

THE ALNF NEWSLETTER: FEBRUARY 2010 ISSUE

The Australian Literacy & Numeracy Foundation (ALNF) is dedicated to raising language, literacy and numeracy standards in Australia and raises funds to develop, implement and sustain innovative projects for individuals, families and communities. www.alnf.org

Dear ALNF Supporters

Here it is at last – the inaugural ALNF Newsletter! To all those who have been waiting for its arrival...thank you for your patience. As of February this year we will endeavour to share our activities at ALNF in a quarterly e-newsletter that will also be available to download at www.alnf.org.

ALNF's ongoing success is a direct result of the many individuals and organisations that have created and maintained a culture of support and a spirit of giving. You are the reason that ALNF has been able to train and support 1000's of teachers, carers, community members and children, improving their literacy skills and giving them the tools needed for successful and fulfilling lives.

But there is so much more to do and the demand on ALNF's literacy programs grows daily.

Poor performance in literacy is most obvious amongst Indigenous students, those living in remote areas and other areas of disadvantage. It is staggering to note that only one in five children in remote Indigenous communities can read at the minimum standard. Every year, in NSW alone, 13 000 children fail to meet basic standards in reading, writing and mathematics when they finish primary school¹. Once these students reach high school it becomes much more difficult to recover these skills.

However, with every year comes another opportunity to reverse these statistics and improve the futures of these children and their communities. Please don't let that opportunity slip away. Your continued support of ALNF and passion to see a more equitable system that provides opportunity to all will ensure that 1000's more will have access to our award-winning programs.

With so much going on already this year here is a snapshot of ALNF's latest news, campaigns, events, program successes and, most importantly, personal stories and experiences we'd like to share with you.

We have also just launched a new ALNF Facebook page that we will update regularly with information on all our programs and activities.



Enjoy!

From all of us at ALNF

ALNF GREETING CARDS – MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON BEHALF OF SOMEONE YOU CARE FOR

ALNF's stunning greeting cards are available to [buy online](#) and make a beautiful, thoughtful gift. All proceeds from the sale of these cards will go directly towards ALNF's literacy programs for Indigenous youth.

ALNF greeting cards are available in packs of five (of which we have two different packs), or the complete set of 10. All cards are A5 in size and come with matching envelopes.

CAMPAIGNS

ALNF, marie claire and Officeworks unite to raise literacy levels in Indigenous and refugee communities through the Share-A-Book program.



Four out of five Indigenous children living in remote communities can't read at the accepted minimum standard. This month, marie claire and Officeworks are supporting ALNF to raise literacy levels in Indigenous and refugee communities.

Books can offer a lifetime of pleasure, but some Australian children simply don't have access to them. In support of ALNF's Share-A-Book program, in the March issue of marie claire some of Australia's favourite stars are asked to evoke the spirit of books that mean a lot to them.

> [View the marie claire campaign](#)

You can join our campaign and make a difference by dropping off new or pre-loved children's books to your nearest Officeworks store. From February 3 to March 31, there will be a Share-A-Book bookshelf in every branch of Officeworks across Australia.

How you can get involved:

Donate a book at Officeworks stores. Simply leave a pre-loved children's book on the designated Share-A-Book shelf.

See a book you like on the Share-A-Book bookshelf? Pick it up and it's yours for a gold-coin donation to the ALNF at the checkout.

Make a donation at any Officeworks store nationally.

For your nearest Officeworks store please [click here](#)

Special thanks to:

marie claire



[Hands Across the Nation Indigenous Literacy Appeal 2009](#)

ALNF would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who gave generously to the Hands Across the Nation (HATN) Indigenous Literacy Appeal. With your help our inaugural Appeal was a huge success in raising awareness of the urgent need to act on Indigenous literacy.

The Appeal was also successful in making history – twice!

Special thanks to The Sydney Morning Herald, Eleven Communications and all our Appeal Ambassadors.

The Sydney Morning Herald's First Words series on Indigenous literacy (marked by the "I Care" symbol) included the first-ever publication of Indigenous First Language on the cover of the SMH.

The Sydney Morning Herald
smh.com.au

FIRST WORDS



Please email us at foundation@alnf.org for a copy of the full series.

Channel 7, Network 10, ABC TV, Aurora TV and NITV ran Australia's first major television commercial featuring an Indigenous First Language voiceover with English sub-titles - the HATN Appeal commercial. The ad has now been archived by the National Film & Sound Archive for future generations of Australians to see.

[Click here](#) to view the ad

The Wall of Hands event in Martin Place, Sydney, was an enormous success with thousands of people attending throughout the day to show they care about Indigenous literacy. ALNF supporters including The Wiggles, Mario Fenech, Matt Shirvington, Barry O'Farrell, Paul Miller, Peter Fray, Peter Kerr, Bridie Carter, Sarah Wilson, Pip Edwards, Bronwyn Bancroft, Deborah Cheetham, Deborah Thomas and Kerry O'Brien kicked off the event by putting their hands up in support of bridging the Indigenous literacy gap.



Supporters putting their Hands Up at Martin Place, Thursday 26 November 2009

ALNF would like to thank all our Appeal Ambassadors and supporters for their time and dedication leading up to and during the HATN Appeal. We look forward to everyone's continued support in 2010.

