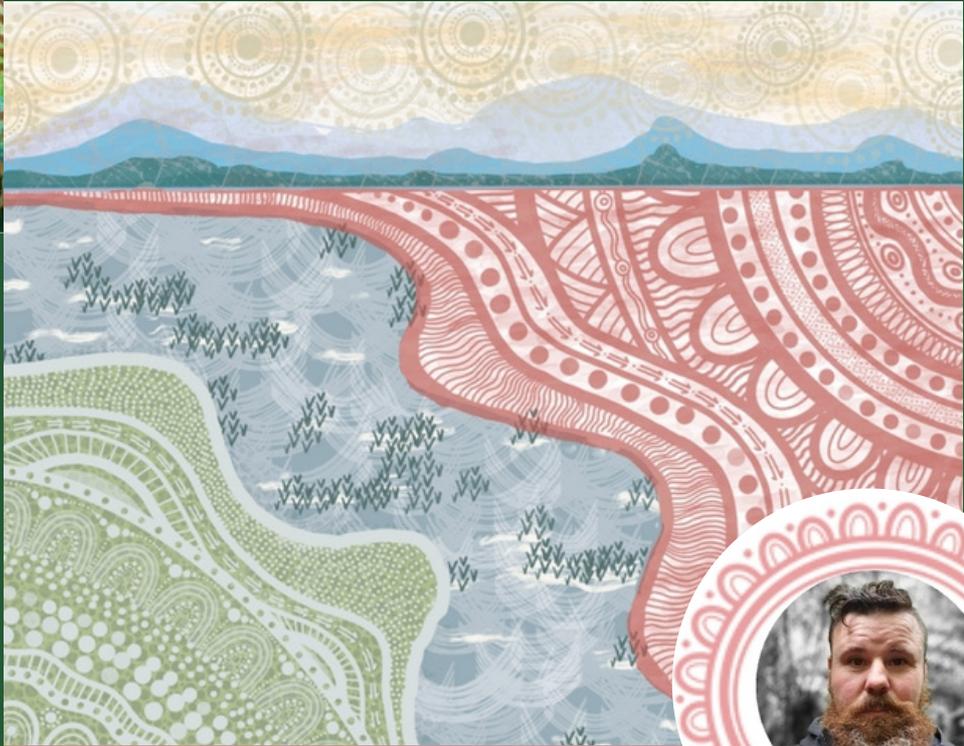


Caracaramigen House

The Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place
Community Yarn
Edition Two



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Beginning Steps Project Artwork by
Worimi Man living locally Gerard Black



The Beginning Steps Project

The design and implementation of The Beginning Steps Project has been a very special project to me, as a Senior Advisor and Barwon Area Lead for the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing but also just as importantly as a Maar Woman. In both my personal and professional life it's both a privilege and a passion to be able to support initiatives that aim to design, deliver and implement culturally appropriate, respectful and welcoming spaces. Not only do these works demonstrate commitment to the local Colac Otway Aboriginal people and families, they work towards educating and facilitating spaces for truth telling.

Within the context of self-determination and reconciliation I am very proud to have been part of this project and encourage everyone reading to think about the role you play in removing the barriers indicated through the evaluation and to be leaders in nurturing connection and excellence for our youngest Community Members and their families.

Aunty Julie Jose -
Gunditjmara Woman, DFFH



Caracaramigen House
The Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place
4 Miller Street, Colac 3250
Gulidjan Country



Give us a like and follow us on Facebook @colacaboriginalgatheringplace and look for our new Instagram page Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place



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For almost everybody (myself included), 2021 was more challenging than 2020 and 2022 is a different ride altogether. The complacency of zero COVID is now something of the past and for the most part we have accepted and adapted to living alongside COVID. Every country, government and health system in the world has struggled with their journey moving on with this virus, and we are still on our journey. There is no corner of the globe has been left untouched by this virus. As this goes to print, reports of cases moving quickly in many Aboriginal communities, and our thoughts are with them through these times.

What I do believe is that the actions and empathy we take now will determine how we and people in all parts of this country emerge from this crisis. I've spent a lot of time working in Health Promotion alongside Wathaurong, Barwon Health and Colac Area Health and those in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation sector and will continue to work to improve our communities access to knowledge around this important and evolving topic.

Throughout lockdowns the doors were mostly closed at the Gathering Place and advocacy and administration was completed from our homes between home schooling and online meetings. I must say it has been quite the challenge - however am pleased to announce we have welcomed a new staff member Tanisha Clarke who will be helping with the day to day operations with thanks to the support of Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op.

We've been zooming and teaming all over the region and are also excited that after the last three years in the office, the internet is on which means our transition from home and back to the office will be that of significant advances and all the connections and advocacy we've been able to achieve online in our time at home will translate to the office.

Last year, despite the lockdowns lots was achieved locally, Colac Police installed the Bollards from the Unity in Community Dhelk Dja project, the Yal Yarra's Project launched on March 8th, during Reconciliation Week we supported an exhibition at In the Skies, then local superstar John Clarke took out winner at the Christo's Poetry Comp so we headed back across to Gadubanud Country for that, we saw NAIDOC Flags flying in Murray Street thanks to the Colac Otway Shire, local shops jumped in to celebrate NAIDOC week displays around town and many a schools participated in a myriad of exercises and activity acknowledging Country. In July we were able to host a film screening of Djalu's Legacy at Red Rock and also host the Safe Our Way Forum which saw over 80 local service workers converge out at RRRTAG for a day of immersion in local services and ways of working with mob.

With a state election on it's way - don't forget to vote. We are still seeking a permanent home for The Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place and service gaps for Mob are still disproportionately wider in regional and rural areas inclusive of ours. Ask your local candidates about their policies and priorities around social justice, service and caring for country and be sure to make your voice heard and vote counted.

We always have heaps happening on the social media - if you don't already follow us the best way is to follow us on Facebook, Caracaramigen - The Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place or on Instagram - Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place is where you'll find us and keep up to date with what's on and upcoming.

As always, I'm blown away by the kindness, heart and leadership of our community and I know, there's no other community I'd rather be in this with. I'm so proud of the work we've been able to achieved in the year that's passed and can't wait to see you all at community events soon.



Ebony Hickey—Gulidjan Woman
Caracaramigen House Co-Ordinator
+ Community Development Officer
for Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op
Ebony.Hickey@wathaurong.org.au





I am a proud Kirrae Whurrong Woman, born and raised in the small town of Colac.
 I am the daughter of Katie Wilkins and John Clarke and Granddaughter of (Aunt) Libby Clarke.

I've been working alongside Ebony Hickey for about 8 months in the role of a Community Development Officer and more recently have taken on a Community Engagement Internship offer which will provide me with the opportunity to participate in and complete a Graduate Certificate in Family Violence Prevention (Aboriginal Community Development) that will be co-designed by Wathaurong and facilitated by RMIT.

We've got some exciting things happening with the Young Luv program (more info page.15) and a brand new Instagram page @colacaboriginalgatheringplace. I'm really looking forward to working alongside our community, especially our Young Mob , Wathaurong and the Barwon South West Dhek Dja and to grow my skills and knowledge in grass roots prevention and community strengthening work



Tanisha Clarke
 Community Engagement
 Internship in Aboriginal Community Development &
 Family Violence Prevention at the Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place
 Tanisha.Clarke@wathaurong.org.au



Weering First Nations Hearing Clinic Colac

Free Aboriginal ear health clinic

Caracaramigen House The Aboriginal Gathering Place , 4 Miller St Colac

Appointments for First Nations children and adults

Clinicians - Erin Altmann (Ngunnawal) , and Bridgette Furphy

No referral required, walk in between 10am and 1pm on the following dates

Thurs 14th July

Thurs 11th August

Thurs 8th September

Thurs 13th October

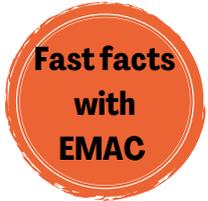
Thurs 10th November

Thurs 8th December

- ❖ Free ear health check and hearing screen for everyone over 5 years
- ❖ Boorais ear health check



Graphic design of flyer by Greg Cooper



CULTURAL HERITAGE SENSITIVITY

Under Regulation 7 of the ABORIGINAL HERITAGE REGULATIONS 2018, a cultural heritage management plan is required for an activity if all or part of the activity area is an area of cultural heritage sensitivity and if all or part of the activity is a high impact activity.

