

THE ABORIGINAL LITERACY FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

ALFABET



END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER 2015

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CEO REPORT

Let me start by thanking everyone associated with the Aboriginal Literacy Foundation this year. 2015 has been a huge year of development, consolidation, exploration, and just hard work! To our supporters who allow us to exist, and their amazing capacity to invest and partner with us – thank you! We now have over 1700 registered individual donors. This is a very pleasing number that helps our organisation become even more sustainable as we go into 2016.

To our staff and volunteers who do such amazing work on the ground – thank you! Both groups deserve huge praise and appreciation. We have over 150 volunteers in Victoria, and many more hundreds via our partners around Australia. We always try to run a lean team that aims to keep administration costs down. As such I must congratulate our team and our board for all the work they do at such a low cost!

The 2015 year has been full of developments; new programs in Victoria; new partnerships around Australia; and just a huge amount of hard work – all of which keeps the show on the road.

Our new programs include moving on and implementing our Digital Literacy Hub. The DLH now operates in three states with effective audiences of over 100,000 possible participants. I am happy to report that weekly usage is growing at a phenomenal rate. I must thank the hard work of our DLH Committee and its chair, Mr Tony Harris for their amazing work. You have and are doing amazing work!

Our new Melbourne Literacy Centre hub has opened and kicked off activities at its new home – The Library at the Docklands. This centre will be home or residency of our Melbourne activities. We have also commenced new literacy engagement programs in Melton, Docklands, and Thornbury – all of which will be coordinated from the new MLC.

Also this year, the Books for Learning program, has been very lucky to have worked with two new partners, namely the Books in Homes program (Sydney) and Footys4All (Melbourne). By working with these two groups we hope to extend our reach and impact, indeed a fully extended partnership may well treble our reach into the Indigenous communities around Australia. And if we add the DLH project to this possible collaboration, we may in time reach every Indigenous person in this country.

I am also very happy to report that over 60% of our direct tutorial students have recorded a lift in their reading age. Getting them closer and closer to becoming chronological competitive students. This very satisfactory result within such a hugely disadvantaged demographic gives us great encouragement to continue our work. While our direct tutorial work is of enormous value, we also acknowledge that Indigenous communities are simply without most of the resources that non-Indigenous communities take for granted. As such we are determined more than ever to reverse this, as such our efforts to build resources, libraries, mentors and access to digital means will be more than ever as we go into 2016.

We are determined to lift literacy, numeracy and wellbeing in Aboriginal Australia like never before!

Thank you again to all and please can everyone keep safe, warm and well over the Christmas period.

My best wishes to all,

David Perrin - CEO, Aboriginal Literacy Foundation

CHAIR REPORT

It's been a very successful 6 months for the Aboriginal Literacy Foundation.

As well as maintaining our longstanding programs, such as the Literacy and Heritage Camps and our Books for Learning program, there have been a number of other exciting new initiatives which has kept us all very busy.

Namely our Digital Literacy Hub has been successfully launched and is now operating in schools in three states. Added to our very successful Bacchus Marsh Literacy program in the Western Victorian corridor has been the newly established Melton Indigenous Students Assistance Program. Both of these after-school programs have been welcomed by community and are now both very advantageous for students' academic progress in the Western region of Victoria.

Also we have started two very special programs at our Docklands base in Central Melbourne. The aim of the first new program is to support and mentor older Indigenous students to enable them to undertake tertiary education. This program will help metropolitan and country students to get the very best advice on careers and the training at TAFE or university that is required.

Our second Docklands initiative is to engage young teenage or older Indigenous males and females with a creative bent. This new Arts & Cultural Engagement program, while based at the Docklands Melbourne Learning Centre, will travel around schools and other community groups. Our long term aim with these programs is to support Aboriginal students and to give them the opportunity to undergo training and tertiary assistance with a view to building the capacity for a lifetime career.

Our work in Victoria has been accompanied by the wonderful consolidation of our long standing Ballarat office. Our work in Ballarat centres around our direct tutorial and mentoring groups. In particular our Reach for the Sky program has had another successful year. This program which focuses on Boys Mentoring, Engagement and Literacy uses the appeal of the gym to encourage boys to undertake literacy tutorial work. The program has been very successful working with over 20 Aboriginal boys per month. We have been heartened to hear several other education groups in Perth and Darwin have taken up the model.

