



Kinaway

Katch-Up's

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MARCH ISSUE, 2019

Kinaway HQ Editorial

What a tremendously exciting start to 2019! So many new things are happening in our Kinaway business community. To kick start the new year, our newsletter has expanded with lots of new articles and information. The name Kinaway *Katch-Up's* was chosen to symbolise and define what Kinaway is all about. It is our goal and vision to expand and increase the economic development of Aboriginal businesses in Victoria, by building networks, exchanging information and ideas across the Kinaway community.

March's issue of our Kinaway newsletter is dedicated to International Women's Day, held annually on the 8th of March. This issue also honours National Close the Gap Day, held yearly on the 15th of March. It is important we acknowledge the outstanding contributions and achievements made by Indigenous and non-Indigenous women and people over many years, attempting to reach our dream of reconciliation and closing the gap.

On the 7th of March, Kylie and I were lucky enough to attend the Bush foods and Botanicals Workshop, hosted by Liz Liddle from the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions. The day was broken down into two sessions;

session one which was held at the Kurunga Native Nursery in Mount Evelyn, and session two, held at Foothills Conference Centre in Mooroolbark.

The day was a great success, and was highly informative and motivating for all the women who attended. We all exchanged knowledge, contact details and made many new connections by the time the workshop concluded.

Moving onto other things happening within Kinaway HQ, this month we have been absolutely under the pump! Lee-Ann Emzin and I have recently joined Paul and Kylie, working for Kinaway in late February. Our office has been repainted and refurbished, all decked out with new furniture with an Art space ready to hang artists work. A massive shoutout to one of our members, Orana Commercial Relocations, for delivering and sourcing some furniture from Telstra and ANZ. Please let us know if you are looking for office furniture as we may be able to assist.

I am looking forward to writing and updating you all, on everything that's happening in our Kinaway community next month. Keep exchanging and keep networking.

- Alana Bonanno,
Administration Officer

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Message from the Chair

I would like to acknowledge and warmly welcome our newest Corporate Partners and Kinaway members. Much appreciation to all who have signed up! It means a great deal to have this support, in order to achieve our vision for the economic growth and development of our Victorian Aboriginal businesses and entrepreneurs.

A very warm welcome to our Corporate Partners AON for enabling us to host our first Kinaway Board meeting for 2019 and recognise and thank Corrs Chambers Westgarth, for hosting our Kinaway Business Circle. It was absolutely fantastic to see all of our Kinaway members who attended and to really see how our Kinaway community connect with each other on both the cultural and business levels.

On behalf of the Kinaway Board, we unfortunately say good-bye to former Board member Dwayne Good from InTravel Group and thank you for your valuable contribution, ideas and commitment to the Kinaway journey as you had been there from the beginning and celebrated with us at the recent launch of Kinaway.

Kinaway has had a very busy and productive start to 2019 with lots of support to our members, which is what we are here for. Congratulations to our two new employees, Lee-Ann Emzin, our Economic Broker and Alana Bonanno, our Administration Assistant, who both started in February. The Board, Kylie and I are thrilled to have you both working for Kinaway and they are already making a big impact with how Kinaway can support your business.

It's really exciting to have so many new members over the past few months, as well as new Corporate partners. We have been fortunate to have Victoria Police, Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Authority, Cross Yarra Partnership, AON and Yarra Valley Water establishing a Corporate Partnership with Kinaway, this will help us to open up more procurement opportunities and support for our members.

Over March we have been out and about on the road visiting members and also as part of a regional awareness campaign with Victorian Government and Social Traders. We caught up with lots of businesses in Traralgon, Wodonga, Shepparton and Ballarat. In Wodonga we also held a Kinaway business networking event with some Kinaway members from the region, it was a really

We would love to congratulate our newest Kinaway staff members. Lee-Ann Emzin, our Economic Broker and Alana Bonanno, our Administration Assistant - we welcome you to the Kinaway family with open arms. Not only are we expanding Corporate Partners and Kinaway members, but we are also expanding the existing team of Paul Kruspe, General Manager and Kylie Astell, Corporate and Stakeholders Engagement behind Kinaway operations.

Lastly, I thank the Kinaway Board, our members and partners and really appreciate everyone's ongoing and continuous commitment and work to achieve our aspirations for the future and I am really hoping for a successful 2019!



- Karen Milward, Chair

General Manager's Report

great event with some new connections made and lots of information exchanged and a few laughs!

We are also held our first Kinaway Business Circle for 2019 on the 20th of March hosted by Corrs Chambers Westgarth it was the first of a series of these events, each event will be on a different focus based on members feedback. Our first event was on the subject of Health and wellbeing for small business owners, a great discussion was held around the pressures of being an Aboriginal business owner.

