

**Building stronger
communities**

HOPE
Project

HOPE Project Update – September 2017

The communities of Charleville and Cunnamulla work together to provide services, initiatives and programs that support their young people to lead healthy lifestyles and to reach their full potential by:

IMPROVING EDUCATION, TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Fabulous Lemon Drops

This musical storytelling duo captured the imagination of young children and their parents and carers in St George, Charleville and Cunnamulla from 11–14 September.

Held at the local libraries and kindergartens, the performances attracted hundreds of little fans and shared a message about the value of reading and literacy in the early years.

Targeted at children up to the age of eight and their parents and carers, the take-home message was about the importance of parents and carers nurturing a love of reading as their children's first teachers.

Funded by the HOPE Project, this program was initially brought to our attention by Cunnamulla's librarian, Ms Tammy Hickey, who drives innovative and worthwhile programs in the community.

2. Beyond the Broncos

HOPE's work with the Beyond the Broncos Girls' Academy on behalf of Cunnamulla and Charleville has been ongoing since our successful submission to the Australian Government.

In September the Beyond the Broncos Girls' Academy recruited two Student Support Officers – one for Charleville State High School and one for Cunnamulla P-12 State School. They will each be employed two days a week from Term 4 to provide in-school mentoring and support to girls from Years 7–12.

The program delivery will be tailored to suite the schedule and environment of each school ensuring the work complements other programs already operating within the schools.

The Principals of both schools, who are also members of the HOPE Project's Steering Committee, are pleased to welcome this fully funded project into their schools.

3. Barista Training

In September we finalised arrangements to bring our baristas, Rhiannon Redmond and Amy Holdaway from She Bangs Café in Brisbane, to Cunnamulla and Charleville for the third consecutive year.

Year 11 and 12 students from Charleville State High School and Cunnamulla P-12 State School and local café owners will be invited to participate, learn new skills and understand the difference between good coffee and great coffee!

The baristas have also repeated their kind offer to provide work experience at their Brisbane cafés to any student who completes the school-based program.

Since the program's inception in 2015, several students have gained employment in the hospitality industry. The HOPE Project is delighted to offer this program again.

Our thanks to RESQ and both schools for contributing funding support this year.

4. Deadly Recruits Camp

The HOPE Team is in early negotiations with the Australian Defence Force for the 2018 camp. We have tentative dates for June next year and intend to offer 30 places to students: 10 from Charleville SHS, 10 from Cunnamulla P-12 SS and 10 from St George SHS.

Of the 22 students who attended this year's camp, five travelled recently to Toowoomba to undergo Defence Force testing for enlistment. Of those five, two passed with flying colours and the other three are being mentored at school in preparation for re-testing next February.

IMPROVING PHYSICAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

5. Game On Queensland – Commonwealth Games Legacy Program

HOPE has assisted Murweh Shire Council (MSC) in applying for a grant from *Game On Queensland* to fund a multi-sport and fitness program in the Shire.

Game On Queensland grants are part of the Embracing 2018 Commonwealth Games Legacy Program that will provide grants to local governments across Queensland. The funding is to support programs that deliver sport and active recreation participation opportunities to local communities in the lead up to, during and after the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

If successful, MSC's grant will fund a 'come and try' program involving a range of sports and fun physical activities that will get people active and connected.

Successful Councils will be advised in October / November 2017.

6. QRL and NRL Returning to Charleville and Cunnamulla

HOPE has been talking to our friends at the NRL and QRL about recreating the week-long series of fitness and wellbeing events that was delivered in Cunnamulla and Charleville in November 2015.

We're delighted to report that the NRL and QRL have confirmed they're available to return to the communities of Cunnamulla and Charleville in the 2018 rugby league pre-season and deliver a similar program.

The program will be developed in consultation with the schools, Councils, local rugby league clubs and others. More coming soon ...

7. Bangarra Rekindling Youth Program

In last month's update we reported that Charleville has been selected for Bangarra's youth program, *Rekindling*, commencing next year. Our submission was strengthened by five compelling letters of support from local Elders and other community leaders.

The first step involves initial community consultation later this year. Bangarra's Rekindling team will travel to Charleville and meet with relevant community stakeholders to understand local culture, explain the program and discuss what is needed from the community to ensure the program's success.

Bangarra's *Rekindling* Youth program aims to inspire young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to:

- have pride in the knowledge of their cultural background
- have a strong sense of kinship and connection to their community and country
- understand their role as the future custodians of their culture
- establish the foundations for positive career choices.

SUPPORTING PLANNED AND INTEGRATED SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY

8. Local Drug Action Team – Cunnamulla

The Cunnamulla LDAT submission, led by the Paroo Shire Council (PSC) and supported by HOPE, has been successful in obtaining \$10,000 in the second round of LDAT funding to develop and deliver a youth mentoring program in the community.

This means that both Cunnamulla and Charleville are now Local Drug Action Team (LDAT) communities and two of 80 towns across the country to receive this federal funding.

The LDAT program is about building partnerships and programs that help communities work together to prevent alcohol and other drug harms across Australia.

Congratulations to PSC and thanks to those community members who provided letters of support for the submission.

Questions or comments?

Please feel free to contact the HOPE Team.

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