WHAT IS AN AREA OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SENSITIVITY? An area of cultural heritage sensitivity is an area in which Aboriginal cultural heritage is known to be, or is likely to be, present, which has not already been subject to significant ground disturbance. Specifically areas of cultural heritage sensitivity include: Registered Aboriginal cultural heritage places (and land within 50 metres); Named waterways (and land within 200m); Certain prior waterways (and land within 200m); Certain ancient lakes (and land within 200m); Declared Ramsar wetlands (and land within 200m); Coastal Crown land; Coastal land within 200m of high water mark; Parks (defined by the National Parks Act); High plains areas; Koo Wee Rup Plain; Particular greenstone outcrops; Stony rises of the Mt Eccles, Mt Napier and Mt Rouse lava flows; Volcanic cones of western Victoria; Caves; Lunettes (crescent shaped dunes adjacent to existing and prior lakes and swamps); Dunes; and Sand sheets (specifically the ‘Cranbourne Sands’)

CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLANS required for an activity if; all or part of the activity area for the activity is an area of cultural heritage sensitivity; and all or part of the activity is a high impact activity. So, what is a “Cultural Heritage Management Plan” you might ask! A Cultural Heritage Management Plan is a written report which identifies and assesses the nature of any Aboriginal cultural heritage present on a site and makes recommendations to mitigate harm /impact to any Cultural heritage values and, as appropriate, outlines management recommendations for measures to be taken before, during and after an activity to manage and protect Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in an area. Preparation of a CHMP is commissioned and paid for by the project proponent (sponsor) and involves a cultural heritage advisor (an archaeologist or heritage specialist) working with the Aboriginal community to identify and assess cultural heritage values in relation to a proposed development or activity.

Who approves a Cultural Heritage Management Plan? Where a Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) exists, it must be notified of a proponent’s intention to prepare a Management Plan and it then may choose to evaluate the Plan. Within 14 days of receiving the notice of intention, the RAP must give written notice to the sponsor specifying whether or not they have chosen to evaluate the plan. If a RAP chooses to evaluate the plan, the RAP has 30 days, after receiving the application, to decide to approve or refuse the plan. During the 30 day period, RAPs may make requests for additional information to be provided. If additional information is requested, the 30 day time period ceases to run until the requested information is received. Once a Management Plan has been approved by a RAP, it must be lodged with the Secretary to the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) to take effect. **NOTE:** approvals cannot be granted for any application until a copy of an approved Plan is received. Approval cannot be granted for an activity that is inconsistent with the Plan. The Act also allows for voluntary Cultural Heritage Management Plans to be prepared. Once approved, these provide the same benefits in terms of certainty as required Plans.

11 GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF SELF-DETERMINATION

Here are the 11 guiding principles of self-determination that were developed following extensive community engagement with Aboriginal Victorians.

The principles provide the minimum standards for all existing and future work with Aboriginal Victorians and provide a ‘common language’ for what Aboriginal self-determination looks like in practice.

These principles will underpin all Victorian Government’s action to progress Aboriginal self-determination.

For more details refer to the Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018- 2023

Self-determination guiding principles

HUMAN RIGHTS

Self-determination initiatives honour the norms set out in UNDRIP and Victoria’s Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

CULTURAL INTEGRITY

As First Nations peoples, the rich, thriving cultures, knowledge and diverse experiences of Aboriginal people, including where they fit with family, community and society, will be recognised, valued, heard and celebrated.

COMMITMENT

Aboriginal self-determination will be advanced and embedded through planned action that is endorsed by, and accountable to, all parties.

ABORIGINAL EXPERTISE

Government and agencies will seek out, value and embed Aboriginal culture, knowledge, expertise and diverse perspectives in policies and practice.

PARTNERSHIP

Partnerships will advance Aboriginal autonomy through equitable participation, shared authority and decision-making, and will be underpinned by cultural integrity.

DECISION-MAKING

Decision-makers will respect the right to free, prior and informed consent and individual choice and will prioritise the transfer of decision-making power to Aboriginal people in areas that impact their communities.

EMPOWERMENT

Aboriginal people will have autonomy and participation in the development, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of legislation, policies and programs that impact their communities.

CULTURAL SAFETY

Programs and services accessed by Aboriginal people will be inclusive, respectful, responsive and relevant, and informed by culturally safe practice frameworks.

INVESTMENT

Investment to support self-determination will be sustainable, flexible and appropriate to strengthen Aboriginal peoples’ aspirations and participation, including around economic participation, economic independence and building wealth.

EQUITY

Systemic and structural racism, discrimination and unconscious bias and other barriers to Aboriginal self-determination will be actively identified and eliminated.

ACCOUNTABILITY

All parties responsible for delivering outcomes involving Aboriginal people will be held accountable and subject to Aboriginal-led, independent and transparent oversight.



Caracaramigen House

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Community Yarn
Edition Two



The All About Me Project was a collaboration between Department of Justice and Community Safety, Department of Health and Human Services, Barwon Child Youth and Families, Tarndwarncoort and most importantly CARACARAMIGEN - The Colac Gathering Place.

Unfortunately, or fortunately the project was delayed by COVID as was many other projects, so the outcome was different to what was originally intended. Originally the project was an art project for young Aboriginal women and their families to participate in art workshops then exhibit their work in the Colac Otway Arts Trail, also impacted by COVID.

Some innovative and creative thinking by from Caracaramigen and the Beginning Steps Project, a baby wrap natural dying workshop was suggested. One initiative of The Beginning Steps project was to produce a welcome baby pack for new Aboriginal babies and their mums - natural muslin baby wraps would be a beautiful and significant addition to the packs.

Tarndie (which is short for Tarndwarncoort) a historic homestead on Guuldjian land has been in the same family for more than 150 years. The Dennis family have been growing wool at Tarndie since 1840 and offers visitors a unique experience that blends farming, craft, heritage, and modern hospitality.

The participants of the It's all about me project used a variety of methods and colours to produce fifty baby wraps over the two days in January 2021. Four young people were involved as well as their significant female other spending two days dyeing baby wraps in the summer heat at Tardie. In dying, the wraps local plants were used to soak in large vats outside in the beautiful farm setting. The cotton wraps were coloured using natural dyes from plants, fresh leaves, dried roots, bark and indigo pigment.

- Cherry Ballart leaves harvested in Warncoort, simmered with the cloth in a big pot, yielded yellows.
- An organic indigo vat created the blues.
- Madder root powder created pink, red, brown, and purple hues.
- Combinations of these 3 dyes gave green, orange, and purple shades.



Many cloths were also soaked in a bath of black wattle bark, high in tannin, which helps the colours stay strong. Some wraps were dyed in one colour on the first day, and then over-dyed on the second to create rich secondary tones. Simple patterning techniques using different clips and ties, also added interest to the many beautiful natural colours we created together. The dyes and techniques used to colour these cotton blankets were chosen for long lasting natural colour. They can be washed in a washing machine with normal detergent.

All the participants enjoyed the day and indicated their interested in doing something similar, the host and instructors were extremely knowledgeable and supportive over the two days and the setting I'm sure added to the feel and ambiance. A big thank you to the Victorian Womens Trust for funding this project.

Melinda Flood, Elb Nickerby and Zephlynn Taylor





Beginning Steps Project Update

The Beginning Steps was a program ran during 2020 -2021. The project has worked with Aboriginal community members and with a range of service providers throughout the Colac Otway Shire to improve health and development opportunities for First Nations babies, children and the families they live with.