These thoughts and ideas will help us with developing our Kinaway Health and wellbeing strategy, looking after your health and wellbeing is as important as looking after your finances! We have also launched a mentoring program so please contact us if you would like a mentor we have a range of Aboriginal business owners and Industry partners who are able to be your mentor or if you would like to be a mentor to another business owner please let us know.

I'd like to acknowledge that the health and wellbeing and mentoring program are supported by the Bibbulmun fund of which we are very appreciative.



Keep an eye out for details regarding upcoming networking events. And don't forget to call the office, drop in or send an email if you have a question or need some assistance, it doesn't matter how big or small your question is...we are here to help.

- Paul Kruspe, General Manager

Kinaway Talks

Kinaway Talks is a column that will be published monthly, whereby Kinaway members have the chance to be interviewed or write your own article. That interview or article will then be published in the *Kinaway Talks* column, to keep our community informed about current events, achievements and to have your voice heard.

If you would like to be profiled, please contact us here at Kinaway HQ, as we would love to share your story with our members and corporate partners. This month our Kinaway Chairperson, Karen Milward had the opportunity to be interviewed by Melinda Bladier, voluntarily. Below is a snapshot of Karen's story she would like to share:

For Karen Milward, it's about thriving, not surviving. With fifteen years of business experience behind her, it's clear that she's an extraordinarily successful business woman. What is also clear is that, for Karen, the desire to thrive extends much further than for just herself. She's built her business, Karen Milward Consultancy, around cultural awareness training, undertaking feasibility studies, evaluation and research activities, governance training, employment strategies, establishing Aboriginal organisations, programs and services and supporting Aboriginal businesses across Australia. She cares deeply about improving the lives of Aboriginal people.

In addition to her own business, Karen has been the Chairperson of Kinaway Chamber of Commerce Victoria since the organisation was founded. Kinaway's mandate is to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and businesses in Victoria. Under the guidance of a dedicated leadership team including Karen, Kinaway is bringing a positive, strengths-based approach to Aboriginal business development and facilitating opportunities for existing and aspiring business people from lawyers to builders, travel agents to educators.

Karen was prompted to start her own consultancy after developing extensive experience in state and local government roles. Keen for more agency in her professional life, and to do work that benefits Aboriginal people, she quit her government job and built her business from the ground up. The first few years, she says were tough. The kinds of supports that Kinaway offers for businesses didn't exist, and instead Karen relied on the support of those closest to her. She describes her mother as "key", a strong and motivating figure with four businesses of her own who, in addition to Karen's father, inspired her to believe that owning and running her own business could be a reality.

Belief in her own ability, and that of all Aboriginal people, is something that Karen feels strongly about; "we have to get past the thinking that we can't". She is the first to recognise that starting a business is difficult; "I tell everybody it's hard work. If you're going to do it, it's hard work." Regardless, it's clear that Karen believes – and is proof – that a little bit of hard work can go a very long way. As a new business owner, it took Karen almost five years to start earning her target income. Like many aspiring business owners, she'd been optimistic without properly understanding the reality of being entirely responsible for generating her own income and managing cashflow. She learnt to save assiduously and manage multiple budgets, and is vastly grateful to her parents and others who supported her and her young son through these early days.

Karen believes that business will have an ongoing role in creating opportunities and equality for Aboriginal people, and that more Aboriginal people succeeding in business will help others to see the potential for success. For those aspiring or currently working towards that bright future, Karen and Kinaway are eager to assist. "When I leave this world," Karen states, "it's about leaving a legacy and being able to say I've improved the situation for Aboriginal people... it's about thriving, not surviving".

Upcoming events & important dates

- 8 March: International Women's Day
- 15 March: National Close the Gap Day
- 18 March: Social Traders
2pm-4:30pm
in Traralgon
- 20 March: Kinaway Business Circle
7:30am-9:30am
Level 25, 567 Collins Street Melbourne,
3000
- 20 March: Social Traders
2pm-4:30pm
in Wodonga
- 21 March: National Close the Gap Day
- 21 March: Social Traders
9:30am-12pm
in Shepparton
- 26 March: Social Traders
2pm-4:30pm
in Bendigo
- 27 March: Social Traders
2pm-4:30pm
in Ballarat
- 28 March: Social Traders
9am-12pm
in Geelong
- 29 March: Meeting with Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Gavin Jennings
- 9 April: Procurement Workshop and Trade Show
11am-5pm
Level 12, 150 Collins Street Melbourne,
3000
- 11 April: Board Meeting

Corporate Partner of the Month

CORRS CHAMBERS WESTGARTH lawyers

Founded in 1841, Corrs Chambers Westgarth has been voted Australia's number one independent commercial law firm. Located on Collins Street, Melbourne, their clients include national and international corporations, governments, banks and financial sponsors. Corrs Chamber Westgarth have relationships with various law firms throughout Asia, North and South America, the Middle East and Europe. Today, they also have offices in Sydney, Brisbane, Perth and Port Moresby, Australia.

