



**THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
SETTLEMENT
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE**

Annual report 2011/2012



The Board of Management 2012

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

Chairperson 2009 – Aug 2012

Co-Chairperson Sept 2012

Co-Chairperson Sept 2012

Deputy Chairperson

Treasurer

Secretary

Sydney University Representative

Ordinary Members

Joel Pringle

Kerry Pearse

Sharny Chalmers

Shireen Malamoo

Vicki Ashton

Tiffany McComsey

Kathy Rushton

Liz Crosby

Kate Montague

Claire Prenter

Maggie Roche

Lyn Turnbull

Staff

Manager

Administration

Murralappi Program

Youth Worker

OOSH/Vacation Care Co-ordinator

OOSH/Vacation Care Assistant

Accountant

Cleaner

Michele Goodman

Ellie Rule

Gloria Donohue

Kristina Touma

Michael Carr

Rose O'Connor

Igor Likhovovitch

Adriana Boyd

Funding Agencies

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

- NSW Department of Family and Community Services
- NSW Department of Health, Sydney Local Health District
- Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations
- Australian Government Department of Family, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Mary MacKillop Foundation
- Uniting Care NSW ACT
- Sydney City Council

Chairperson's Report – Joel Pringle

It is with a bitter sweetness that I provide this report to the members of The Settlement; in August this year I stepped down from the position of Chairperson due to work commitments. Whilst I will remain a part of the Settlement community, my engagement will be different to what it has been over the last few years.

A number of projects that Settlement staff and Board members have worked on over the last few years have recently come to fruition. Many of you were in attendance when Governor Marie Bashir assisted in the launching of the new Settlement community building, finally seeing the completion of an idea that is years old and to the joy of many longstanding members and the community in general. I feel that in some ways this launch also re-presented the Settlement to the community as a safe place for young people and an asset to the community.

The conclusion of the hall redevelopment project has also allowed the Board some space to focusing on the long-term viability of the organisation, and continue the modernisation of governance. Whilst these actions can often seem obtuse and internal focused, various funding bodies and partners have commented favourably to me on their growing confidence that they have for in the Settlement through these developments.

The Settlement has continued its remarkable trend in retaining quality and dedicated staff, special acknowledgement is required for Michele and her team not only for making the Board's job rewarding but also for giving the input into the strategic direction of the Settlement that only front-line staff can provide.

Our organisation does continue to face challenges. Perhaps the most pressing is how to finance the renovation of our social housing stock to a standard required to provide adequate housing with dignity. I hope to be able to continue supporting the Board in achieving this, though this will be an expensive endeavour and an injection of funds is required.

Thank you to the members of the Settlement, to the staff and community members for continuing to engage with the Settlement through good times and bad; together we are honouring the original aims of the Settlement and those of our predecessors. Thank you to the members of the Board who I have worked closely with over the last few years.

I wish you all well and hope to see you soon.

Joel Pringle
Chairperson
The Sydney University Settlement

Treasurers Report

What a great year for The Settlement! The new building has fulfilled all our expectations and is an amazing resource that will be useful to the local community for many years to come.

We have also been able to fund school holiday camps each school holidays with over 120 young people and even our children aged 6 to 12 attending for the first time in many years.

Once again we have met all of our funding requirements and have been able to offer a range of programs including an art and homework program on top of our usual programs.

Our major loss this year was our bookkeeper of 8 years. Edward Fraser left us in June to move back to England. We have been very lucky to have had the services of Edward for such a long time and he is certainly missed by the staff.

The Settlement has performed well in 2011/2012 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.

Vicki Ashton
Treasurer
The Sydney University Settlement

The Settlement Neighbourhood Centre Managers Report **2012**

This year has been a year of many changes. The most obvious being the completion of our amazing brand new building number 17 Edward St. Our incredible new building opened and we moved in in March. It is fantastic to have such a wonderful clean and fresh space to offer our young people, children and community members. It was also with great sadness to see our chairperson Joel Pringle move on, I personally learnt some great skills from Joel and am pleased he has gone onto such a perfectly suited role for him in sunny Melbourne.

