



**THE SETTLEMENT**  
**NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE**  
ABN 82 823 463 641

# Annual Report

## 2010/2011



## The Board of Management 2010-2011

The committee members elected each year is all volunteers and is responsible for the running of the Sydney University Settlement Neighbourhood Centre. We are accountable to our community and our Members. Our role is to support and empower the local community.

Chairperson	Joel Pringle
Deputy Chairperson	Shireen Malamoo
Treasurer	Vicki Ashton
Secretary	Lyn Turnbull
Sydney University Representative	Kathy Rushton
Ordinary Members	Maggie Roche
	Liz Crosby
	Paul Andrews
	Clive Norton
	Ruth Norton
	Sharny Chalmers
	Claire Prenter
	Kate Montague
	Tiffany McComsey

### Staff

Manager	Michele Goodman
Administrative Assistant	Gloria Donohue
Muralappi Program	Michelle Turner
Youth Worker	Kristina Touma
OOSH/Vacation Care Donohue	Michael Carr (Coordinator) & Gloria
Bookkeeping	Edward Fraser
Cleaner	Adriana Boyd
Casuals	Mavis Phillips
	Patrick Bell
	Benedict Compton

### Funding Agencies

The Settlement gratefully acknowledges the financial and in-kind support from;

- NSW Department of Community Services
- NSW Department of Health
- Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services
- Department of Employment Education & Workplace Relations
- Vincent Fairfax Foundation
- Sidney Myer Fund
- Cancer Council NSW

## The Settlement fundraising and building report

### **October 2011**

Special project committee members: Settlement Treasurer Vicki Ashton and Board members Claire Prenter and Liz Crosby

### **Vice Regal Patronage**

This is a good news year. Settlement members and friends will no doubt be aware that we have been honoured with Vice Regal patronage. Her Excellency NSW Governor Marie Bashir, long remembered in the community for her work at the Aboriginal Medical Service, visited the Settlement for a morning tea, and treated us all to her memories of her debut at the Sydney University Settlement Ball, when she was presented to - the NSW Governor.

### **Renovations**

It's happening! After years of disrepair, staff and Board are delighted to say that we are in the middle of a complete rebuild of the hall, which will hopefully be completed by Christmas 2011. Meanwhile the office has relocated to Flat One, and programs to Erskineville Town Hall.

### **Finances**

The projected spend on the hall renovation will be \$1.1m, with nearly \$500k spent, and \$600k to complete - \$300k from the Settlement's contingency funds, and \$300k from mortgaging one of our properties. The Board agonised over the decision to mortgage a house that has been entrusted to our keeping, until our esteemed Sydney University Board Representative Kathy Rushton reminded us that we're here for the kids, not the property. The staff have worked in sub-standard conditions for too many years, and it was their insistence that our kids should be looked after in a clean, safe - and fun - environment, that resolved us to borrow money. After all, our kids, our staff, are worth the best.

### **Fundraising**

With the recent completion of the strategic plan (congratulations to staff and board!), the Board is in negotiation to re-engage the services of Evelyn Mason and Alicia Watson, who will guide us through raising nearly \$2m to refurbish and fit-out the hall, and slowly renovate each of the flats and the houses.

### **Thanks**

We salute:

- Our donors - DOCS, Secret Millionaire Peter Bond, NSW Jockeys' Association, Community Building Partnerships, the Office of the Premier - and so many others;
- Architects Julie Cracknell and Peter Lonergan, who have worked tirelessly for the Settlement, liaising with engineers, builders and Council, as well as meeting regularly with the staff to ensure consultation at every stage;
- Onsite Building Services' Sam Naffah and staff, who are a perfect fit for the Settlement, generous with their time, accommodating to the staff and kids, and all round great guys;

- The many building contractors who have worked for us at cost, and donated services and material;
- Our staff, who have cheerfully put up with noise, dust, dislocation, relocation and the general upheaval that this sort of work entails; and
- Treasurer Vicki Ashton, who has kept an eagle eye on the ever-evolving budget and provided clear instruction and advice to us all.



## **Treasurer's report**

What a big year it has been for us at The Settlement!

After many meetings and a general consensus that we needed to finish renovating our building it was decided that we would go ahead and find the necessary funds for this work.

With the help of Mr Peter Small of Fluid Financial planning we were able to see very clearly exactly where we stood financially and then we made a final decision on exactly how we were going to go ahead and achieve this goal. The total cost to completely refurbish the hall will totally approximately 800 thousand dollars.

The result has been immediate with our wonderful builders already making great progress. And when it is completed the staff and children/young people will be able to enjoy a lovely new building that has been designed with the future in mind.

We have met all of our funding requirements for the year and were able to increase funding to a few new programs due to a number of successful grant applications. All of this means that we are able to offer The Settlement children and young people activities that are stimulating and challenging. We have also been able to offer camps every school holidays and early next year we will be expanding these to children aged 5 – 12.