Some areas of law Corrs Chamber Westgarth practice are:

- Banking and Finance
- Construction
- Employment, Workplace Relations and Safety
- Financial Services and Tax
- Government
- Health
- Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Property and Real estate

We acknowledge and sincerely appreciate Corrs Chambers Westgarth for hosting the venue of our Kinaway Business Circle on the 20th of March. Furthermore, they have provided one of our members with pro bono legal advice and services. This demonstrates the capacity and benefit of having such a Corporate Partner like them, hence why they have been chosen as our Corporate Partner of the Month.

Deadly Member of the Month

Each month in this column, Kinaway will be announcing a Deadly Member of the Month. This is in no particular order, and not listed A through to Z, but in fact to assist in networking our members businesses with each other, in order to strengthen our Aboriginal business community. This month, Indigicate have been nominated as our Deadly Member of the Month. Indigicate was founded in 2014 by Shawn Andrews. In Shawn's various roles with community and business he often heard people saying 'the problem with Indigenous people is...' in relation to how we can close the gap of Indigenous disadvantage. Shawn realised that the models being used for reconciliation needed to change and that there needed to be shift away from focusing on 'fixing' Indigenous people. Shawn knew a change in reconciliation education was needed and felt that the only way to close the gap of disadvantage is to change the way non-Indigenous people value Indigenous Australian Culture. He believed that we can achieve reconciliation through an educational program that focuses on teaching non-Indigenous authentic Australian history and the beauty and diversity of Indigenous Australian cultures. Awesome work Shawn and Indigicate staff!



Historical figure of the Month



Mary Montgomerie Bennett was a genuine pioneer of reconciliation and closing the gap among non-Indigenous people. Born in London, United Kingdom on July 8th, 1881, Mary spent half of her life in Victoria. She was a practicing teacher, and also actively advocated for Indigenous justice and rights.

In this month's issue, having been the month of International Women's Day and Close the Gap Day, we recognise and appreciate Mary's activism, as she was unafraid to express her beliefs, in a time that was particularly unusual amongst British settlers in

Australia.

In 1930, Mary published 'The Australian Aboriginal as a Human Being' and made it her life's mission to devote herself to Aboriginal welfare.

In 1932, she settled at the Mount Margaret Mission near Laverton. Whilst working as a teacher of Aboriginal children, she was very much involved in activist groups, including the Women's Service Guild.

With the combination of Mary's sense of justice and passion for the rights of Aboriginal people, she condemned the widespread sexual exploitation of Aboriginal women as well as the forced removal of their children by authorities (The Stolen Generation). This resulted the formation of the Moseley Royal Commission, in 1934.

In 1961, Mary had passed away aged 79-80, in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. She will forever be remembered as an activist and educator, of the welfare and justice for Indigenous Australians.

Why the Bunjil?

This column in Kinaway Katch-Up's, will acknowledge Indigenous Totem's, and will additionally state the significance of the totem, in The Dreaming. Launching our new issue of our newsletter, it is important that our members understand the meaning behind the Bunjil, as is it the symbol on our Kinaway logo.

As a relatively new organisation, Kinaway is very much focused on the future. We support, assist and nurture Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and entrepreneurs, Victorian based. We stand together and have a collective voice that unifies, amplifies and shines a light on our diverse network. We represent a colourful and passionate group of innovators, story-tellers, creators and enterprises that want to influence change and are dedicated to contribute to the Victorian economy on a commercial level.

Our brand is guided by Bunjil, the Wedge-Tailed Eagle, the creator and spiritual leader amongst our First Nation's Peoples of Victoria. Bunjil can be seen traveling these lands and will always be there to guide and protect us. In The Dreaming, the people of the Kulin Nation, Bunjil

is regarded as the creator deity, a cultural hero and symbolises an ancestral being. Legend has it, after Bunjil created the mountains, rivers, flora, fauna, and lore's for humans to live by, he gathered his wives and sons. Bunjil then asked Crow, who was in charge of the winds - to open his bags and release the wind. The Crow opened a bag in which he kept his whirlwinds, creating a cyclone which uprooted trees. Bunjil asked for a stronger wind so the Crow complied. Bunjil and his people were blown upwards into the sky. Bunjil himself became the star named Altair, and his two wives, the Black Swans became stars on either side of him.



Kinaway Gallery



Acknowledgements

Kinaway acknowledges the traditional owners of the land that we work and travel through. We also pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging leaders.

Thank you to Karen Milward, Paul Kruspe, Melinda Bladier, Corrs Chambers Westgarth and Indigicate.

Written and edited by Alana Bonanno.

Kinaway Katch-Up's name accredited solely to Kinaway Chamber of Commerce HQ, Victoria.



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