Given that the project in it's entirety has taken place during the COVID-19 pandemic, it has faced many challenges and we have worked incredibly hard to overcome all kinds of unprecedented obstacles. Frequent lockdown restrictions made it difficult to do the community engagement aspect in the ways we normally would and put a halt to many of the workshops, programs, activities and events that have been planned however the resilience and determination within the participants really helped shaped the way we were able to re-work these elements.

It is with great satisfaction The Beginning Steps Project has been able to make some great achievements. This year, the project has had a focus on cultural resource development, supporting the delivery of cultural training and information to Early Years Services in the Colac Otway Shire, and assessing the wants and needs of Aboriginal community members. Our focus on creating sustainable resources has seen the creation of some brilliant localised resources. Such as the Welcome Bub to Country packs that will be made available to First Nations babies living on Gulidjan and Gadubanud Country that are engaging with the Maternal Child Health Programs from 2022, these kits will include: a baby milestone book and cards, a hand dyed Muslin wrap from the 'It's All About Me' workshop, along with books and toys sourced locally. Cultural Resource Boxes that will be available for community members and Early Years' service providers to use, which include a huge range of educational toys and books.



Caracaramigen House

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Community Yarn
Edition Two

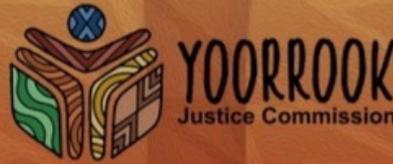


Over the duration of the project conversations about Aboriginal specific services and supports between Early Years Services in the Colac Otway Shire has improved and engagement with Aboriginal community the evaluation was launched in December and you can find a hard copy here : www.wathaurong.org.au/publications

Given this project finished at the end of 2021 and my position has now ended, this will be my last contribution to the Community Yarn and I warmly thank the community for the support they've given me during my residency at Caracaramigen House.

Zephlynn Taylor





MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 12am, Thursday 24 March

YOORROOK JUSTICE COMMISSION HOLDS FIRST PUBLIC SITTING OF AUSTRALIA'S FIRST AND ONLY TRUTH AND JUSTICE PROCESS

The Yoorrook Justice Commission (Yoorrook) has today held its ceremonial *wurrek tyerrang* (hearing), marking the first public sitting of Australia's first and only formal truth and justice process.

The ceremonial *wurrek tyerrang*, which coincides with the International Right to Truth Day, is a significant milestone in Victoria's nation-leading work towards truth and justice. *Wurrek tyerrang* is the Wergaia word for 'speaking together'.

Cultural protocols commenced at the Stolen Generations Marker in Fitzroy before moving to Charcoal Lane for the formal sitting. An important mainstay for local First Peoples communities, Charcoal Lane was selected because of its historical significance as a site of First Peoples' organisation and activism.

The ceremonial *wurrek tyerrang* was attended by Commissioners and counsel assisting Yoorrook, as well as Elders from First Nations across Victoria. Commissioners outlined the work of Yoorrook, including its scope and next steps. To coincide with this, Yoorrook also released guidelines, practice directions and information sheets about its approach to truth-telling.

No *pil'kneango mirnk* (evidence) was taken at the sitting. *Pil'kneango mirnk* is the Djab Wurrung word for 'open eyes'. Over the life of Yoorrook, there will be many opportunities for people to tell their truth and give *pil'kneango mirnk*.

Professor Eleanor Bourke, Chair of the Yoorrook Justice Commission, spoke about the significance of this step for all Victorians.

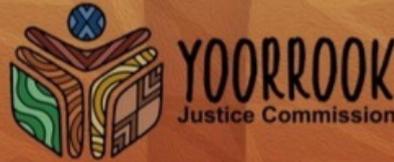
"Yoorrook is a historic opportunity for all Victorians to listen to each other with open ears and hearts. Together we will create a path that leads to truth, understanding and transformation and build a shared understanding of our history. This day is a significant step forward, not just for First Peoples but for every Victorian."

"The stories of Victoria's First Peoples must be told, and in telling their stories, all Victorians can share the history and help create a better future – based on truth," Chair Bourke said.

The day commenced with a calling of Country by Mandy Nicholson and a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony by Uncle Colin Hunter, an Elder of the Traditional Custodians of Narm (Melbourne), the Wurundjeri WoiWurrung People.

Djirri Djirri dancers then welcomed Commissioners and guests in dance and sang in their mother tongue – the Woiwurrung language. They honoured their Liwik (Ancestors), Kerr-up-non (Family), and Biik (Country).

In a cultural exchange, the Djirri Djirri gifted the Commissioners with ochre. Used by Aboriginal people for thousands of years, it is believed that ochre has spiritual power which is released through ceremonial ritual. The exchange of ochre is an important symbol of how important Country is and will be throughout the Commission's work.



“Yoorrook’s first sitting is a culmination of the work of many First Peoples in Victoria. It is grounded in and guided by the cultural authority of our Elders, who have long advocated for truth-telling. The cultural significance of this day has been reflected in all aspects of the launch,” said Chair Bourke.

Following the ceremonial *wurrek tyerrang*, Yoorrook will commence regional visits across Victoria to yarn with Elders about which matters they consider most important for Yoorrook’s inquiry to focus on.

“Yoorrook is led by Victoria’s First Peoples. Community voices will guide our work,” said Chair Bourke.

There are three ways Elders can meet with Commissioners during visits. The first is through the Elders’ Yarning Circles, a group meeting with Elders and Commissioners. For option two, Elders can request a one-on-one meeting with Commissioners if they don’t want to participate in a group conversation. Lastly, Elders can join the Commissioners to visit historical or culturally significant sites in their region to meet on Country.

Formal Elders’ *wurrek tyerrang* will commence on 26 April 2022.

Yoorrook’s regional visits and formal *wurrek tyerrang* with Elders will lead to the delivery of the interim report, due June 2022.

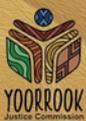
To learn more about the Yoorrook Justice Commission, please visit the website at: <https://yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au/>

ENDS

For media enquiries, please contact Porter Novelli:

Andrew Giddings
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Email: agiddings@porternovelli.com.au

Madison West
Mobile: 0433 583011
Email: mwest@porternovelli.com.au



ELDERS’ YARNS

Three ways to yarn



Elders’
Yarning Circles



One-on-one
yarn with
Commissioners



Site Visits

This is an opportunity for Elders to yarn with Commissioners about their priorities for Yoorrook and discuss their recommendations for how the truth-telling process should work.

If you are an Elder, or know an Elder who would like to speak with Commissioners, please contact Joey Saunders on 0459 871 952 for details.

To learn more about Yoorrook, visit: <https://yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au/>

#Yoorrook



Asking the Question

Are you of Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander origin?

The Council of Australian Governments is committed to the Closing the Gap (CTG) initiative from 2007. CTG aims to address the critical health gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and other Australian communities.

Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander peoples experience some health conditions that can be managed if known at an early stage. Research suggests the best way to collect this information is to directly ask if someone identifies as an Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander Australian.

Important health checks and treatments may be missed if your health practitioner is not aware of your Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander Australian status. Informing your service provider will help with the design and delivery of an appropriate health care plan, including health checks, immunisations and preventative health care screenings.

Aboriginality identification is one of the standard questions asked to everyone at each appointment regardless of appearance, place of birth or the staff member's prior knowledge. Responding to the question is your choice.