Altogether the ALF has done much to advantage Indigenous education in Victoria. But we continue our work to also resource and assist other projects and partnerships around Australia. Our single biggest investment in Indigenous education is our Books for Learning Program. This with our new Digital Literacy Hub will be next big step in reaching Aboriginal students and schools. We hope to report back to you in 2016 that these two initiatives will be making a major step forward in helping Indigenous literacy and numeracy grow and progress in Australia.

None of this would be possible without the help that we are given by our wonderful supporters throughout Australia, it is through your generosity that real changes are taking place in Aboriginal education. Also may I express the board's and my own personal thanks to our staff and volunteers.

I wish you all a very happy holiday season and I look forward to working with you all in the future.

Dr Anthony Cree, OAM - Chair, Aboriginal Literacy Foundation



MELBOURNE LEARNING CENTRE



After many months of negotiations, planning and some false starts, the Aboriginal Literacy Foundation has established the Melbourne Learning Centre (MLC) at the Library at the Dock. We are very excited at this eventuality and the work it has accomplished so far.

The MLC is a concept and a residency. It is a hub for the ALF to coordinate programs, events, mentoring and tutorials at the Library. For too long now the ALF has not been able to call one place in Melbourne its Melbourne home! Now while this may have suited our purposes in many ways over the last few years, the time has come that we can now call the Docklands Library our new home! We are very happy with this outcome. Our sincere thanks and appreciation must go to Mr Thomas Mendelovits and his colleagues at the City of Melbourne Libraries for their amazing interest, patience and support in this establishment process.

Already we have begun a range of programs at the MLC. The MLC is now the hub for the following programs:

- STORY TAPPING PROGRAM – MODERN ARTS & CULTURE MEETS TRADITIONAL STORY TELLING
- EARLY READERS – YOUNG MOTHERS READING AND WELLBEING
- UNIACCESS – INNOVATIVE MENTORING AND TUTORING FOR INDIGENOUS UNIVERSITY ASPIRANTS
- ASPIRE – INDIGENOUS GIRLS LEADERSHIP AND ASPIRATIONAL MENTORING

These four programs spearhead our Melbourne work. The MLC has already seen close to 40 students becoming involved in some of the programs and attending our engagement sessions. We truly believe this number will significantly grow over 2016.

The Docklands Library is jewel of a place with a huge array of rooms, free equipment and resources. As such, we are overjoyed with our new partnership and residency with City of Melbourne Libraries.

All of our work will be directed at engaging young Indigenous boys and girls, men and women in their Aboriginality, but also in their education and personal development. We also aim to raise real awareness of Indigenous life and culture among non-Indigenous people.



Supported by:





THE MELTON HOMEWORK CLUB

After some months of planning we are happy to announce that the Aboriginal Literacy Foundation has formally established and begun the Melton Homework Club.

This wonderful new initiative in the western corridor between Ballarat and Melbourne has been established with in partnership with Melton Secondary College, Djerrwarr Health Services and the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME). It should also be noted the Melton group will also be working very closely with the Ballarat, Bacchus Marsh and Melbourne ALF hubs.

The Melton groups holds its mentoring and homework clubs each Wednesday afternoon after school (during term). At the moment the group is relatively small, but we hope to engage up to 40 Indigenous boys and girls from the direct school community, and then to expand the capacity outside the school to include other nearby schools and community groups. The group will also be working with AIME in its engagement strategy to assist Indigenous students through and into the higher years of school (and into University).

This wonderful new initiative is also taking on community volunteers. The group will be coordinated by an old student of Melton Secondary College, Ms Alyssa-Kate Hanson. And she will be ably assisted by Mrs Glenis Dow, a local Indigenous mother and ALF volunteer.

Our aim in Melton is to solidify the work we do in the western corridor and build internal capacity for our students and families in this district. We look forward to more supportive sessions for the children of the community to study, chat, eat and learn more about their culture in 2016.

In partnership with:



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ASPIRE PROGRAM

One of the standout Aboriginal Literacy Foundation's program of 2015 has been the ASPIRE program.