On recommendation of our auditors we have decided to write off the deposit of 140 thousand paid towards the Cope Street premises that never eventuated.

Despite this the Settlement has performed well in 2010/2011 bearing in mind our not for profit status. I would like to thank Mr Lawrence Green of Shedden and Green for conducting the audit and recommend his report to you.

# **The Settlement Neighbourhood Centre Managers Report**

Since I began as manager at The Settlement in December 2010 I have been inspired and challenged in ways I have not been in previous roles. I feel very fortunate to work for an organisation that has such an amazing eventful history, talented and dedicated Board of Management as well as staff who are incredibly hard working and extremely committed to the welfare of The Settlement community. This is a community that can range in age from 2 weeks to the elderly.

## **What we do**

Our main focus over the past year however has been children and young people aged from 5 -18 after many years teaching children in schools and working as a youth worker I believe children and young people need a place where they can be safe, be feed and can be challenged through fun yet stimulating activities.

The Settlement offers all of this in a way that is unique; we offer an unstructured yet safe environment where children and young people have many choices over how they want to spend their afterschool and holiday time.

This can include crafts and arts, sports activities, internet games, board games, play station and doing homework. The Settlement is also unique in that young people (aged 12 – 18) and children (5-12) are interacting with each other in the same space. I am constantly surprised and delighted at how well these two age groups interact and I believe they learn a great deal from having to share the same space with each other.

One of the highlights of the year for our staff was our NAIDOC week celebrations during July where staff worked hard with young people who performed through dance, theatre music and song. Other highlights have been our visit from Marie Bashir the Governor of NSW, and of course our young people and children going off for the day on exciting excursions and camps including a trip to the snow.

## **Our evening hot meal**

I believe one of the most important parts of our service is offering a healthy cooked hot meal to children and young people who sometimes miss out. Every afternoon at 5pm there is a long line of children/young people, plate in hand lining up for curried sausages, vegies, chicken, spaghetti bolognese or some other amazing meal that our cook Kerry Philips has whipped up. During this time there is a real sense of community where people of all ages chat over a meal. On some days it can be all over in 15 minutes as some of our children and young people are often ravenous by that time of the day.

## **Strategic Plan**

Another exciting part of the year for me has been being able to work with a range of people to complete the Strategic Plan. Neil Stuart had put the hard yards in over the last few years to do the background work and I was able to come in work with staff, management and my supervisor Judy Banko to finish it. I am very pleased to say that now we have a document that we will be able to use to guide us in the direction we have all agreed on, and it looks exciting.

### **Other highlights of the year**

Have been watching the building slowly being transformed into what is going to be seen by young people and children as a “very cool place to hang out”, strengthening links with Sydney University by meeting with social work staff and taking on Sydney University Social Work students for placement, and attending a meeting at Parliament House with Liz Crozby and Shireen Malamoo from the Board.

### **Staff management**

Over the coming 12 months my priorities are in line with our strategic plan continue develop our policies and procedures, set in place further structures for staff management. This will ensure The Settlement not only meet the requirements of funding bodies but is a place that manages staff ethically and fairly and is a place where we can all learn and grow professionally. The staff have taken part in 2 development days this year and we hope to improve on this over the next year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people;

- The wonderful staff at The Settlement for their hard work and keeping me on my toes
- Edward Fraser our accountant
- The Board of Management for their support and dedication
- DEEWAH, DOCS, and Department of Health for continuing to support our programs
- Sydney University Social Work Department
- Our wonderful Builders Sam and his team at Onsite
- Architects – Julie Cracknell and Peter Lonergan
- Weave
- Redfern Community Centre
- Sidney Myer fund and Vincent Fairfax foundation for supporting our youth program
- Judy Banko for supervision and help with our strategic plan
- The Factory Neighbourhood Centre

I look forward to many more years at The Settlement.

Michele Goodman

(Manager The Sydney University Settlement Neighbourhood Centre)



**Some of the local children meet The Governor her Excellence Marie Bashir on her visit during September.**

## **The Settlements Children's Programs (5 – 12 year olds)**

We would like to thank our two funding bodies for their continual support of our children's program. These are DEEWAH, which funds our Out of School Hours (OOSH) program and the Dept of Human Services Community which funds our Vacation Care program.

It has been another interesting and inspiring year for our program. Our two dedicated children's workers Michael Carr (Coordinator) and Gloria Donohue (Assistant) have ensured that a stimulating and interesting program is provided to the children aged 5 to 12 who access the program each afternoon from 2:30 – 6 and 10am to 5pm during school holiday time.

These activities have included educational board games, indigenous indoor tennis, cooking, arts and crafts, a drumming workshop, ball games as well as the popular play station, Wii and supervised internet games. The program attracts anywhere from 10 – 30 children each day.

During the school holidays the children have been able to enjoy a whole range of interesting and educational excursions which have included trips to the zoo, aquarium, centre point tower as well as the usual "fun stuff" such as bowling, swimming, movies, laser tag and ice skating.