Our staff

The Settlement's best asset is our staff; they are highly dedicated and skilled at what they do. My thanks and recognition go to Kristina Touma and Gloria Donohue, our fantastic youth work team, who have worked extremely well together and have ensured our young people have access to case work, health education and recreational activities, as well as, very importantly, providing support and having someone there just to listen.

Our child care workers also work extremely well as a team and include Michael Carr and Rose O'Connor who provide interesting activities and supervision each afternoon and, again, support and understanding to children as needed. The Settlement offers a very personal style of afternoon care where birthdays are celebrated and young people and children are made to feel special and a part of a community – The Settlement Community!

We have also been extremely lucky to have a new administration worker, Ellie Rule, who has worked tirelessly to create systems and support networks in The Settlement, this has made a huge difference to the way we operate and things are definitely running very smoothly, thank you Ellie!

As usual Adriana our cleaner has continued to work effortlessly and we thank her for her contribution this year. We have said goodbye to our cook Kerry Philips and our Muralappi Worker Michelle Turner who both moved onto different paths in their lives. Edward Fraser our long serving "accountant with personality" moved overseas and we were very sad to see him go. Matrix on Board was contacted to help us out and we now have Igor Likhovitch as an accountant and Stefanie Angelina as our bookkeeper who are both fitting into the Settlement team perfectly.

This year our children and young people have enjoyed a new homework program on Wednesdays which was started and supported by the Augustine's, a joint art program with WEAVE once a week, and the general drop in each afternoon from 2-6. The young people and children went on several camps during school holidays and our holiday program in general continues to be active and hectic each time school breaks up.

Sweden – IFS conference

I was fortunate enough to travel to Sweden to attend the International Federation of Settlements (IFS) conference. It was a fantastic experience and I learnt a lot from the international speakers. One of the highlights was meeting the worker from Toynbee Hall which was where the first Settlement started from and where the origins of Sydney University Settlement are from. It gave me a good understanding of the history of The Settlement which has origins in many famous areas such as the beginnings of the reigniting of Modern Olympic Games. Marconi demonstrated his wireless for the first time in the UK at Toynbee and several famous actors are associated with The Settlement.

One of the Settlements I visited was in the same street as the Nobel Peace Prize Museum and The international Federation of Settlements has voting rights in certain levels of the United Nations – we are now a member of this organisation (IFS).

Back to the building

We were also very fortunate to have a lot of brand new furniture donated to us by IKEA and I would like to thank Ling Yeoh from IKEA for arranging this as it has made a huge difference to the centre.

We have several community groups using the building after hours these include the local A Capella group the Darlingtones, The Milk Crate Theatre, The Uniting Church “campfires” program and ABI – Autism Behavioural Intervention. We are trying to encourage more groups to use the space as it is underutilised at the moment and such a great resource.

2013

We are looking forward to a very positive 2013, with the staff very focused on new programs and events aimed at engaging the local community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the Settlement this year especially our board and staff for working together through the upheaval of the building redevelopment – we have done well!

Michele Goodman
Manager
The Sydney University Settlement

The Settlement Children's (5-12 year olds) Program Report 2012

We would like to thank our funding bodies; DEEWAH (OOSH) and Department of Family and Community Services (Vacation Care) for their continual support of our children's program. It has been an interesting year for our program which saw Rose O'Connor take over from Gloria Donohue as our assistant and the program has been running very smoothly.

Life has been a lot easier for us now that we have moved into our lovely renovated building; this facility has made our lives a lot more manageable with a state of the art kitchen and lots of space in individual rooms for the various activities our children enjoy.

We have also joined in various celebration days such as cultural days and Christmas celebrations with the local community at various locations around the local area



We have been able to offer the children an after school homework program on Wednesdays thanks to volunteers from the Augustinians who come in and help children and young people with homework, word and maths games and other educational activities. We also have a lot of new equipment including games, table tennis and pool tables and internet access for supervised internet games.

During school holidays the children have enjoyed a large range of activities including bowling, trips to the national park and beaches, swimming, laser tag and ice skating. This year we were also very fortunate to receive funding through Sidney Myer and the Mantana foundation that has allowed us to take children on two camps.