ASPIRE is an education and mentoring program for Indigenous girls (predominately aged between 8-18 years). The program is based around two methodologies. The first method is to ensure the girls have the basics of literacy and numeracy. This is done via personal and group tutoring (at after school homework clubs and regular ALF camps). The methodology is to provide regular support, encouragement and mentoring. We do this by inviting the girls to group sessions where they are mentored by a range of inspirational mentors, speakers and Elders. This engagement program aims to open the girls' eyes and experiences to a wide world of opportunity.

This program has over ninety girls enrolled in it, and is growing each month. The program is spread over and available to all the ALF hubs in Victoria. Our Aspire HQ is now at the ALF Melbourne Learning Centre. We hope this program will continue to grow and prosper.

The staffing of the program is led by Indigenous elders and senior Aboriginal ladies associated with the ALF. In particular Yorta Yorta Elder Aunty Anne Cooper, Ms Sue Bacon, and Ms Glenis Dow will be undertaking senior roles in the group. Our Young Leader, Ms Charmaine Harrison will be performing a leading role among the Young Aboriginal women in the group. The ALF have also invited well known Indigenous author Aunty Sharon Hughes onto the Aspire committee. We believe that with these amazing ladies leading the group, it will grow from strength to strength.

It should be carefully noted that while Indigenous women will be leading this program for Indigenous girls. The program aims to include other women and men from a wider demographic. This program is about expanding the opportunities and vision of our girls, not limiting their opportunities. While learning and culture are at the centre of this program, we are also aiming to ensure our girls have the keys to access whatever future they wish for! As such we are encouraging women from all backgrounds and expertise to offer their help to the ASPIRE group for 2016. All enquiries should be directed to info@aboriginalliteracyfoundation.org

The ALF would like to thank all the ASPIRE participants, speakers, and firms that were involved with the 2015 program.



Supported by:



K&L GATES



The ALF is very proud to acknowledge after some time in preparation and development that the Digital Literacy Hub (DLH) is up and going, and working in more than three states. We have been able to bring together a range of digital connections and assets under the coordination of the DLH Committee and its chair, Mr Tony Harris, that are now becoming a highly valuable tool for many young Indigenous students and their families.

We are hoping that this rich learning environment which will have a huge library of online eBooks, Literacy and numeracy games, educational resources, testing and evaluation tools, interactive skype and email features will greatly assist Aboriginal students and their families (at school and beyond). The ALF is very concerned about academic progression, but we are also very interested in future pathways in higher education and/or employment. As such we have developed strong partnerships with Indigenous RTO/HR contacts and Tertiary agencies that will offer excellent conduits and portals to higher education and employment opportunities.

Added to these higher education and employment portals, we have also reached out to wellbeing agencies, financial and health groups to augment the DLH with digital contacts and assets that will assist Aboriginals in everyday life.

The DLH is our opportunity to talk to every Indigenous boy and girl, man and woman in Australia. We have the ability in this country to distribute a huge amount of information to this demographic online, and as such we are very excited about the opportunities of the DLH.

For more information about the DLH please contact the ALF at info@aboriginalliteracyfoundation.org



