



Building stronger
communities

HOPE
Project

HOPE Project Update – August / September 2018

The HOPE team welcomed a new member in August when Charleville local Jenny Peacock joined the project on a temporary contract. Jenny's permanent role is at Charleville State High School and she has been a great supporter of the HOPE Project since it started back in 2015.

HOPE is benefitting from Jenny's local knowledge and networks, and for the way she has embraced her new role and her commitment to supporting the project's vision: *To support young people in Charleville and Cunnamulla to lead healthy lives and reach their full potential.*

IMPROVING PHYSICAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

1. Digi Youth Arts

A team from Digi Youth Arts (DYA), led by Artistic Director Alethea Beetson, visited Cunnamulla to scope a community arts project and capture footage of local Elders sharing stories and memories with a group of young people. DYA will return in February to continue working on a range of artistic projects including a mural.

Funding has been made available through RAPAD, and a successful grant submission is funding the mural project, which will also be undertaken in Charleville next year. HOPE has been working with DYA since 2015 to explore ideas that will inspire and engage our young people.

2. Charleville Parkrun

Hope has provided \$5,000 for Charleville to have its own Parkrun. This money covers stopwatches, scanners, finish tokens, volunteer vests, a first aid kit, a laptop, event manual and Parkrun software. Parkrun offered the program to Charleville at a discounted rate (normally it's \$7,500) due to drought considerations.

Parkrun is free to all participants and involves 5km event held on a Saturday. To date it occurs in 2,700 communities worldwide. Charleville could be 2,701 when it gets up and running later this year.

IMPROVING EDUCATION, TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

2. Consentino

Renowned magician, 'mentalists' and 2011 Australia's Got Talent runner-up Paul Consentino visited Cunnamulla on 14 and 15 August much to the delight of everyone who attended his inspiring magical performances.

In addition to his magical skills, Consentino delivered a strong and inspiring personal message about how reading and literacy skills have been fundamental to his success. Students from surrounding schools came to Cunnamulla for the activities, which were organised by Cunnamulla Librarian, Ms Tammy Hickey, and supported by the HOPE Team.

3. Bangarra Dark Emu

Several students from Charleville State High School travelled to Brisbane on 22-23 August to attend the Community Night performance of Bangarra's most recent performance, Dark Emu. These students, who had participated in the Rekindling program, had also performed their Rekindling repertoire during NAIDOC Week. They were also rewarded with a special treat that involved watching a dance class with the professional Bangarra dancers and meeting them backstage prior to the opening night performance at the Queensland Performing Arts Complex.

Many thanks to Murweh Shire Council, CWAATSICH and Charleville State High School for making this exciting trip possible.

4. Early Childhood Workshops

USQ Early Childhood academic Dr Alice Brown visited Cunnamulla 22-24 August to deliver a series of workshops to parents and early childhood teachers and care providers. Her message was about the importance of those first 1000 days in a child's life, the rapid brain development that occurs during this critical period, and how parents and carers can ensure growing brains get what they need.

5. Junior and Madmike

HOPE brought two Logan-based rappers to the South West for a week of interactive musical sessions based on the First Five Forever program. Junior and Madmike delivered fun musical sessions in libraries and day care centres in Cunnamulla, Charleville, Morven, Augathella and Wyandra. Their message to parents and carers was all about the importance of sharing stories, singing, talking and playing with our very young children in order to build a foundation for future development that can last a lifetime.

SUPPORTING PLANNED AND INTEGRATED SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY

6. Funding submissions

As the HOPE Project operates without operational funding, the team often writes funding applications on behalf of local community organisations in order to provide programs that fall within the HOPE Project's scope.

Over the past few months HOPE has been identifying current funding rounds including artist in residence grants that will cover the cost of initiatives considered important to the community.

All HOPE's work involves collaboration with the community. We thank everyone who gets behind us to help provide programs and initiatives in support of our young people.