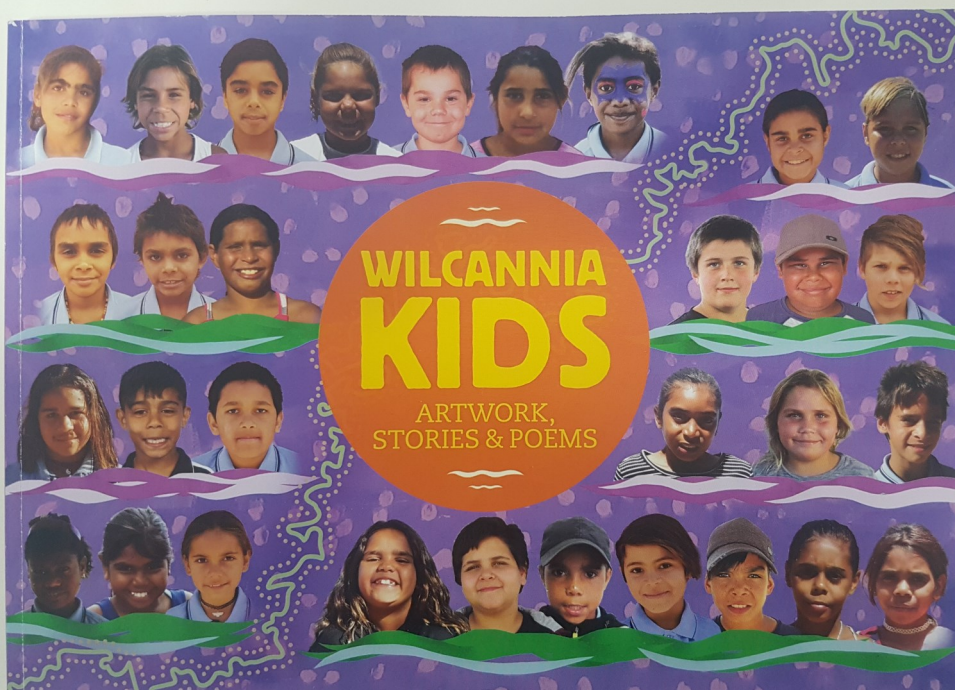
Maari Ma is now delivering primary health care from the Bes Murray Community Centre at Balranald and the start of the year has been a busy one. The Balranald service is providing improved care coordination for the community and is gradually working to increase services once gaps are identified. Last year, RN Emma Moore was employed together with Paige Winch who works as a receptionist and a care link worker with the Marrabinya Program (Integrated Team Care). Diabetes Clinics have now started at the service along with Child and Maternal Health Clinics and Sexual Health Clinics in collaboration with Far West LHD. Centrelink services are also available from the Centre three days a week and employment agency, OCTEC and Homes Out West are visiting monthly. Emma is pictured above with children who came to the Bes Murray Centre for a health check. Emma took the opportunity to also provide some education on teeth brushing while the boys waited for their sister to have her health check.

A WELCOME CHEQUE FOR NDIS



Maari Ma recently received a welcome grant of \$20,000 from Federal Minister for Regional Services, the Hon. Mark Coulton MP which will help to employ a consultant to help Maari Ma get National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) business ready. Maari Ma is already doing quite a lot of work around disability and speech, and occupational therapy staff have received 180 referrals for therapy provision with children. 95 of the referrals are for speech therapy and 80 are for occupational therapy. Most of those referred are receiving early intervention and the delivery of services are provided at home, in educational environments and at Maari Ma. Minister Coulton is pictured with allied health staff and Social and Emotional Wellbeing Manager, Marsha Files far left.

WILCANNIA KEEPSAKE



A keepsake for the children at Wilcannia Central School and their families has been produced thanks to the work of two very dedicated women. Children's author, Jane Carroll, whose husband is Maari Ma's long time GP, Dr Vic Carroll and Wilcannia resident, Karin Donaldson have turned artwork and accompanying stories from the children into a book depicting everyday life in Wilcannia. It includes scenes of family, culture and environment.

WILCANNIA COMMUNITY DINNERS START FOR THE YEAR



The Wilcannia Community Dinners have resumed for another year – bringing the community together to enjoy a two course meal and a yarn. They first started in April 2006 and while Maari Ma's dietitians organising them over the years may have changed, the aim of the get togethers remains the same. They provide a unique forum for health promotion and help to develop skills and abilities among community members in preparing nutritious and affordable meals. The dinners are held eight times a year with community members and staff working together with other town events often combining with the dinner.



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