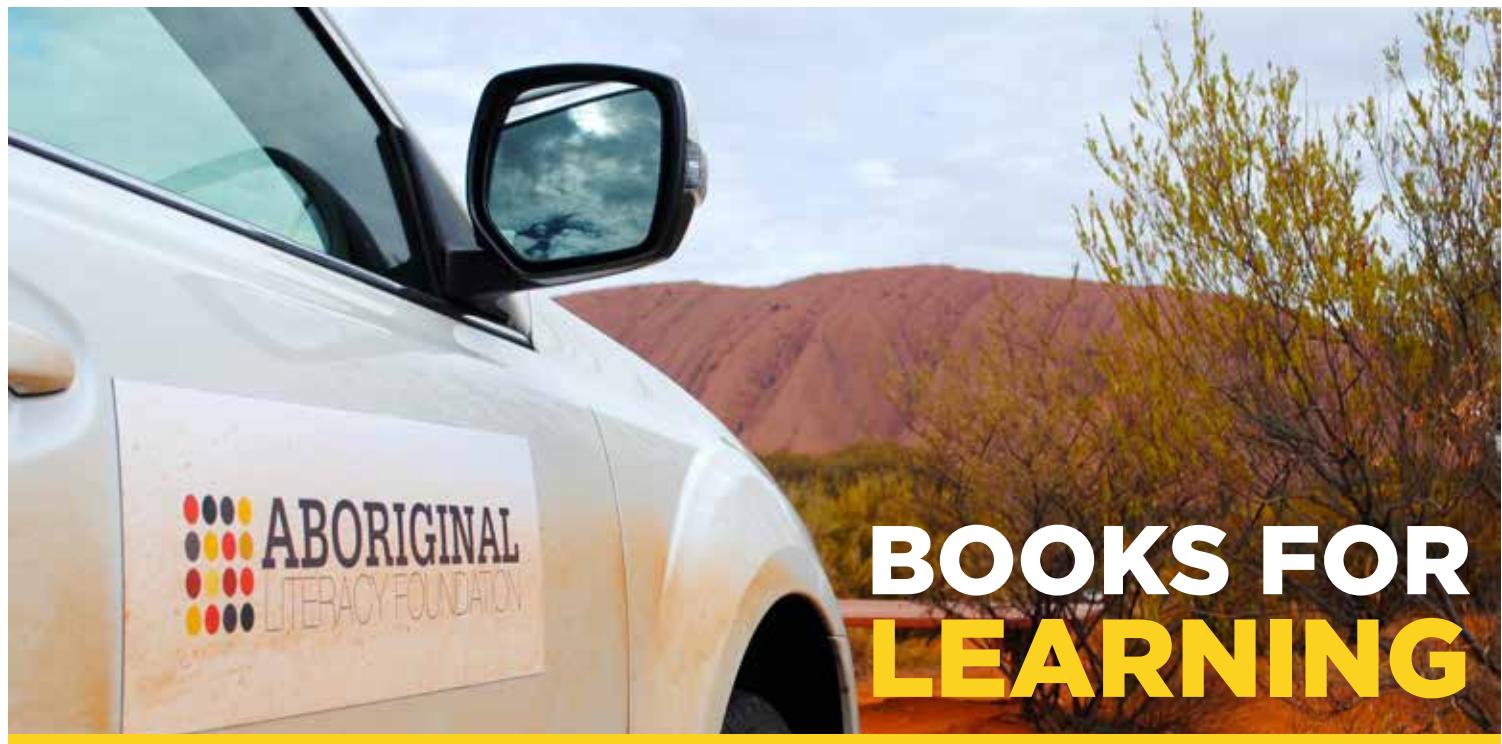
Digital Literacy Hub

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The Aboriginal Literacy Foundation Books for Learning Program is one of most iconic and successful programs. We are very proud to say the program has interaction with our 150 locations around the country, and is only getting bigger!

Thanks to the very generous book donations we received throughout the year, we were able to send out around 90,000 books to communities in need all across Australia in 2014-15. The Books for learning program also sent out 8,000+ backpacks over the last twelve months.

We have been lucky enough to see shipments of books come into our office or to our warehouse almost every week. As such we now have a warehouse that contains 50,000 or so books ready to go out to Indigenous communities (around Australia). As such we must thank the students, families, communities and corporate groups that donate new and excellent second hand books to the program.

Over the year we have seen more than six visits to the warehouse to organise, sort, box books. In particular we have been lucky enough to have the Bacchus Marsh Homework Club ladies, The Golden Key Society, K&L Gates, MLC Literacy Support Volunteers, and RMIT Oxfam along to help our staff in getting the books ready to go!

Highlights of the 2015 Books for Learning Program have been the addition of two new partnerships to the program, Books in Homes and Footys4All.

The ALF have joined the preview pack section of the Books in Homes program. We are presently negotiating to join the fully extended program. If this happens, we will see our books included in the Books In Homes catalogue that go to over 150 schools around Australia.

Also, we are very excited to see Footys4All join our team. Footys4All visit schools and remote communities and give out sporting equipment in an effort to engage and mentor. The ALF will be adding its books to go with the balls the balls Footys4All give out.

Together we aim to build engagement and impact.

These new partnerships will provide an enormous leap in our active audience and the ability of the ALF to help and expand the number of young Indigenous readers in Australia.

The Books for Learning Program also must thank ABB and Intellimail for their amazing support for the program for cartage and storage. Along with our financial partners as listed below.

If you wish to donate books to this program, please contact the ALF office at info@aboriginalliteracyfoundation.org

Supported by:





NEW BOOKS FOR LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS

FOOTYS4ALL

Aboriginal Literacy Foundation are excited to announce that from October 2015, we be partnered with Footys4All to create a new program that brings together ball sports and education.