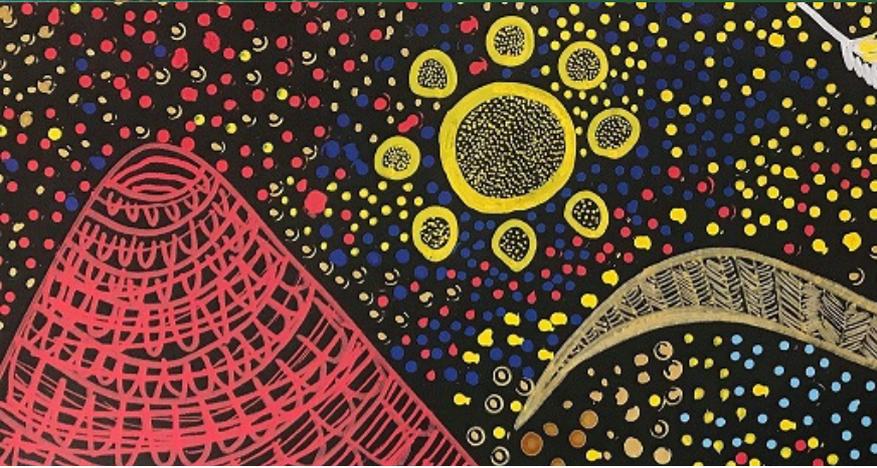
Identifying your Aboriginality helps to:

- Plan and design services according to need;
- Better understand which services and policies produce the best outcomes;
- Improve health care outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians; and
- Better appreciate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians' preferences for services.

Strengthening
primary care in
western Victoria

phn
WESTERN VICTORIA
An Australian Government Initiative

westvicphn.com.au



If all of community
vaccinates, all
of community
will be safe

☎ 1800 675 398
Or contact your local
Aboriginal Health Service



Together we
do better

Close the Gap

At Colac Area Health we support our community who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander by waiving the gap payments and wait lists for our services in Community Health and Dental Services.

Patients will not be wait listed for Home Nursing services either if they have identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.

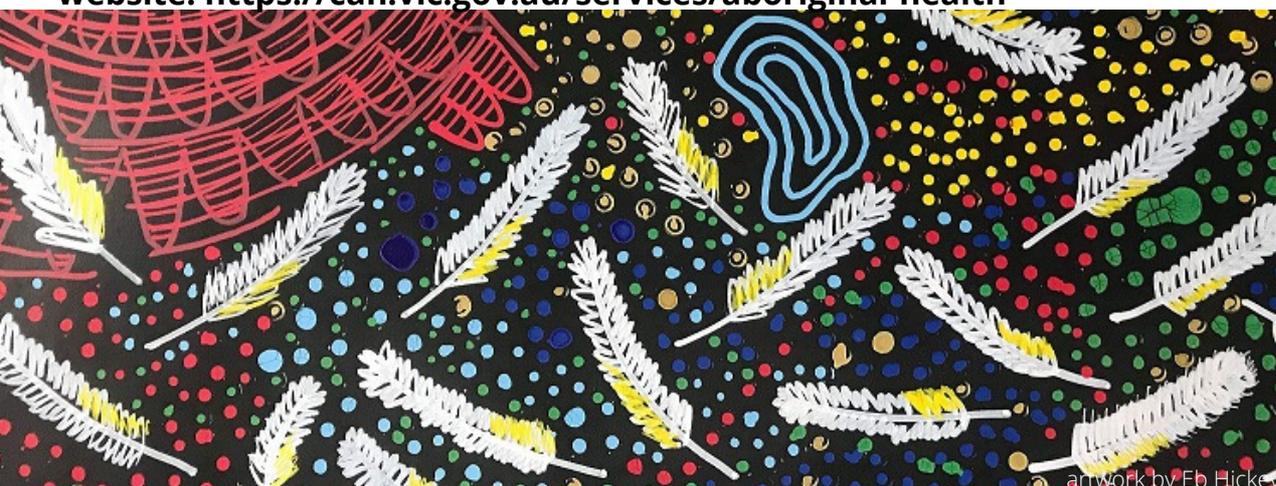
As both staff at Colac Area Health and Community accessing it's services, It is very important to both ask and answer the question about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity to ensure Colac Area Health are supporting our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to receive the best possible care on offer.

To find our more about the work we're doing with Mob go to our website: <https://cah.vic.gov.au/services/aboriginal-health>

REMINDER
You can still leave home to escape family violence, even through lockdown.



Our actions
help others



artwork by Eb Hickey



What's on with Wathaurong



CEO UPDATE WITH SIMON FLAGG

Earlier in 2022 Simon was announced as the new CEO at Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op. Simon is a proud Wamba Wamba man born and raised on Wathaurong country in Geelong and is excited to continue his work with our local communities to continue building the connection and to grow our strategies in delivering services that meet the health, family and cultural needs of both the Geelong and Colac Otway communities.

At the recent Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative Annual General Meeting, CEO Simon Flagg provided an update on the vision for the organisation and the commitment to return to Wathaurong back to its community centred values. Part of the process for achieving this will be to:

- Review and redefine our Vision, Values, Community Model Approach, Strategic Pillars and Priorities
- Re-establish our engagement framework with Community and staff feedback into our Strategic Plan refresh, ie: workshops, forums, surveys
- Recentering the voice of Community and staff as our priority

The refresh of the strategic plan will focus on strengthening our connection to community through proactive engagement that provides cultural supports and programs - strong community, strong culture, strong country.

Simon Flagg said, "We want to place community at the centre of everything we do, listening to our Community and developing programs that empower our community to thrive."

The goal is to ensure that our communities across the Barwon region are engaged and culturally connected, that Wathaurong is providing culturally appropriate supports, and that Wathaurong is advocating for our community at all levels to ensure our voice is heard on reforms, policies, and new ways of doing business.

The proposed community strengthening model will include:

- Strengthening Community & Cultural Connections - Aboriginal community development approach for cultural connection and belonging and resetting relationships and building on positive social norms.
- Refocus and reinvigorate Wathaurong as a place of gathering - This will include the development of a co-designed whole of organisation healing model that aims to engage our mob and align our support services by strengthening their connection to culture and Community.
- Celebrate our culture and connection - Embedding our healing model across the whole organisation to support our Community development approach for culturally appropriate service provision centered on cultural connection and belonging.
- Increasing our Community membership - Create an environment that engages our Community to become members of the organisation and celebrate Community achievements.
- Support Workforce Development - Co-design of Graduate Diploma in Domestic and Family Violence (Aboriginal Community Development) with RMIT
- Systems Transformation - leading systems transformation of mainstream services in our region. This will be supported by the Strategic Policy team's community-led work in the Anti-Racism and Cultural Safety Toolkit development for justice and other sectors.





Outreach Health Services

UPDATE FROM WATHAURONG HEALTH PRACTICE MANAGER - ACTING DUANE LUKI



Wathaurong health service staff attend an outreach clinic at Colac Youth Hub every Monday. The team includes a GP, Dr Ed, Dr Eimir and Dr Kevin share this role. Dr Eimir's focus is on Women and children's health. The GPs are supported by Aboriginal health Worker trainees, and a registered Nurse.

Bookings are made through Wathaurong health service reception team (03) 5277 2038 if you would like to be seen at Colac by our team.

Covid Vaccination continue to be managed through Colac area Health Service and they collaborate with the local primary school to offer 5-11 yr old students with the opportunity to be vaccinated against Covid 19.

Due to renovations to the Youth Hub our Outreach Clinic on Mondays will most likely operate out of the Outpatient Clinic at Colac hospital soon, we will update you when this change occurs.

The Wellness and Recovery team utilises a holistic approach towards care and recovery and is here to support Mob in a culturally safe way. We have some staff who can provide outreach and support to Colac clients, including Drug and Alcohol and Social Emotional Wellbeing workers. Our Wellness and Recovery team requires referrals to be completed for our offered services, so please speak to your GP if you want to be referred for ongoing support.

Please call Wathaurong health Service (03) 52 770044 and speak to the Practice manager if you have any feedback or ideas on how we can best serve the Aboriginal community in Colac.



Our Bringing Them Home Workers Judy and Julia. Our BTH Workers are experienced, trauma informed Social Workers and will assist clients in a safe and culturally appropriate way.

