



Keeping you informed of the services ACON offers across NSW to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, sistergirls and HIV+ people.

LATEST NEWS

ACON exists to help communities in NSW stay strong and healthy by providing resources and education about safe sex and drug use.

2009 is going to be deadly! We have a new team here at the Aboriginal Project and many great events planned throughout the year.

The first event we have planned is an information stall at the Yabun Festival at Victoria Park, Broadway on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

We will be giving away showbags for men, women, and families with teens and for the kids we will have temporary tattoos and prizes.

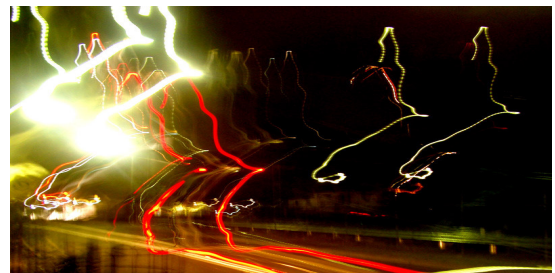
Come along and pick-up some information and meet some of the friendly ACON staff and volunteers.



Yeehaa! Mardi Gras season is almost here!

It will kick off on 15 February with the Aboriginal Project stall at Fair Day. We have 5 events this year and we are looking for volunteers to be involved. Be sure to register your interest asap.

For more details contact Shaun Edwards  
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STAFF

2008 saw big changes to the Aboriginal Project. The community consultation and internal discussions led to the restructure of roles and staff with a whole new team now on board. Introducing our new team members ...

**Meggan Grose** – Aboriginal Project Team Leader

Hi there. My people come from Gulargambone and Moree, and I've been living in Sydney for the last 8 or so years. My role is to support the team and also expand ACON's work with Aboriginal people. We plan to do this by researching current trends as well as working with other organisations to design internal policies and programs, peer education programs and resources to respond to the needs of Aboriginal people in the areas of HIV/AIDS and GLBT health issues.

**Shaun Edwards** – Aboriginal Project Health Promotion Officer - Community Development

Hello you mob. I'm a Queenslander from Cape York. I've been working in health promotion and public health for around 10 years. I'm excited to be working at ACON with a new team and strategic direction. I look forward to meeting some of you mob soon, and working with you, especially on Mardi Gras activities.

**Cassandra Anderson** – Aboriginal Project Health Promotion Officer - Outreach and Liaison

Hi! I was born and raised in Sydney, but my mob are from Maclean in Northern NSW. My job in outreach and liaison means I will be running the stalls we have at various events during the year including, Yabun, Sorry Day and NAIDOC Week. I will also facilitate ACON's Aboriginal Community Advisory Group. I am excited to be working at ACON and have the opportunity to work with community.

The new staff join our other Aboriginal colleagues here at ACON – Dina Saulo who is the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Project Officer at SWOP and Cheryl Sneddon who is the Aboriginal NSP Officer at ACON's Hunter Branch.

Michelle Sparks will support the team in her new role as Manager of Community Development at ACON.

**Mon 26 Jan Yabun** stall at Victoria Park, Broadway. Come along and pick up a showbag. We will have temporary tattoos and a quiz game for the kids. **10am to 6pm.**

**Sun 15 Feb Mardi Gras Fair Day** at Victoria Park, Broadway. Come and spend the day relaxing in Victoria Park, listening to live acts on the main stage. Browse the 100-odd stalls and enjoy the queer festivities with friends and family. Be at the main stage at 3:30pm to witness a flawless set featuring some of the Indigenous acts appearing LIVE at the House of BlackSTAR on the 28<sup>th</sup> February. There'll be a black tent that will feature Indigenous DJ Silver B, a chill out area and lots more.

**Fri 20 Feb Strong Black Symposium and Still Black Exhibition at Boomalli Aboriginal Artists' Cooperative.** The Strong Black Symposium will discuss the issues and challenges faced by the Indigenous GLBT&S community. It will be a forum where GLBT&S community members, friends and supporters can talk honestly and safely on the issues that affect the community, with a view to help shape future support and programs for our community. Still Black is a visual statement by Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists of various sexual textures, exploring the concepts of categorising, profiling and identifying. It is about accepting the different aspects of our person whilst refusing to be kept in one little box.

**Sat 28 Feb House of BlackSTAR** The House of BlackSTAR is a community house, one of stature, honour and loyalty. In the house, race, age, gender and religion are over looked. Our premise is One Family, One Love. The house brings a new era of electro-cultured dance party to the 2009 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras season with a showcase spectacular that brings New York to Sydney for one amazing night of music, dance and cultural performance. Ten incredible hours, featuring International headliners. Experience legendary everything!

**Sat 7 Mar Mardi Gras Parade** The Parade is the jewel in the crown of the Mardi Gras Season. Our entry this year 'JUST BLACK: In Darkness All Colours Agree' is no exception. Come and share in the glitz and glamour of our final event of the season. Share with us and reflect on the year that was and the year that is. The Parade and its unrivalled reputation for glamour, satire and sass is a celebration of pride and diversity that never forgets to deliver its messages with humour and pizzazz.

If you are part of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender/sistergirl (GLBT&S) community, or HIV+, or a supporter, we would love to have you be part of our JUST BLACK: In Darkness All Colors Agree entry. Be quick to register by contacting ACON's Aboriginal project on free call 1800 063 060 or 02 9206 2000.

In 2009 we will also be having a **Retreat for HIV+ people** and **Black Pearls** variety night.

Watch out for confirmation of dates in our upcoming newsletters and on the ACON website  
[www.acon.org.au](http://www.acon.org.au)

The Aboriginal project exists to help NSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to minimise the impact of HIV and STIs and to assist those living with HIV to live healthy lives.

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