This partnership will allow our organisations to prosper by collective action. The ALF will donate its books free of charge and Footys4All will invest their time, mentoring, and free cartage into the partnership. A win win relationship. Not to mention more reach and impact for the ALF program! As such the ALF is honoured to join Michael Gallus and his board from Footys4All in this great collaboration.

Just one positive example.... a Northern Territory principal recently reported that one visit from Footys4All saw their attendance jump by 50%! By investing in books as well as footys in such visits - we also will have the chance to engage their mind as well as their bodies!

Thanks Michael for joining us in our work!

Find out more about Michaels work at www.footys4all.com.au



BOOKS IN HOMES

The Aboriginal Literacy Foundation are very excited and proud to announce we have joined the Books in Homes preview pack program, with the hope of joining its full program in 2016. This enables our ALF books to be shown to kids and principals in over 150 schools around the nation in preparation for choosing the Books in Homes catalogues.

This wonderful opportunity promotes awareness of our books and our organisation. As a hopeful full partner of the Books in Homes we aim to see 1000's of new readers of our books in the future.

For more information regarding Books in Homes, please view www.booksinhomesaustralia.com.au



LILYDALE BOOKS

Also we are very excited to announce an on-going partnership with Lilydale Books. This longstanding and respected bookseller has agreed to deliver us a stream of excellent book stock.

These books will join our Books for Learning program all free of charge! Already Lilydale Books have delivered easily more than a 1000 new books to our warehouse. Thank You so much!

For more information regarding Lilydale Books, please view www.lilydalebooks.com.au



LARRY BRANDY

We have been lucky enough to partner up with Larry Brandy. After hearing some amazing comments on Larry's work over the last week the ALF team thought it appropriate we send a big thank you to Larry Brandy!

Larry has been travelling around country NSW and ACT visiting schools and child care centres teaching and illustrating Aboriginal stories. We have been thrilled to hear of his success. We are also very proud to have played a small part in the tour providing Larry a range of free resources to present to the kids & schools. Stories, Books and Culture are an integral part of our aim to engage and educate our children.



EVENTS

SANOFI ALF FILM DAY

July 4 2015 saw Melbourne healthcare company, Sanofi, organise a private screening of 'Minions' for family and friends of the company, in order to raise much needed funds for the Aboriginal Literacy Foundation

The event was a great success with 71 kids and their mums & dads coming along to the Jam Factory Cinemas on the 4th of July to watch the hit movie "Minions".

Not only did they have heaps of fun, they also raised \$1200 for the ALF.

The ALF wishes to thank Natalie from Sanofi who organised this wonderful fundraiser for the ALF. We are also grateful that this event will be the start of other events sponsored by Sanofi.

IMPACT 100 MELBOURNE THE FINAL 4

In November 2015 the ALF was honoured to be named in the final four candidates for the prestigious Impact100 Melbourne grant.

Impact100Melbourne is a group of people who love the diversity of their city and want to contribute to its ongoing development through a variety of ways. They commit \$1000 of their money to the pool that is awarded at the awards ceremony in November. This means the winner receives \$100,000 – which is one of the largest grants available in the philanthropic world in Australia. As such the process and the calibre of the competition is lengthy and very high respectively. We were one of 45 accepted applications.

The process started with a range of application levels, visits from Impact100 themselves and their members, and finally filming a video to be shown on the night. It all came to a head with a gala night where the final four presented themselves and the members voted by ballot.

We were very excited to join the other three fantastic organisations- Raise Mentoring, Kids off the Kerb, and Life Changing Experiences. All Great groups working towards a better future for Melbourne's youth. It was a very close tally with Kids off the Kerb taking out the final prize.

Well done to the winners!

A special thanks to Charmaine Harrison, Sharon Hughes and Glenis Dow who helped us get our story across on the night.

K & L GATES - GLOBAL DAY OF SERVICE

September 30th saw ALF hosting K & L Gates on their Global Day of Service. We were honoured to be involved in their philanthropy programs and it was a fantastic opportunity for both parties.

The morning started with us hosting 15 employees in our office as they sorted into age groups and boxed over 5000 books into about 90 boxes- in just 3 hours. This is an absolutely amazing effort and something that wouldn't be possible without such a dedicated, capable team. These boxes are lined up to be sent out across Australia within the next month.

