



Shilo Hillman, Joan Koren, Abby Johnson and Teri Mahoney are supporting PERNAPERNA's bid for a women's shed. Picture: LUIS ENRIQUE ASCUI

SUNBURY

Push for women's shed

Pernaperna group sets sights on creating space for both indigenous and non-indigenous members

Barry Kennedy

PERNAPERNA Women's Group, part of the Sunbury Aboriginal Corporation, wants to create a women's shed.

Group spokeswoman Joan Koren told the *Leader* the three-year-old group was

starting to realise its potential, with a number of new members of both indigenous and non-indigenous backgrounds joining in the spirit of respect.

Ms Koren said, while non-indigenous, she had always had a keen interest in indigenous culture.

"Our mission is to bring people together in friendship and learning in the spirit of reconciliation," Ms Koren said.

Practical projects have included making pouches for injured wildlife, while they are also crocheting, pinnats for sale to raise money for the

Australian Catholic Ministry.

She said a long-term hope for the group, which meets at the Sunbury Neighbourhood House, was establishing a women's shed in the same model as a men's shed, and it was searching for a venue.

"The idea is to have a place

where women can drop in and meet up and have a coffee and a chat, or make something," she said.

Pernaperna means "sun" and comes from the Palawa language, a tribal group that lived in Tasmania.

For more details, phone Gail Radford on 9744 9064.