The first camp was a joint camp with the young people at Wombaroo Adventure Centre in near Moss Vale. The children took part in outdoor activities such as visiting Wombeyan Caves, low ropes, archery and the scary giant swing. Then in July we once again joined in with the youth and went on a trip to the snow. It was surprising how well the children picked up the skiing and snowboarding with most of them whizzing down the hill very quickly after just the first day.



I would like to thank my fellow workers at The Settlement for the hard work they have done over the last year and especially to Rose our assistant child care worker who works effortlessly with the children to help make the Settlement a welcoming and safe space for them.

Michael Carr
Child Care Coordinator
The Sydney University Settlement

Muralappi and Youth Work Program Report

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 needs 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

The after school 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 on many evenings. 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

This year The Settlement was again awarded funding to run two sexual health workshops during sexual health week. The two part educational workshop was a great success, raising the awareness of young people's knowledge of sexual health, healthy relationships and education around how and when to get tested. Workshops were considerate of cultural factors, involved interactive games and collaboration with other local services all of which contributed to great discussions and questions in each respective workshop.

Holiday Program

It is always a vibrant and buzzing place during school holidays at the Settlement. With the refurbishment of the new Settlement, excitement levels were up. 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, picnics at the beach, BBQ's and canoeing and swimming at the Royal National Park, bike riding, cockatoo island street art and many more fun adventures. 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

The Muralappi program and Youth program have joined with the Children's program to deliver two combined camps this year over the January and July Holidays. These two camps were a huge success with both age groups enjoying activities with siblings and friends. We are planning on continuing to have occasional joint camps throughout the following year. The Muralappi and Youth program also went on a separate camp in the October holidays.

January camp was a combined camp with the Children's program at Wombaroo for 5 days. This was a great first time experience for the children to be together on a camp with the young people enjoying outdoor adventure activities and meals together. We had a total of 30 participants.

July camp was also a combined 5 day camp with the Children's program at Mount Selwyn Ski Fields following the success of the combined January camp. With many never seeing snow before, everyone was excited and had lots of fun learning to snowboard, ski, toboggan and play in the snow. The young people also had their own self-contained cabins where they were responsible for their food and cleaning, this was a good way to develop life skills and independence which they all thoroughly enjoyed. We had 30 participants.

September camp was a separate camp for the young people at the Settlement. This camp was different to recent camps in that it involved 2 nights sleeping in tents at the Hawkesbury River, followed by 2 nights at Port Stephens and ending the week at the Aboriginal Knockout in Newcastle. Everyone helped in putting up their own tents, cooking meals, starting the camp fire, cleaning up, and packing the trailer. Young people were engaged throughout the camp with fun activities such as bike riding, putt put golf, tennis, sand dunning, jumping pillow and cinemas. Most impressively a day trip and Aboriginal Cultural Quad Bike tour had all the young people learning about culture, bush food and history whilst enjoying the thrill of riding their own quad bike. A total of 12 young people participated.



**Aboriginal Cultural Quad
Bike tour.**

Alexandria Park Community School Tuesday Program

The Alex Park Tuesday Program began in term 1 2011 and continued to run for 3 terms this year, hopefully renewing funding for 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. The Settlement provided a drug and alcohol workshop, new activity and a healthy lunch. Activities have ranged from rock climbing, bike riding, beach BBQ, bowling, laser tag and visit to other local youth services. The program was running strong with something fun and different offered each week. The young people looked forward to the Tuesday program and behaved accordingly to make sure they could 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.