Then we took a group of young indigenous students, including a few of the girls from our ASPIRE program, down to the K & L Gates office at Rialto towers for a mentoring afternoon. It was fascinating to hear how each mentor got to the position their in, with a few stories about times they've faced barriers and the means by which they've moved past them. There were lots of laughs and interesting points to take away.

Overall it was a phenomenal success for which we are grateful. We look forward to working with this team again in the future.





LATEST NEWS FROM ACROSS AUSTRALIA

ACT

ALF has undertaken quite a bit of networking, book distributing, and DLH exploration in the territory over the last twelve months.

In particular CEO David Perrin visited Canberra in May to speak at the Quota Regional Conference.

Quota International is a ladies service organisation dedicated to helping disadvantaged women and girls. With the success of the presentation, ALF and Quota agreed to work more closely together to alleviate poverty and disadvantage in Canberra and NSW amongst Indigenous women and girls. David was quoted saying "This will be ALF's first major partnership in NSW and Canberra. By working together, Quota and ALF can make a huge difference in this region". Already the partnership has agreed to distribute 2000 books and 200 electronic book readers to Canberra schools this month.

On top of this relationship, the ALF has begun to expand our partner networks in the ACT. We are happy to report that not only has the ACT government come on board as a partner, but also so has several local Rotary and Quota clubs agreed to help us. Another blessing has been Larry Brand (a local ACT based Indigenous Story Teller) has also agreed to join us distributing our books as he visits and plays at a number of schools based in the ACT and NSW. This connection has been a huge hit with the kids and families. We are very much hoping to expand these connections over the coming year.



Larry Brandy making another book delivery

NSW

Aboriginal Literacy Foundation CEO, David Perrin joined DLH Chairman, Tony Harris in Sydney in June. This visit was primarily to launch the Digital Literacy Hub in NSW and to explore a partnership with Tranby Aboriginal College in Glebe, NSW. The visit also had time for the CEO to visit a number of longstanding donors based in Sydney.

It is the intention of the ALF to open a chapter of the ASPIRE program in NSW, and base it at Tranby Aboriginal College. Tranby Aboriginal College is Australia's oldest, independent Indigenous education provider, and is a function of the Co-operative for Aborigines Limited. The College is a not-for-profit organisation, whose main function is to deliver VET accredited courses to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from across Australia, offering specialised courses in an environment that supports Aboriginal ways of learning. The College has been a pioneer in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adult education, training and social action for over 50 years. We believe will be an excellent partner for the ALF and ASPIRE.

While we touched on our new partnership with Larry Brandy in our ACT notes, we also note that his activities spread to NSW. We are very lucky to count Larry Brandy, Aboriginal Story Teller as a close friend of the organisation. Larry travelled all around country NSW and ACT visiting a number of schools and child care centres teaching and illustrating Aboriginal stories. This very successful tour also saw him distributed approximately 2000 books to the communities.

Our Books for Learning program has seen over 5000 books delivered into NSW over the last year!

Altogether our work in NSW is beginning to take pace. We are looking forward to expand the number of partners we have in the NSW area, and indeed build our networks and capacity to do more in that state. We are particularly looking forward to getting our ASPIRE Club in Sydney running and working well for young Indigenous girls in Sydney.

SA

Over the last twelve months we have attempted to do more and more in SA. Already we have strong philanthropic and on the ground networks in SA, which have enabled us to become more helpful in that state. In May, CEO David Perrin attended the History SA, the South Australian Library & Information Network (SALIN) and the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) – Annual Quiz Night. The theme for the quiz, which was held at Goodwood Community Centre, was "The History of Everything". There were prizes up for grabs for 1st, 2nd, 3rd places, as well as best dressed table and best dressed individual. This quiz night has supported the ALF two years in a row. As such we must acknowledge and thank Marni Trevena of SALIN and Lauren Gobbett of ALIA for their leadership in organising the event. On top of our strong book distribution in SA, we are hoping to work such similar minded organisations like the ones mentioned above in order to strengthen Indigenous literacy and academic progress in SA.

While in Adelaide in May 2015, CEO David Perrin also visited a number of schools, partnerships and donors in SA. More than ever the ALF is looking to SA for an increasing position to help Indigenous students.