For more information please [click here](#)

LATEST NEWS

ALNF releases short film: Tennant Creek, NT



ALNF releases short film on Indigenous literacy programs in Tennant Creek, NT

We are so excited with the results of this project and look forward to sharing the stories from our work in the Tennant Creek community.

Thank you to Keir Suggett, Rajan Rai, Peter Kaldor, John Layton, Warren Day at Video Australasia, Tony Gardiner at Engine and Papulu Apparr-Kari Aboriginal Language Centre for making this film possible.

Click on the image to the left to view the film

IKEA's Billy Bookcase turns 30 and Bondi Beach event raises funds for ALNF



More than 6000 books were stacked on 30 bookshelves that snaked their way across the sand at Bondi Beach on Sunday 31 January to celebrate the 30th birthday of IKEA's iconic Billy bookcase. 1000's of people flocked to the event to grab a book, swap books and make donations to ALNF's Share-A-Book program.

Over \$2000 was raised and 1000's of books collected for ALNF's Share-A-Book libraries. Media coverage of the event was HUGE - both nationally and internationally, from the Sun-Herald to the Daily Mail in the UK and the NY Daily News in the US.

Thank you IKEA for your generous support of ALNF's literacy programs.

[Click here](#) for more information on Share-A-Book

NRL announces ALNF as a One Community charity partner for 2010-2012

The Australian Literacy & Numeracy Foundation is proud to partner with the NRL's One Community program from 2010-2012. ALNF and the NRL will work together on the 'Rugby League Reads' and 'Learning With League' education programs alongside other exciting initiatives.

For more information please [click here](#)

PROGRAM UPDATE

Refugee Action Support - 2009 end of year figures show 90% of identified participants improved to significant or outstanding levels

Image courtesy of BYDS



Another successful year can be recorded for the Refugee Action Support (RAS) program. ALNF would like to thank the energetic tutors and tireless school coordinators who make this program so successful. In 2009, a total of 239 student received support from 96 tutors. Of those receiving support, approximately 70% received support weekly. Initial reports indicate that 90% of identified participants improved to significant or outstanding levels in relation to reading, writing, and speaking and listening for classroom purposes.

More importantly, as one Coordinating Teacher reported, “Not only do the students benefit linguistically, they benefit on social and emotional levels, as they interact with an adult who shows that they care about their education.” A fuller report of RAS 2009 will be available in 2010.

For more information please [click here](#)

STORIES



Pendo [Participant, Refugee Action Support program]

Pendo, a Wagga Wagga High School student who spent much of her childhood in refugee camps in Burundi and Tanzania, is a participant in ALNF’s first Refugee Action Support program to run outside of Sydney.

[Click here](#) to view Pendo’s story

Richelle [Participant, Community Action Support program]

Richelle Watson is a resilient, candid Indigenous Year 10 student at Tennant Creek High School, and a speaker of the Warumungu language. If you happened to meet her on the street, she would strike you as a normal, sociable, carefree teenager, particularly with her charismatic smile and relaxed swagger. Her manner with young children, who she mentors in the Community Literacy project, is equally fluid. These primary school students eagerly gather around Richelle as she enthusiastically, though casually, teaches, discusses and explains stories, words and concepts in English and Warumungu. The way the...



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...children clamber over one another to show her their work, to request games and activities and to ask her questions (both on-task and personal) is proof that she is viewed as a genuine role model to the class she teaches, something which Richelle would modestly shrug off. She isn't one for self-promotion, though she is focused on what she wants to achieve; she wants to be a teacher.

[Click here](#) for more information

Sonal [Project Officer, Community Micro-Economy project – SASI]

With big hopes and dreams, I, Sonal Chaudhary came to Tennant Creek on 14 June 2009 with the Australian Literacy & Numeracy Foundation (ALNF) to begin what would be the Sole Aboriginal Stitch Initiative (SASI).

For a month, I would walk up to any group of women I saw sitting on the road side, near the Food Barn, the Post Office or Peko Park and talk to them about what ALNF was doing at the Language Centre. The women would all nod their heads and say "we will come tomorrow morning or Monday morning..." Every morning with a spring in my step I would go to the Language Centre hoping that some one would come, but, sadly, no one showed up.

By mid August things were starting to look up. I had the BRADAAG girls, Mrs. Nixon, Brenda Crafter, Serena Morton, Raylene Bill, Wendy Peterson, Elizabeth Barnes and the two grandmothers (Helen Grant and Penny Kelly) coming regularly with an occasional show of their daughters and grand daughters.

All in all, the journey has been challenging and very rewarding at the same time. I believe SASI has great potential and will expand slowly but surely in 2010. The SASI project facilitates a safe space where the women are empowered to make personal and financial choices through productive means. They like the fact that there are people from different language groups coming together, especially the senior ladies (the women come from six different language groups).

As one lady said to me, "In our times we used to speak many languages and now our children hardly speak one language so coming to the language centre and joining SASI provides an opportunity for young mothers and children to learn different languages and folk songs."

[Click here](#) for more information

[Click here](#) for a look at the latest ALNF media articles

For any further information on any of the above articles please contact Gabrielle Kemeny at gabrielle.kemeny@alnf.org or visit our website:

www.alnf.org

Justice Kevin Lindgren: ALNF Vice Patron

"How to read and write! What goal could be more worthy than to teach these skills to marginalised Australians!"

¹ NSW Liberals & National Literacy & Numeracy Action Plan, 2010