

UNITED IN DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT 2020

2020 was a year like no other as much for United in Diversity as it was for the rest of the world. When the country went into lockdown, United in Diversity was hit hard. All our catering assignments which keep UID sustainable were cancelled.

As UID scrambled to not only stay connected to its members but also to get information out to them. We had no resources except Whatsapp. Many of our members did not know how to use zoom. Many still don't use Facebook. It was a big challenge.

EASTER EGGS

United in Diversity received a generous donation of Easter eggs from City of Gosnells and UID made every effort to get those to our members while following COVID guidelines.

WORLD MUSIC CAFE

Our ongoing project from 2019, World Music Café, had to cancel its face to face training and show and had to go online. It was a huge learning curve as we struggled to help everyone learn how to get used to interacting virtually. We persevered and WMC presented 4 events in addition to the online show. **This project has now formed a social enterprise business which will continue till June 2021 at this stage. May continue further.**

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

But we kept all our activities going. Circle of friends (CoF) - a monthly activity - started in 2019 to reduce isolation by forming and strengthening cultural connections. The two organizations involved were United in Diversity and Befreind Inc. CoF was a self-funded project that attracted members of the community regardless of their background and religious beliefs. Circle of Friends in 2020 was a mix of online and face to face sessions and concluded in November 2020.

BREAKTHROUGH TO WELLBEING

UID had to rethink it's 'Breakthrough to Wellbeing' project with City of Belmont. In spite of all the challenges that project was also successfully completed in October 2020. **This project idea has now been incorporated into Canning Community Engagement Project starting in April 2021.**

PICNIC GOSNELLS

Ramadan 2020 was a strange experience. Our muslim members could not get together with friends and family, nor could they go to the mosque to pray. So, in June when the restrictions were eased to allow outdoor gatherings with social distancing we organised a picnic on 6th June in Centennial Park in Gosnells.

ANZAC DAY 2020

ANZAC Day 2020 was the first time in many years when the special dawn service could not be attended by members of the community. United in Diversity joined hands with Gosnells

Bowling Club and marked this event by gathering in driveways and at front gates to "Light up the Dawn" at 6:00am, the time that the Ode, the Last Post, the Minute's Silence and Reveille were happening at the national service. United in Diversity was joined by our partners Gosnells Bowling Club in doing so.

COVID RECOVERY GRANT, GOSNELLS

In April 2020 United in Diversity was provided COVID-19 recovery grant by City of Gosnells to help community members and businesses most affected by the pandemic. This project is a partnership with Gosnells Bowling Club. As part of this grant UID and GBC have distributed 100 baby care hampers to Gosnells community. We have helped 8 businesses with owner from 7 language backgrounds. **This project is due to complete in April or May 2021.**

CONNECT GROUPS GRANT, 2020

Connect Groups came forward and provided a grant to United in Diversity to buy zoom subscription, marketing materials and much needed video recording and PA equipment in the first half of 2020. **Connect Groups has contacted UID again for any help required. We are planning on a business mentorship plan for our social enterprises in 2021.**

CONNECT IN CANNING

In June 2020, a couple of UID representatives joined Connect in Canning project as the City was seeking to engage with leaders of multicultural communities to learn more about the impact of COVID-19 multicultural communities. As Cultural Connectors (CCs) these volunteers began exploring ways to build a stronger and more connected multicultural community.

In July, UID attended City of Canning Focus Group for cultural connectors. UID discussed a broad outline of its projects that it has the vision and capacity to undertake in Canning. UID was informed of the forthcoming partnership proposal by Canning officers. UID later put proposals for Harmony Week and a Youth project. Both were accepted by the City and have since been funded.

UID was also introduced to the Curtin research team – Sally Lamping, Toni Dobinson, Paul Mercieca and Julien Chen. City of Canning also provided a small sum of \$500 to start a curtain sewing project using the 8 sewing machines owned by City of Canning. This was so the existing curtain sewing skills of UID member Hoda could be used to upskill community members and also to create friendships in the time of isolation.