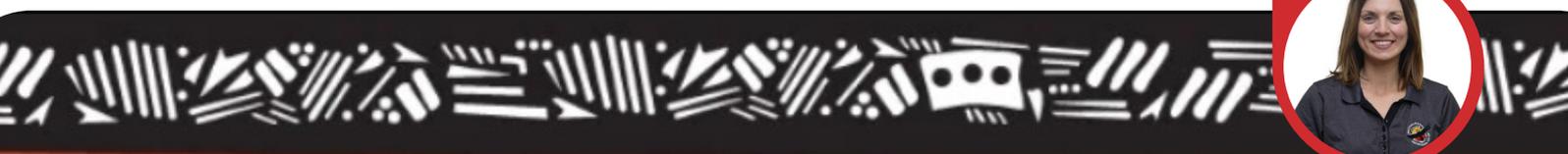
The BTH Workers' role is to provide, therapeutic support, connection to the Wathaurong community, culture and country and support with tracing family lineage to those who have been affected by past government policies of removal.

BTH Program includes:

- Introductory group activities • Yarning Circles • Therapeutic groups • Informal counselling • Research Workshops • Search Packs to assist with research • Referrals to services including Koorie Heritage Trust, Link Up and other relevant agencies
- Free access to research databases (ancestry.com, trove, state library and so on) • Financial support with regards to accessing Births Deaths Marriage certificates
- Support with client research (N.B. BTH Workers do not do the research, but will guide clients and support them in this process. Clients will be assessed case by case to determine the level of support required) are experienced, trauma informed Social Workers and will assist clients in a safe and culturally appropriate way.

We would be happy to hear from anyone interested in having a chat to see how we can support community members in the Colac Otway area, (03) 52 770044

Julia Bryon





Foster Care Recruitment

UPDATE FROM WATHAURONG KINSHIP TEAM - FAMILY SERVICES



Every child and young person deserve to have a safe and secure environment in which they can thrive in. What is Foster Care? For a wide variety of reasons, children and young people come into foster care when they are unable to live at home with their parents or extended family.

Who needs Foster Care? Children and young people who need foster care be of any age from birth to the age of 18 years old. For a wide variety of reasons, they come into foster care when they are unable to live at home with their parents or extended family. What are the types of Foster Care? Emergency care, short term care and respite care

Who can be a Foster Carer? Anyone. being single, renting, working full-time, not having parenting experience, or not identifying as Aboriginal yourself is no barrier. We have foster carers from diverse backgrounds or circumstances and we work with our team of foster carers to ensure that their needs are met as well. If you are 21 or over and have spare room for a child or young person in your home you are one step closer to becoming a foster carer.

What does the process look like? Wathaurong is a registered Foster Care agency, so we will work directly with you in providing training, followed by assessing and accrediting you prior to starting to care for a child.

We strongly encourage everyone interested to reach out, even if you feel that your situation may provide barriers to the process please reach out so that we can work with you through the process. It takes a community to raise a child and we wouldn't be able to do what we do without our amazing foster carers. If becoming a foster carer is something you have thought about before or if this has sparked your interest please contact our foster care recruitment officer to learn more about our process and overall vision on 0417 296 705.

Even if you're not quite sure chuck us a call anyway because there is no harm in asking a few questions. Thank you for taking the time to learn a little bit more about foster care and we hope to hear from you soon!

Reflections from a local Foster Carer

HAILEY RYAN - ACCREDITED AND ACTIVE FOSTER CARER FOR WATHAURONG ABORIGINAL CO-OPERATIVE LIVING ON GULIDJAN AND GADUBANUD COUNTRY

Becoming a foster carer with the support of the Wathaurong crew has been an enriching experience. The training was informative, interesting and in many aspects provided information I hope everyone has a chance to learn. Being a part of young people's lives by providing care and safety and hopefully adding some happy childhood memories into their life journey gives a very special feeling. As does witnessing their trust in you grow and seeing that bring a level of comfort and confidence within themselves and their view on life. If you have the home space and life space to fit in a little extra love and care, then I hope this might inspire any to get in touch with the friendly crew at Wathaurong and speak more about it with them.





GERARD BLACK X CARACARAMIGEN

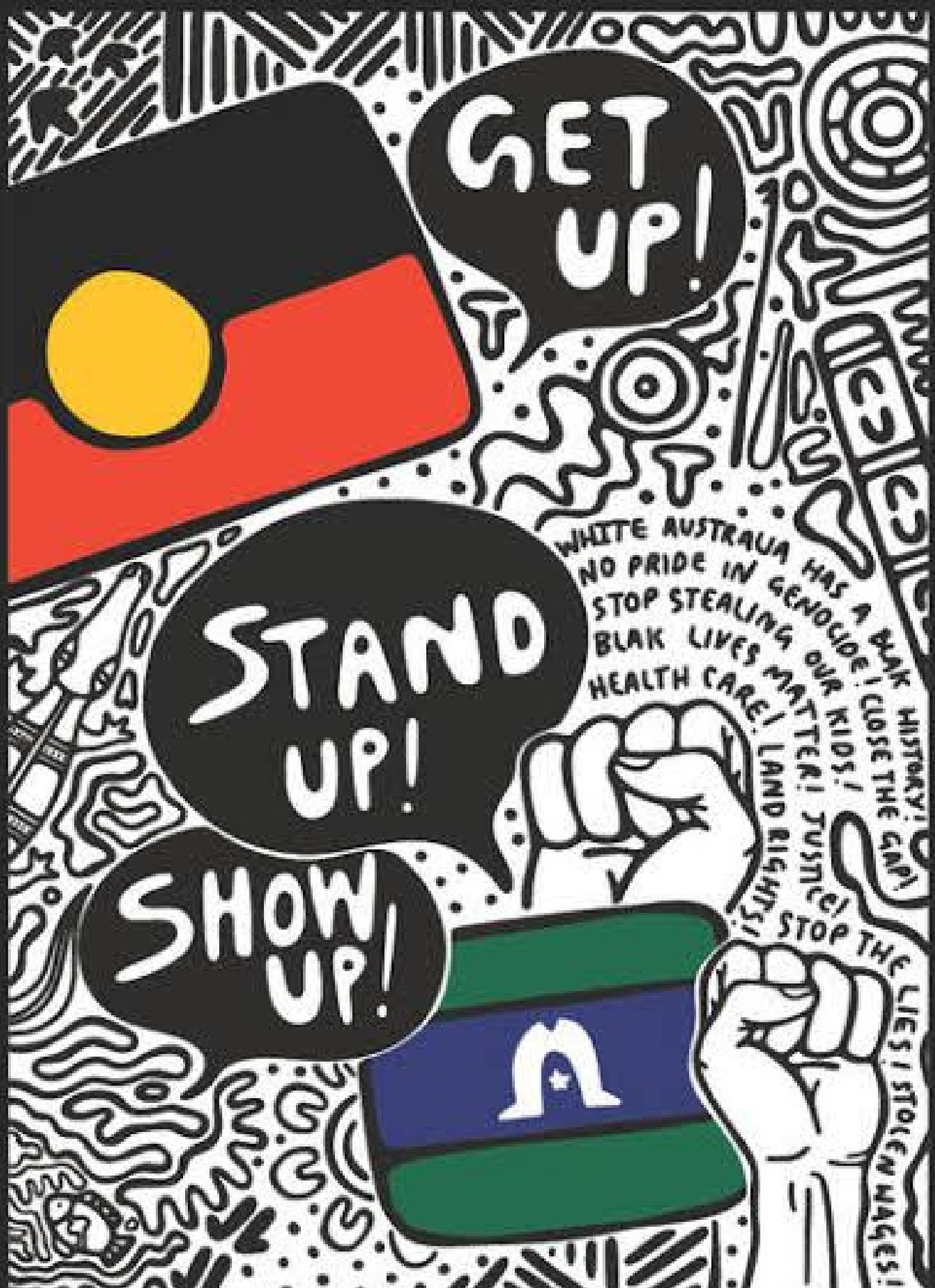
IN THE SKIES ART & MUSIC

8 MOUNTJOY PDE LORNE
GADUBANUD LAND



**NAIDOC EVENT SATURDAY THE 25TH OF JUNE 4-6PM
LIVE MUSIC BY THE ANGUS DUO + FREE FEED**

EVENT PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY WATHAURONG ABORIGINAL CO-OP, COLAC AREA HEALTH
+ IN THE SKIES ART & MUSIC





Capturing the essence of 'Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!' the Gudanji/Wakaja woman's artwork pulls powerful messages into focus.