Homework Program

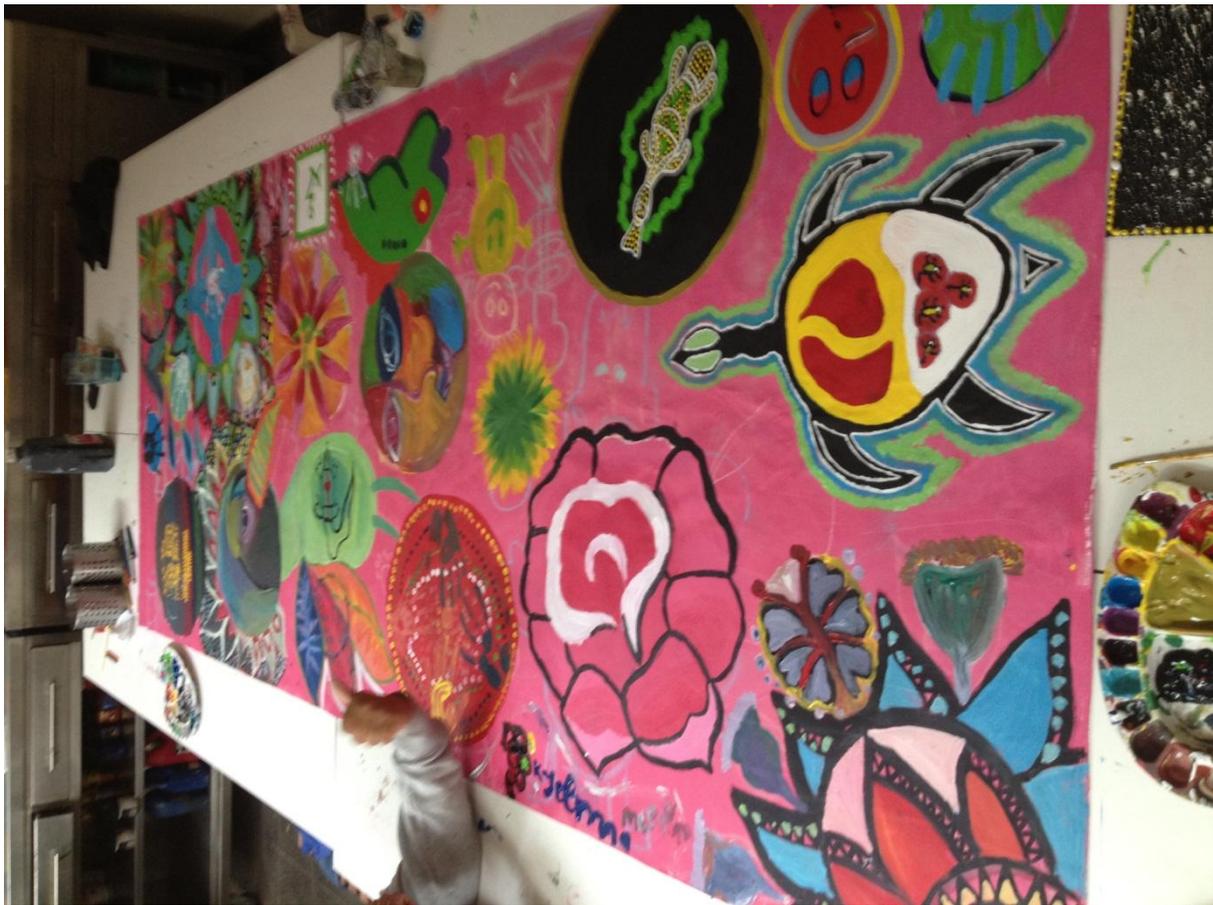
Every Wednesday Afternoon the Settlement Neighbourhood Centre has been given the opportunity for volunteers from the Augustinians to help with homework and play interactive fun learning games. It has been a great to have this program available and has seen new participation at the Settlement.

Morning Boxing with Clean Slate Program

The Muralappi Worker, Gloria, and Youth Worker, Kristina, have both been attending a 6am morning community boxing program lead by the Redfern Police Commander and Tribal Warrior. The 3 morning training sessions have been a great opportunity to link up with the community, police and other organisations in the local area. It has also been great fitness, routine and community engagement for the 6 young people that have attended with the Settlement workers. Morning breakfast is supplied after the training and young people are then dropped off at school, which has seen an increase in their attendance and punctuality on those days. The Settlement hopes to continue its involvement and increase its participants in this great program.

Art Program with Weave

The Settlement has linked up with Weave to provide a Thursday afternoon art program. Thus far the art program has entailed tie dying aprons, painting a banner for Green Square and Eveleigh markets and making piñatas for the Family Culture Day Christmas party. The program has also been involved in an 8 screen mural project that will be displayed for everyone to view at Barangaroo Millers Point Headlands.



Kristina Touma
Youth Worker

Gloria Donahue
Muralappi Worker

The Sydney University Settlement