



Red Hill News February 2019

Welcome to 2019 from Red Hill Environmental Education staff. Despite the heat and dry weather conditions the centre grounds are still an inviting place to visit thanks to the efforts of our General Assistant, Mark Holland.

Once again the centre welcomed visitors to the Gulgong Folk Festival who were able to enjoy the excellent facilities on offer.

Eight new canoes have been purchased and with a revamped trailer and staff are now ready for the camp programs that are delivered at Dunn Swamp during term 1 and term 4. The staff will also be involved in upgrading their Flatwater Guide qualifications which will involve a full weekend of training at Dunn Swamp. Together with the new canoes this will ensure that the centre is able to deliver a high quality experience for visiting schools.

A Red Hill community group will now be reinstated and representatives will be invited to attend. This community group will meet regularly and function in a consultative capacity so that the wider Gulgong community continues to be an integral part of Red Hill EEC.

The centre has been fortunate to have the services of Mr. Peter Swain. Peter is a Wiradjuri Warraminga man and is a direct descendant of Peggy and Jimmy Lambert of the Dabee people of Rylstone. Peter was born on Country in Rylstone Hospital and moved to Cooma for school where he grew up. He has continuous cultural connections to Rylstone and Dunn swamp. Peter has been sharing his Aboriginal Culture and expertise in schools for the last ten years.

Peter will be presenting “Sharing our Indigenous Culture” Workshop”. This will run for the week beginning Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April. Peter will work with 30 students each day and schools from our local region are now booking in their groups for this excellent learning experience.

Students will learn about indigenous land usage including farming and hunting techniques, wood and stone artefacts and using traditional ochres.

Term bookings are now coming in for a variety of different programs with school groups from as far away as the Blue Mountains.

Centre staff are looking forward to a year of delivering a great variety of environmental education programs, assisting schools in programming environmental education into their curriculum and hosting special events at the centre.

Our heritage programs are very popular and well received by visiting schools.

The Gulgong Gold Experience, the upcoming Holternmann Museum and the wider Gulgong community all add to the success of these activities and the staff are keen to continue this collaboration and are very grateful for the support of our community.

Susan Fuller