By Rachael Knowles Source: NITV News

Borroloola artist Ryhia Dank is the name behind the 2022 NAIDOC poster encapsulating the theme Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up! The Gudanji/Wakaja woman's creation, Stronger, captured the essence of this year's theme according to National NAIDOC Committee Co-Chairs, Shannan Dodson and John Paul Janke. "I am so excited to be this year's NAIDOC Poster Competition Winner," she said.

Ms Dank created Stronger not long after first reading the theme. "I knew straight away I wanted to do a graphic piece centered around our flags with text highlighting what we have been through and are still fighting for," she said. The digital artwork is completely in black and white - with the exclusion of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags. Ms Dank has included powerful political messages including Blak Lives Matter, White Australia has a Blak History, Stolen Wages, Land Rights and the theme, Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up! Ms Dank said creating a monochrome poster allowed the messages to have more focus and power.

Raised on a cattle station in Borroloola in the Gulf of Carpentaria, Ms Dank now calls Melbourne home. Not only an esteemed painter, Ms Dank is a design graduate and a graphic designer. When the first wave of COVID-19 lockdowns hit Melbourne, Ms Dank was visiting family in the Northern Territory. Finding herself stuck, she began creating. In May of 2020, Ms Dank launched her brand, Nardurna. "Gudanji/Wakaja people told stories through pattern and design and that is what I am doing. I call my storying Nardurna. It means woman in my language," she said.

Although Stronger is a creation for the nation, Ms Dank has woven in honouring to her culture and her family. In this artwork, I have little bits of me and my family, I have included a crocodile for my late granny. She was one of the strongest women I know and was never afraid to speak her mind and stand up for family and Country," she said. "I have also included my family's dancing stick, this is present as a reminder that we will always have our Country, Kin and Culture." "There are also symbols to represent us as a community. People gathered around a camp, a spear and woomera to represent our strength, water, trees, animal tracks and non-human entities to show our connection to Country."

Ms Dank's artwork was selected from over 300 entries from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists across the country. As the 2022 winner, Ms Dank receives a cash prize and will attend the 2022 National NAIDOC Award ceremony in Melbourne in July as an official guest of the NAIDOC Committee.





Safe Our Way 2021

COLAC FORUM

Cultural services and supports understanding forum
promoting Strong Culture, Strong Peoples, Strong Families



80 participants

Held on wednesday 23rd of June
@RRRTAG 520 Corangamite
Lake Road, Cororooke Gulidjan
Country




YOUNG LUV®

Promoting healthy relationships to young Aboriginal women.

POSTPONED
follow us on Facebook for updates or register your interest with Tanisha (details below)

Afternoon tea provided

RSVP: Tanisha.Clarke@wathaurong.org.au

completed registration form by 13th June 2022

This Young Luv is proudly funded by the Department of Justice. All Koori girls aged 13-18 years are invited to participate.



1800 105 303

www.djirra.org.au

 [djirra.youngluv](#)

 [Djirra](#)



Colac Otway
SHIRE

COLAC OTWAY SHIRE COUNCIL IS
PLEASED TO PRESENT THE CO-AUTHORS
OF THE *OUR PLACE* BOOK SERIES

**AUNTY FAY STEWART-MUIR
AND SUE LAWSON**

A NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK EVENT

THURSDAY 2 JUNE
CIVIC HALL, COPACC

TIME: 10.30AM

FREE - BUT PLACES LIMITED
BOOKINGS VIA EVENTBRITE
LINK PROVIDED



BE BRAVE. MAKE CHANGE.
NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2022

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/colac-otway-shire-national-reconciliation-week-event-registration-308421275337>

sharing

respect



The Christos Poetry Prize

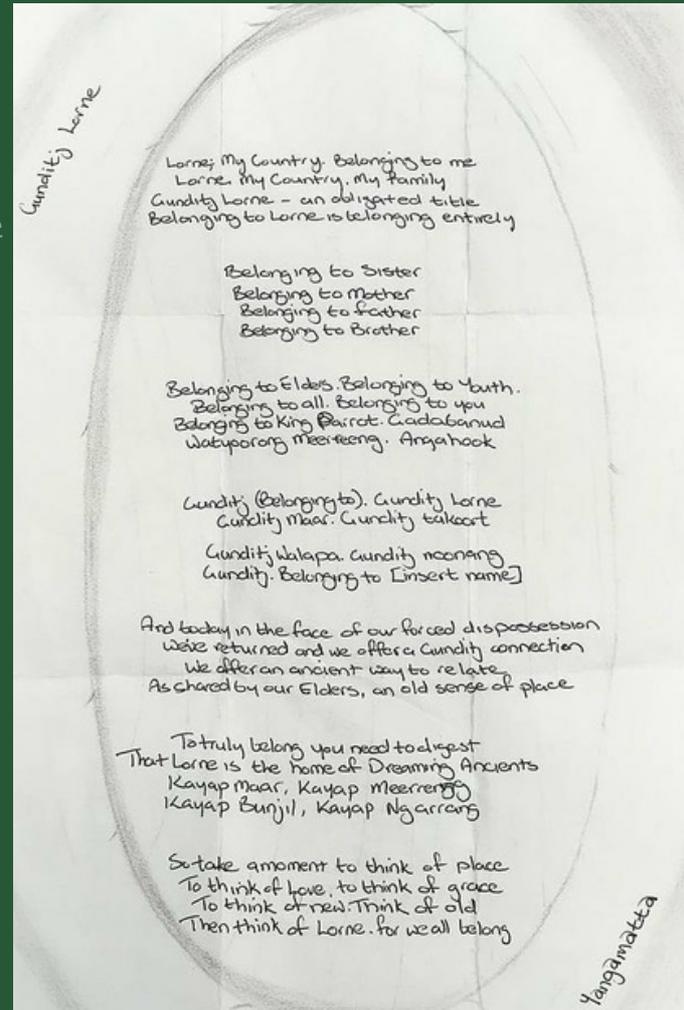
Celebrating Creative Passion & Freedom through Lorne's own summer writing Prize.

In the summer of 2020/2021 The Christos Poetry Prize once again celebrated creative passion and freedom through poems written on the theme of Lorne, the Ocean and the Otway's.

The prize is inspired by the legacy of poet and friend Christos Raskatos, who ran Lorne Fisheries in his flamboyant, generous and poetic style for so many years.

The theme of The Christos Prize 2020/21 was 'Lorne, the Ocean and the Otway's and with his deep passion for country it's no surprise to us that the winner was one of our very own - John Clarke with his submission Gunditj Lorne.

Well done, congratulations and thanks for all the work you do - this will be a gift the community will treasure we're sure!



PROUDLY
 SUPPORTED BY



TICKETS <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/319157156647>



Archie Roach Show - March 2021



Visual Images provided generously by Akasha - Kerryl Leigh Dingey

The first time I saw proud Gunditjmara/Bundjalung man Archie Roach perform, was in Adelaide in 1993. We were both younger men.

The two of us had a lot more hair back then and it was early days in his musical journey, but his story telling and song writing was already incredible. He had fire in his belly and a large crowd of people watching and listening to him intently. He was and remains an amazing performer.

