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ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER VIEWS

THE ERIC "JOE" MCGUINNESS STUDY CENTRE*



K. Whyman,
Collingwood,
Vic.

A most important aim is to bring our people our cultural history because, without it, we will be spiritually dead.

The study centre at 108 Smith Street, Collingwood, was established because of the urgent need for such centres within our Aboriginal communities.

One aim is to have a community controlled centre of which our people can feel a part. We encourage our people to participate actively in programs that they feel are important for our survival in today's society.

Our people today are much more aware of the education system and see it as negative and racist towards not only our Aboriginal people, but also other races.

A most important aim is to bring to our people our cultural history because, without it, we will be spiritually dead. Our history did not start in 1770 but was alive, full, and rich thousands of years before the invasion.

Activities and training programs taking place at the Study Centre include:

1. Literacy classes, library facilities, lecturing and tutoring, discussion groups, and essay writing and reading groups. Assistance with other problems related to students' studies will also be provided.

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2. Bookkeeping, ledger entry, bank reconciliation, financial statements, filing (index and cross index), report writing, office procedure, receptionist training, switchboard operating, office management, project creativity, submission writing, research, collation of information, statistical correlation, typing, shorthand, letter structure, government and non-government liaison, departmental liaison, communications and community liaison, field-work.
3. Photography classes, camera techniques, lighting, camera use, developing, printing and enlarging.
4. Video, the use of videotapes, lighting, interviewing, sound recording.
5. Film expression, the use of a 16-mm camera, light meters, lighting, sound recorder, camera techniques, editing. Also included will be classes on the theory of photography, film, and sound recording.
6. Public speaking, meeting procedure, chairmanship, how to record minutes and how to frame motions.
7. The organising of seminars in all areas of Aboriginal affairs.
8. Production of an Aboriginal newsletter.
9. Politics of health; preventative dentistry.
10. Film studies.
11. Other activities will, of course, be embarked upon as the need arises. These would include the fine arts, commercial art, Aboriginal art and craft (both study and production). However, as stated previously, the emphasis will be on the needs as they are now defined by the Aboriginal community.

The Centre's prime objective is to support students whether it be in their studies, by the showing of films, or simply in providing the setting where they can identify with each other.

The Centre is named after the late Eric McGuinness, a life-long worker for the rights and advancement of his people.