HODA'S CURTAIN SEWING

Hoda's Curtain Sewing Project was a 5 Friday project from 14/08/2020 – 11/09/2020 in Cannington Library. This came at a time when even after the restrictions were eased, big community events did not resume. UID decided that it was perhaps an opportunity to begin getting a team together for its sewing social enterprise. The aim of the project was community engagement, upskilling and gauge community interest in such activities. The activity was linked to the research being done by Curtin University within the City of Canning. The participants all came from different suburbs; 4 from Ellenbrook, 3 from

Cannington and 1 from Mirrabooka. The project attracted over 29 expression of interest. The participating women came from diverse backgrounds - Syrian, Egyptian, Lebanese, Afghan and Anglo Australian. All the curtains were donated back to City of Canning.

Hoda's Curtain Sewing Project was a very successful project with various positive outcomes. Sudbury Community contacted United in Diversity to replicate similar projects into other suburbs. **Meeting with Subbury on Thursday 15th April, 2021.** One participant decided to enroll in English classes at South Metropolitan TAFE and conduct community craft classes. Another participant became a United in Diversity Volunteer. The long-term outcome of this project is to **organise sewing projects in different suburbs and explore if there can be a team to form a social enterprise in 2021.**

VPCA CULTURAL SHARING VIDEO

Also during the first lockdown in 2020, Vic Park Centre for the Arts approached UID for a cultural food sharing project to help community gain the skills to cook healthy cultural food with simple ingredients. The project involved creating a cooking video with nutritional information. UID introduced Roots TV to this project and the resulting **video was launched in March 2021.**

PICNIC CANNING

UID Mums, dads & Kids picnic was held on 29th August, 2020 In East Cannington Park to foster social connections during the pandemic. UID was represented by Mamta Kochhar and Thi Phuong. The target group were UID members and East Cannington Community. It was attended by UID members past and present, East Cannington Community as well as representatives from City of Canning. In all 50 people attended. Rebecca Hall – Leader Inclusive Community Sarah Janali - Manager Community & Culture, City of Canning were present. The picnic was a fun time for all. New members joined UID. This picnic furthered UID's ongoing collaboration with Harmony Beyond Fences an unincorporated group in East Cannington. Volunteers from NM TAFE, participants from another UID project Hoda's curtain sewing group also joined. UID Marketed it's upcoming 'Yoga for Harmony' project. There were inquiries from members of community for the next get together. Pictures from the picnic were shared with the community via UID, HBF & What's On in Canning social media pages.

WA MUSEUM VIDEO

In August, United in Diversity members also participated in the shooting of a cultural video showcasing Indian culture for the Boola Barditj the new museum of WA. **The video now forms a part of the 'Reflections' Gallery at the museum.**

YOGA FOR HARMONY

To support community wellbeing during COVID, United in Diversity collaborated with Harmony Beyond Fences and started Yoga for Harmony – an 8 weeks free community activity in September 2020. Seeing strong community interest, **City of Canning has funded**

that activity to take place again from April to June, 2021 through the City's Resilience Grant.

UNI MELBOURNE CANCER SCREENING PROJECT

In September 2020, UID entered into a partnership with University of Melbourne to develop culturally appropriate cancer screening at the national level. It is a huge honour for UID that the Western Australian CaLD community gets to have a say on this topic at the national level through this project. **This project is due for completion in June 2021.**

CULTURAL CONNECTION FORUM CANNING

In November 2020, a group of UID representatives and volunteers attended Cultural Connection Forum organised by City of Canning. At the forum a discussion was held regarding the Hillview Intercultural Community Centre in Bentley.

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY 2020

On 22nd November 2020, United in Diversity held its second annual event of Celebrate Diversity at Gosnells Bowling Club. Greater community participation and engagement. Over 300 members of the community from all walks of life were involved in the event. Hon'ble Chris Tallantire, MP, who is also GBC patron attended the event. The biggest highlight was that over 30 GBC members did a Bua Di Juan demonstration. This was a direct outcome of last year's inaugural Celebrate Diversity event which introduced Michael Ho to GBC. Michael has been conducting weekly Bua Di Juan and Qi Gong sessions at GBC since the Celebrate Diversity event in 2019.

2021 Projects:

Uni Melbourne Cancer Research

Harmony Week at Canning

International Women's Day at ECCWA

Domestic Violence Awareness with ISWA

Gosnells COVID Recovery Project

Canning Community Engagement Project – Sewing, Yoga, Workshops

Youth Project in Canning

Business Mentoring