We are very lucky to be able to employ a cook each afternoon; Kerry Phillips has been with us since March and provides a wide range of hot and tasty meals to all children and young people who access The Settlement each afternoon.

We were fortunate enough to be able to purchase two pool and tennis tables as well as sports equipment which has helped to compensate for the lack of outdoor space we have had due to renovations.

We have also been successful in gaining funding from The Vincent Fairfax Foundation to run two camps for children over the next 12 months and we are looking forward to holding the first camp in January 2012. We would like to acknowledge Mavis Philips who has been a valuable casual worker for us and the wonderful children who keep us inspired to continue to offer quality programs.

### **A trip to the Aquarium - July school holidays**



## **Muralappi and Youth Work Program**

The Youth work program is funded by the Department of Community Services and works closely with the Muralappi program which is funded by the Department of New South Wales Health. This collaborative approach enables the Settlement Neighbourhood Centre the ability to take a holistic approach to the health and wellbeing of young people aged 13 to 24 in the community.

Through various recreational and educational programs the Settlement is able to provide appropriate services to meet the need of young people by providing a safe and supportive space focussing on mutual respect and empowerment. Every program that young people attend is free of charge and the Settlement provides transport to and from the activities.

### **Drop in**

Afterschool drop in program continues to be a safe space where many young people come to enjoy the company of other young people, children and workers; utilising the facilities, internet, games, and help with homework and assignments. The Settlement also provides healthy afternoon tea and dinner each evening. As well as the after school program a drop in services between 10am to 6pm provides assistance and support in day to day life, advocacy and referral around housing, legal matters and work with families.

### **Sexual Health Week**

Sexual health week was a successful two part educational workshop, raising the awareness of young people's knowledge around sexual health and healthy relationships. Workshops were gender specific and considerate of cultural factors, this contributed to great discussions and questions in each respective group.

### **Healthy Eating Program**

The healthy eating program is designed to engage young people around healthy eating choices as well as teaching cooking skills. The young people prepare, cook and clean up once a week as a part of the dinner program. This program also gives the young people the responsibility and ownership over the meal they cook for the younger children and everyone at the Settlement.

### **Holiday Program**

It is always a vibrant and buzzing place during school holidays at the Settlement. With excitement levels up and young people doubled in numbers activities are always filled with fun. The activities and outings during holidays throughout the year have been extensive, diverse and sometimes challenging. With a new activity each day the school holidays have entailed; laser tag and bowling, cinemas, day trips to Wollongong, BBQ's and canoeing at Royal National Park, Centre Point Tower sky walk, bike riding and many more. All these activities are free and are a great opportunity to keep the young people participating in fun, safe and social activities throughout the holidays.

## **Camps**

Part of the Muralappi program is to do 4 cultural camps a year, the youth program has also been running camps and we decided to combine some camps and do one camp separately

The 4 camps that were done this year were;

1<sup>st</sup> one was in conjunction with Claymore Youth Centre, at Katoomba for 4 days which was great as our Aboriginal youth were able to show other adolescents about their aboriginal culture, there was bike riding, swimming, messy games, scavenger hunt and Aboriginal painting. Participants 20

2<sup>nd</sup> camp was at Cataract scout park, this was a full on recreation camp, and a great visit to Campbelltown lands council, they shared great knowledge to us about the area and what happened to the Aboriginal people in the area. There was Aboriginal dot painting taught by one of the youth people. Participants 22

3<sup>rd</sup> camp. The young people stayed at Adaminaby and went did snowboarding, skiing and tobogganing at Selwyn snow fields. Many of the young people had not seen snow before and all the workers were amazed at how well they picked up the snow sports. Young people also helped out with cooking, cleaning and other life skills development activities on camp.



4<sup>th</sup> Camp was at Ulladulla in conjunction with Ulladulla land council, the Aboriginal tour was fantastic, was a great day out, unfortunately there was only 8 youth, there were beach activities, footy games, and the youth cooked their own food, cleaned up after themselves.

## **Alexandria Park Community School Tuesday Program**

The Alex Park Tuesday Program began in term 1 2011 and will continue to run throughout the year and hopefully into next year. The program enables young people in year 7 and 8 the opportunity to choose which community program they would like to be involved in. They are then able to attend the Tuesday program as a reward for attending and displaying appropriate behaviour at school.

Every Tuesday the Settlement provided a new activity and a healthy lunch. Thus far activities have ranged from rock climbing, bike riding photo hunt, beach BBQ, spray painting, laser tag and many more. The program is running strong with something fun and different offered each week the young people look forward to the Tuesday program and are behaving accordingly to make sure they can attend. The program is also a good way for the Settlement to

meet other young people and let them know of other programs and camps they can participate in.

Michelle Turner  
(Muralppi Youth Health Worker)

Kristina Touma  
(Youth Worker)

