



Building stronger
communities

HOPE
Project

HOPE Project Update – January / February 2018

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

The HOPE Team spent much of January finalising arrangements for programs due to be delivered in February, March and April.

Our recent focus has been firmly on fitness and sport with a return visit from the NRL's Games Development Team and QRL's Welfare Officer. February was an exciting time for footy fans in the communities as the QRL/ NRL visit coincided with the Adrian Vowles Cup in Charleville and an extended visit by a team of high-profile rugby league players now working with Deadly Choices.

But it wasn't all about football. Australian netballer Vicki Wilson made a return visit to run another series of netball skills and coaching clinics at Charleville and Cunnamulla's schools and for the wider communities.

Next up in March there'll be basketball, softball and AFL clinics and competitions delivered by three Australian champions in those sports. Details below.

HOPE has also been working with those committed community members who put their hands up to lead the *Move It Murweh* multi-sport program in Charleville. Commonwealth Games Legacy Funding was secured to run this program with the overall aim of encouraging as many people as possible, regardless of age, fitness level or sporting talent, to get active, join in and have fun.

We were also delighted to welcome back Bangarra Dance Theatre's Artistic Director Sidney Saltner and his team to Charleville. They delivered the first intensive dance workshop of the *Rekindling* program to 36 students at Charleville State High School. Plans were also finalised for the first of *Rekindling's* three 'gatherings', scheduled for April.

We were also happy to welcome our new Health Minister, Dr Steven Miles, to Charleville in late February.

IMPROVING EDUCATION, TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

1. Defence Force Recruiting

HOPE welcomed three members of the ADF's Defence Force Recruiting Team. Kieren Marr, Jason Enchong and Jenna Wilson spent several days in Charleville and Cunnamulla, joining with the HOPE, QRL/NRL and Deadly Choices teams as they delivered programs in both communities.

Kieren, Jason and Jenna supported teachers in classrooms, played sport with students and presented career options at schools and to the communities.

Some of our young people already knew Kieren from the annual Deadly Recruits Camp, which we're planning again for late June 2018.

2. Deadly Recruits Camp

Dates are in place for the 2018 camp (24–29 June) and although it seems a long way off, we're already in the initial planning stages.

This year we're able to extend the camp offering to 30 students: 10 each from Charleville State High School, Cunnamulla P-12 State School and St George State High School.

HOPE is delighted to offer this camp opportunity free of charge to students thanks to the generous financial and in-kind support offered by RESQ, Defence Force Recruiting, Murweh and Paroo Shire Councils, Mr and Mrs Godfrey, the participating schools, CACH, CWAATSICH and the Queensland Police Service.

IMPROVING PHYSICAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

3. Bangarra *Rekindling* Youth Program

Rekindling's initial workshop was held on Thursday 22 February and involved 36 students at Charleville State High School.

Rekindling's artistic director and former Bangarra dancer Sidney Saltner and his team explained the commitment required from students and taught them some compelling Bangarra repertoire.

Following the workshop, the Bangarra team met with several Bidjara Elders to discuss the program's upcoming 'gatherings', the first of which is scheduled for mid April.

For a better idea of the program, please take a moment to watch the [Rekindling trailer](#).

4. Netball with Vicki Wilson

Vicki returned to the South West 19–23 February and ran netball workshops, clinics and competitions. This year she extended her itinerary to include Cunnamulla; last time Vicki visited, the Cunnamulla students had to travel to Charleville in order to participate in Vicki's program.

5. QRL / NRL program

From 24–28 February a group from the QRL and NRL returned to Charleville and Cunnamulla. Former North Qld Cowboy David Faiumu, now QRL Central Division's Education and Welfare Manager, conducted sessions in classrooms whilst the NRL Games Development Team put students through some physically demanding paces outdoors. There were also community events at which everyone was made welcome.

Petero Cioniceva was back, this time as a Deadly Choices Ambassador, and was accompanied by other former players. There were some famous faces in town!

6. Basketball, Softball and AFL

Former Australian and Olympic basketball champion Brian Kerle will be in Charleville and Cunnamulla 4–9 March. Brian is bringing elite softball player Kelly McKellar-Nathan, originally from Cunnamulla, and AFL player and former member of the Brisbane Lions and Brisbane Bears, Darryl White.

This group of elite sports people will run fitness and wellbeing sessions at each school and for the communities. Importantly, the focus of their message throughout the week will be on building resilience and what it takes to lead a healthy and fulfilling life.

SUPPORTING PLANNED AND INTEGRATED SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY

7. District Service Mapping

The HOPE Team has been working with the Queensland Police Service in Charleville and representatives of the Western Queensland Primary Health Network on a comprehensive service mapping activity. Once completed and compiled the data will be available via the 'access my community' app and the website: mycommunitydirectory.com.au.

HOPE extends grateful thanks to the local community members who have supported the HOPE Project's programs and initiatives over the past several weeks. In particular, representatives from:

- Murweh and Paroo Shire Councils
- Queensland Police Service
- CWAATSICH in Charleville
- CACH in Cunnamulla
- Deadly Choices
- 4RR
- Charleville RSL
- Cunnamulla and Charleville's schools
- Organisers of the Adrian Vowles Cup
- Local sporting clubs

Questions, comments, ideas or concerns?

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