

# Healthy event is back again

**DAY WILL AIM TO ENGAGE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE**

**Barry Kennedy**

SUNBURY'S second Happy, Healthy, Deadly event next Wednesday will coincide with several initiatives engaging with Aboriginal people in the region.

Developed by Sunbury Community Health and supported by a range of other groups, organiser Gail Radford is expecting more than 200 people to attend the event at Sunbury Memorial Hall.

Ms Radford said the aim of the event was building a greater sense of community among people identifying themselves as indigenous as well as promoting a better lifestyle among Aboriginal people.

Several health organisations will be among the information stalls, while Sunbury Optical will be distributing spectacles for people who need it at a cost of \$10.

Ms Radford said the benefit of the day was that it brought community services together.

Cultural performances and a welcome to country are part of the event, as is an appearance by Croxton Critters, which gives people close encounters with reptiles such as goannas and crocodiles.

The Salvation Army Crossroads has been a major supporter of this year's event having worked closely with 22 indigenous students at Sunbury Secondary College.

Meanwhile, Ms Radford has helped establish the two-part Koolin Balit Project.

The Ngawan Aboriginal peer-mentoring project forms the first part, bringing indigenous students from Sunbury's secondary colleges together with elders.

"Ngawan is a local word for son and the idea of the program will be to bring

elders together with youth who often don't know much about their culture," she said.

"Already there are boys who have expressed an interest in learning how to play didgeridoo and throw a boomerang and we want ideas from girls too."

In Term 4, a series of digital storytelling workshops will be run by indigenous filmmaker and writer Richard Franklin over five days.

Victoria University is also running a Certificate III program (Mungu Dhal Tyama-Tiyt), a 10-week course open to indigenous and non-indigenous people which explores indigenous identity and culture.

The sessions will be held at Sunbury Neighbourhood House, with enrolment due on September 28.

The free Happy, Healthy, Deadly event is from 11am to 3pm next Wednesday.

Details: [9744 9564](tel:97449564).



Students at Sunbury College, including Darcy, 13, have created a mural as part of the Happy, Healthy, Deadly event.

Picture: CARMELO BAZZANO