WA

The ALF continues to support its long standing partners, The Discovery Book Clubs of Fremantle, Perth, Wheatbelt and Mirrabooka. These wonderful literacy support groups work with the Department of Child Protection and Family Services, and a number of nearby located University campuses. These groups aim to help literally thousands of Indigenous kids in care in Southern West Australia. This year has seen over 6000 books sent to the West. We are looking forward to expanding our networks and distribution partners in WA, so we can resource these groups in WA consistently throughout the year.

NT

Aboriginal Literacy Foundation has again expanded its network of schools that now receive our books and educational resources. We now have over 12 Schools regularly receiving books from the Books for Learning Program. Along with our books, we are very excited to announce the ALF volunteer and Indigenous Artist, Justin Grant has agreed to work with the ALF to initiate a Story Telling and Literacy Project in the NT. This project will work hand in hand with our Melbourne based Story Tapping program. We are hoping that this program will bring the NT to Melbourne.

A very exciting aspect of this program is that this new initiative, led by Justin, will involve film, dance, didge, and storytelling – and as such will create huge new media gallery and an even more exciting learning environment.

QLD

The ALF has been working very hard in Queensland over the last twelve months. Most of this effort has been coordinated through our Brisbane office under the coordination of our ALF Queensland manager, Richard Muller. During this time we have seen a range of literacy support partnerships prosper (with not only helping them with funding, but also providing them extra resources). Richard has helped our Books for Learning program resource more than ten Queensland towns and approximately fourteen child care centres (over the last 12 months). One of the highlights of the last six months has been our work in Cherbourg with Marcus Priaulx. Marcus's work in Cherbourg as the local PaCE coordinator and the manager of the Cherbourg Local Mobile Library has been amazing. When he reached out to us for extra help. We got on board and with his assistance we have sent up more than 5000 books and devices to Cherbourg and district.



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

MAY

- ALF hosted the Annual Book Sale at the City of Melbourne Centre for Adult Education Library on Saturday 30th May, which raised over \$3700!
- ALF staff and volunteers spent a day at our book warehouse in Fairfield, categorizing and preparing thousands of books for distribution across Australia.
- ALF staff attended the launch of the new SNAICC website 'Family Matters' in Melbourne.
- CEO David Perrin speaks at Quota ACT & NSW Regional Conference in Canberra, ACT.
- CEO David Perrin visits Adelaide to attend SALIN's Annual Quiz Night and discusses networking with SA donors and supporters.
- ALF undertakes distribution for NT, NSW and ACT books for learning beneficiaries.
- ALF's close associate Professor James O'Meara attends the World Education Forum. Professor O'Meara presents our HLS Books to a wide range of international delegates.
- ALF publishes the Winter Newsletter. Distributed to over 2000 recipients.

JUNE

- The office move was a big event at the end of June. We are now set up on Level four of the Theosophical Society Building at 126 Russell St, Melbourne CBD.
- During June we continued our discussions with the City of Melbourne and the Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation regarding funding some of Melbourne based projects. We also attended several events associated with these two organisations. We are very grateful for their wonderful support and interest in our work!

- Bacchus Marsh/Darley Homework Club's Senior Parent - Sue Bacon celebrated her birthday this month at the Homework Club (at the Darley Neighbourhood House in Bacchus Marsh).

- David Perrin (CEO) attended the FRRR/McEwen Foundation Gift Presentation ceremony in Shepparton. FRRR/McEwen Foundation are assisting the ALF with Our Stories program - An innovative Indigenous book program.
- ALF Team goes to the Book Warehouse to organise a massive delivery to Cherbourg.
- SANOFI host a film Day fundraiser for ALF. The days raises nearly \$2000 for the ALF.

JULY

- We were finally feeling more settled in our new office in Russell Street - great to be up and running in this bigger space.
- NAIDOC week celebrations were held across the country (July 5-12), particularly with our team in Bacchus Marsh, they participated in local cultural events and had great things to report.
- David Perrin (CEO) visited the St Johns Anglican Auxiliary in Portarlington, Victoria to share our story. Thank you for your very generous donation to the Melbourne Learning Centre and for your ongoing interest and support of the ALF.
(See right)
- We were fortunate enough to be selected for a visit from the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation (LMCF) and its Youth in Philanthropy Team. This is a fantastic program of encouraging young boys and girls to think about and involve themselves in philanthropy at an early age. Thank you for involving the ALF in this wonderful program.
- CEO David Perrin was interviewed by Voice FM in Ballarat (Victoria), talking about our work in Ballarat and District.