Fast forward to 2021 and on Gulidjan country, Archie played for us at COPACC and WOW JUST WOW!

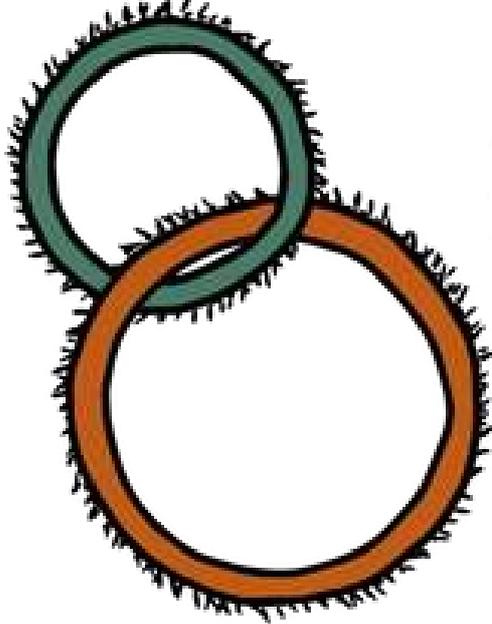
I have seen many many gigs in my years, but this was something very special. The "TELL ME WHY" tour was simple, beautiful, powerful and emotional.

Archie sitting with that fire still inside, was joined by guitarist Stephen Magnusson and Sam Anning on double bass. Together they took the entire theatre on a journey.

9 songs - Each introduced with the perfect story to accompany it. Some of these stories brought laughter and tears from not only us but also his fellow musicians. Every story captivated the crowd, teaching us a little more about Archie's life and his darling Ruby, where he had been on and around this big country of ours, how he had been taken away from his family, the journeys of his life and the man he grew to be.

The night was about celebrations and hardships. Stories from the past, present, future and the songs that grew from those moments. We can learn from these stories and help the healing. The music will remain. It will always be timeless. And Uncle Archie the man will always be celebrated and loved.

- Todd Angus



ANGE JEFFERY



Ange Jeffery is a proud Wiradjuri woman and artist who needs little introduction in these parts, however her talent and growth within the Cultural arts sector is taking right off and we couldn't be any prouder.

Throughout the past year Ange has been busy working through the Blak Design Program at the Koorie Heritage Trust, refining her skills and building upon her portfolio with a very talented bunch of deadly artists brimming with inspiration.

Ange was able to host a number of online activities through the Koorie Heritage Trust where she shared her knowledge and time with younger mob to help make adornments with the help of those they love, amongst all this Ange and her wife managed to also thrive at festivals and markets such as the Off- Grid Living Festival (pictured below) and be sure to catch her as a featured artist at CrossXpollination this year!

Ange has recently launched a new website : <https://angejeffery.com/> and Facebook page of the same name and we encourage you to head on over to it and give it a like and share it through your own networks.



Everyone is looking forward to seeing our Blak Jewellery exhibition in person. In the meantime, we are so pleased to be able to spotlight another artist right here.

Ange Jeffery is a Wiradjuri artist who grew up on Country in Central West NSW.

"Evolving Gorget is a series of pieces representing my Country and Wambuu, also known as the Macquarie River. Their shape and style are derived from gorgets, breastplates, and King and Queen plates. They have been made with natural and manmade materials, using cultural and contemporary techniques. These are memories of time spent on Wambuu during childhood - rain, water, and sunshine." - Ange Jeffery

● Blak Jewellery - Finding Past · Linking Present
4 Sept 2021 - 27 Feb 2022
● Koorie Heritage Trust, Yarra Building Fed Square

<http://ow.ly/dlWl50Ga7Qu>

● IMAGE: Ange Jeffery (Wiradjuri)
Evolving Gorget - Wambuu Bula 2021
Raffia, Brass
Collection of the Artist
Photographer Fred Kroh

● Blak Design is a Koorie Heritage Trust program which is proudly supported by The Ian Potter Foundation, and has been developed in partnership with the National Gallery of Victoria and RMIT University

● Blak Jewellery is proudly supported by Radiant Pavilion, Melbourne's contemporary jewellery and object biennial





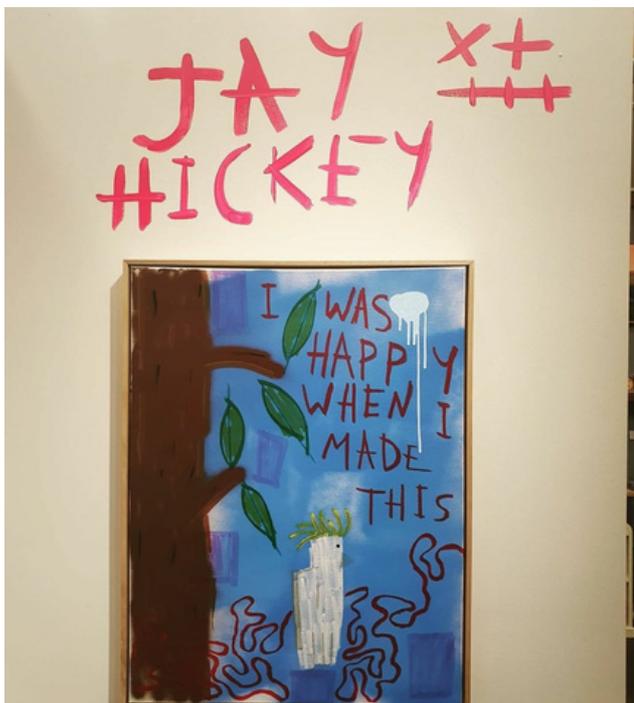
In the Skies Art and Music is a gorgeous little studio, record store and phenomenal gallery tucked in beside the Erskine River on Gadubanud Country in Lorne. In July In the Skies Art and Music hosted Jay Hickey (1989) held his exhibition 'I was happy when I made this' is a First Nations Gulidjan man based on Wadawurrung Country in Lara, Victoria and is an artist concerned with exploring autobiographical content through mediums of paint and text. Influenced by his ancestry, his journal, and favorite songs and poems, Hickey's paintings are as much free-flowing acts of creativity, as they are planned and mapped out. In 2020 Hickey suffered a serious bike accident that saw him forced into readjusting his physical activities during his recovery, thus, adopting an art practice in order to express himself.

Utilising several avenues of self-expression through his chosen medium of paint, Hickey pushes himself outside of his own comfort zones adding text that represents his feelings, experiences, and moods. The making processes for him are as meaningful and important as the outcomes, reflecting acts of healing, self-discovery, and self-ownership.

His first solo exhibition 'I was happy when I made this' was a showcase of his large, and growing, collection of paintings to date. Recovering from surgeries due to his accident, Hickey says his paintings give him purpose and keep him on track when his past behaviour says he should have lost control

