



Ode Cologne
The news journal of WIPAN



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Advancing the well-being and prospects of women in the criminal justice system.

Welcome to the 19th edition of the WIPAN enews bulletin.

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New Mentors recruited for 2012

WIPAN has conducted its third training session for volunteer mentors with seventeen Sydney women attending training over two weekends. The training was a great success with strong positive feedback from our new volunteers. Another round of Mentors who are now trained and waiting to be matched with their first mentee. Women exiting prison, who have self referred or been referred from an agency, and are wanting to be mentored by WIPAN continue to be assessed by our Mentoring Coordinator, Tara Williams, to ensure we find the best match for both the mentee and mentor.

The Sun-Herald City2Surf - Join team WIPAN

WIPAN has signed up a team to run (or walk) the famous 14km Sun-Herald City2Surf on 14th August 2012. We already have a small team registered with nearly ten runners who are trying to raise some much needed funds. Go Team WIPAN!! We would love more great people to join Team WIPAN and walk or run with us to raise the profile of WIPAN, raise much needed funds and have some fun on the day. To register your name with Team WIPAN, click on link below, click "enter" then "enter now" and then click "I would like to search for an existing team" and then search for the team "WIPAN" and sign up. Please get behind us, so we can continue to assist and support our women. www.city2surf.com.au

National Volunteer Day 2012

WIPAN celebrated National volunteer Week on 19th May, with a Saturday afternoon Soiree for our mentors and other volunteers. A cozy group enjoyed the warm buzz of conversation and cool bubbles of champagne as we marked International Volunteers Day at WIPAN with an interesting informal presentation by UNSW's Professor of Criminology, Dr Eileen Baldry, our guest of honour and a great WIPAN supporter. Everyone received a tiny envelope with a message of thanks and special seeds to sew. We missed those who couldn't make it but will distribute our tiny token of appreciation when we next catch up!

Housing paper

The WIPAN Discussion paper "Dreaming of a Safe Home: Consumers and community workers' perspectives on housing and support needs of women leaving prison in NSW" is in the final stages of development. The draft paper has been sent to key government agencies for a final review and comment. WIPAN are looking forward to sending invitations to the sector and stakeholders in the near future for the much anticipated launch.

Volunteer - Helen Dewar

Without the generosity of community spirit, WIPAN would not be able to function. We are now functioning faster and smoother with the exceptional administration skills of our new volunteer Helen Dewar. Helen recently moved to Australia from Scotland and while settling in with her partner, Helen looked online for a volunteer position using her accounting skills while contributing more deeply to community. The work and aims of WIPAN appealed to what Helen was looking for and we welcomed the opportunity to have another skilled worker on board. Helen joined the WIPAN team a month ago, working 3 days a week, getting much needed filing sorted, establishing the WIPAN information systems and working on the WIPAN promotional video. Thanks Helen, we are incredibly lucky to have you.

Service of the Month - AES - Aboriginal Employment Services

The **AES** started in Moree in 1997 by cotton farmer Dick Estens AO, with the support of the Cotton Industry. The AES grew out of one of the recommendations of the 1991 Royal Commission into Black Deaths in Custody to establish Aboriginal employment promotion committees nationwide.

The AES quickly grew to become an organisation, which was making significant changes to Moree, positive changes for the town's Aboriginal people. Due to the work of the AES, Moree has gone from a town with a racist reputation to a leader in Reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

The AES work with Aboriginal people to find a career that is right for each individual skill level. The AES mentor and support clients after placing them in a career to make sure clients are getting the most from their employment.

Vision - "A career opportunity for every Indigenous Australian"

Mission - "The creation of Indigenous career opportunities"

The AES works because it has a strong community philosophy - it is much more than a career placement agency, it is 100% managed by Indigenous people. The AES is a relationship company; it's about mentoring clients, building relationships that give employers a better understanding of Indigenous people and the issues they face in today's society.

Membership Renewals Due

It's that time of year again and we need you to renew your and/or join WIPAN's membership base, As of 1st July the WIPAN membership is due. Please go online to renew www.wipan.net.au/membership.html or alternatively you can download a membership form, complete and post together with your payment to WIPAN, PO Box 345, Broadway NSW 2007. Even if you are time poor (which most of us are), and feel you don't have the time to dedicate, your becoming a member can still assist WIPAN. Please continue to support us to do the community work. WIPAN is the ONLY community organisation in NSW mentoring and advocating for women in the criminal justice system. Without your continued support, our future is at risk. Please pass on to your networks too.

CONTACT WIPAN

For further information about WIPAN including our executive members, general members, our funding bodies, strategic plan or WIPAN's vision & aims, please contact us.

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