- More than 4000 books and 40+ electronic devices are sent to Cherbourg, Queensland.

- North Melbourne Children's Centre visits ALF. Donates a few boxes of books to the Books For Learning Program.
- Golden Key representatives help ALF in Book Sorting Day.
(See right)

AUGUST

- We started the month with one of our successful Literacy and Heritage camps in Ballarat. It was another great event with plenty of students turning up.
(See right)

- Our Queensland manager, Richard Muller, came down to visit and touch base on operations in Victoria. It was great to have him here, he was able to come on a few community visits and share his story with us all.

- David and Richard visited the Mitcham All Saints Anglican Church to have a chat with their Mothers Union group. The afternoon was made even more enjoyable with Richard's insights into the challenges, but blessings of being Indigenous in Australia.
- We conducted an induction program for new volunteers over three Tuesday mornings this month. It's always exciting to bring new people on board. If you are interested in volunteering please have a look on our website and submit your interest. We'll be holding another induction soon.

- On August 26th we attended book day at Victorian Aboriginal Health Service in Fitzroy. There was so many activities run by Aunty Sharon and it was so fantastic to see the community so involved.
- ALF preps for new Arts & Cultural programs for students and families in Melbourne.
(See right)



(Top to bottom)

David and Jenny Bourke at St Johns Anglican Auxillary in Portarlington, Victoria

Golden Key representatives help at Book Sorting Day

Cultural activities at August Literacy and Heritage Camp in Ballarat, Victoria

Thomas, Annie, Brent and Justin at the Melbourne Learning Centre

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER

- David and Annie attended a meeting at the Zonta Club in Melbourne on September 10th. We outlined the need for extra educational funding for Indigenous students and the real need to supply more books to regional and remote schools. The ladies of Zonta have been incredibly helpful in donating a large number of books that have since been donated to our West Australian projects. The ALF would like to thank Ms Bev Devidas of Zonta for helping organise this wonderful book drive.

(See right)

- Ballarat Foundation/ Uniting Way have re joined us for funding our ASPIRE program in Ballarat. We are so grateful for their support as always.

- ALF launches Melton Homework Club.

(See right)

- ALF supports and resources Larry Brandy – Aboriginal Story Teller – as he makes his way across ACT and NSW visiting primary schools. A great success for Larry and the ALF.

- K & L Gates host a mentoring day for ASPIRE and general ALF students.

OCTOBER

- Brent Watkins, our resident artist leading the Docklands Program, was very excited to announce the birth of his healthy baby boy 'Marlu' - all the best to your family.
- Our Books for Learning program is still our most successful, we've managed to get cartage partners so will now be able to reach even more of Indigenous Australia, even more regularly. We've also had more donations than ever... We are so grateful to the generous community that is you, our supporters.

- This month we launched our 'Annual Giving Circle' offering memberships to interested parties in order to provide better support for our programs. Its an exciting initiative which will allow a better connectedness and communication within the community, while allowing us to keep going at the same time.

(See right)

- Footys4All joins the ALF Books for Learning program. A win win relationship for the ALF. Books joins Footys in lifting mentoring and education.

(See right)

- Impact 100 members visit ALF office and speak to CEO.

(See right)

- Wellington Management Foundation visits Melbourne to visit ALF team and CEO.

- Lord Mayors Charitable Fund visits CEO in Melbourne

- ALF undertakes another huge book distribution to Queensland.

NOVEMBER

- CEO David Perrin speaks to Lord Mayors Charitable Fund and discusses further partnerships.

- Footys4All and ALF send books to Port Phillip Maximum Security Indigenous Section

- Wilderness Society donates boxes of books to ALF

- Anderson's Creek Primary School donates over 350 books to Books For Learning.

- Impact 100 Gala Night held. Great night for the ALF team.

(See right)

- Book distributions continue to made. 1000 books go to Queensland.



(Top to bottom - left)

David and Bev Devidas at the Zonta Club

The Melton Homework Club team

Impact100 members visiting the ALF office

(Top to bottom - right)

David loading the Footys4All car

Impact100 Gala Night

Annual Giving Circle 2015



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