-bio written by friend and artist Hayley Millar Baker

FIND THEM: Instagram @jayhickeyart @intheskieslorne

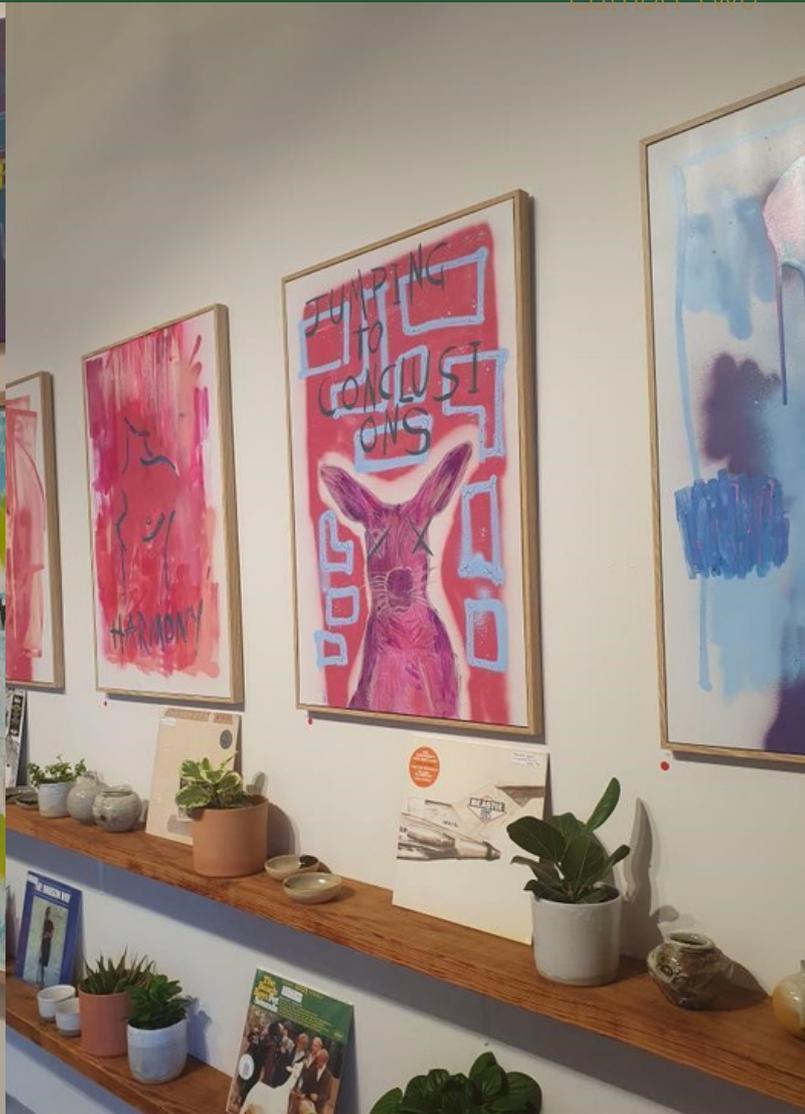
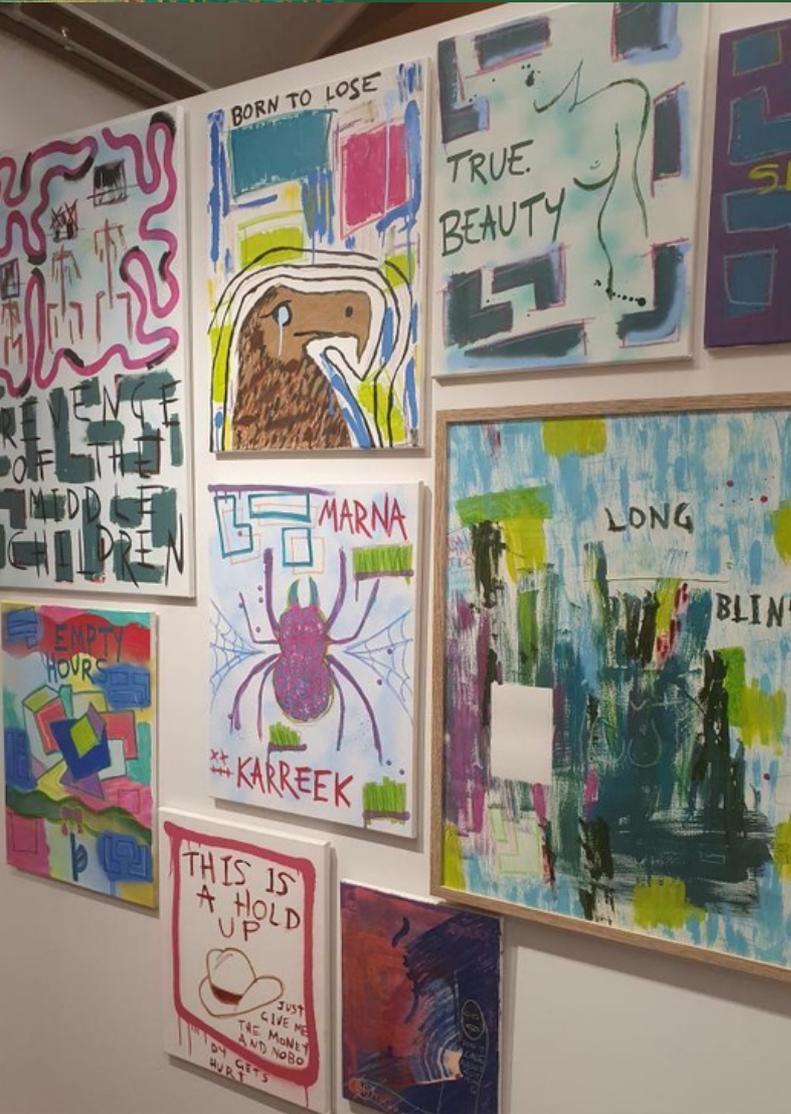


IN THE SKIES ART & MUSIC



Caracaramigen House

The Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place
Community Yarn
Edition Two





KOORIE
HERITAGE TRUST
GNOKAN DANNA MURRA KOR-KI

Congratulations to Gerard Black for winning the Koorie Heritage Trust's 9th Koorie Art Show People's Choice Award for his painting titled "Barranga Makurr Mundal (Sunset fish net)".

People's Choice Award

Gerard Black is a proud Worimi man living on Gulidjan Country. After a 10 year career as a tattoo artist Gerard is now focusing on his painting, drawing and digital art. His work reflects his Indigenous background, as well as storytelling, and his love of nature. Gerard draws on his strong design background from tattooing to produce a unique style of art. This together connects traditional Indigenous art with modern design and medium, bringing them together into the future, creating a new modern style promoting reconciliation and connection.

Winner of the People's Choice Award, 9th Koorie Art Show 2021

GERARD BLACK (Worimi)
"Barranga Makurr Mundal (Sunset fish net)" 2021
Acrylic paint on canvas
950mm x 950mm

Photo by Christian Capurro

<http://ow.ly/XkxmX5010M2j>

THE KOORIE ART SHOW IS SUPPORTED BY
Creative Victoria
Metro Tunnel
G4S Australia & New Zealand
Lendlease
IVAIS
Viva Energy Australia
City of Melbourne
RMIT University
and Precinct Partner
Fed Square



Baiyami Art

**Original Artworks *Digital Artwork*

**Prints Available *Corporate Design*

**Commissions *Large & Small projects*

Contact

Email: Baiyami.art@gmail.com Mobile: 0459978054

Website and Social media pages coming soon.

Contemporary Aboriginal Art

By Gerard Black





THERE WE WERE ALL IN ONE PLACE HAYLEY MILLAR BAKER

'My Nan always says to make sure I'm looking properly at all aspects around the story and to learn exactly what is going on at that time. What's happening in the world at that time? What's everyone doing? For me, its filling in the gaps and understanding what's going on around the story and situation to be able to place it properly.

This process of reflecting in a broader sense and considering multiple aspects is what I do during the learning stages of my projects. Considering the why, then understanding why and then accepting why. Accepting it for what it is and not for your particular feelings about something.

I think that the core of my practice is to be able to story tell in a way that makes whoever is looking at [my work] directly reflect on their own story or try and link it to themselves. I leave it as closed or as open as possible for somebody to connect it to a story in their family or their lives, to be able to empathise, I guess...'

This learning experience will guide you through a series of provocations and actions to help you forge deeper connections to the work of artist Hayley Millar Baker.

Each experience is structured to provide space for personal reflection. While engaging with these experiences, we suggest that you get comfortable with being uncomfortable and remain open to multiple truths and answers.

There will be moments within this learning experience that engage with notions of trauma. Please take your time during these moments and be considerate of your boundaries.

It is recommended that you progress through the reading material and questions sequentially. You may choose to undertake this process individually or within a group – it is up to you to decide how you want to hold, create and share knowledge.

Your can find the learning resource at thie link below.

<https://www.thereewereallinoneplace.com/learning-approach-experience.html>



The Reading Corner

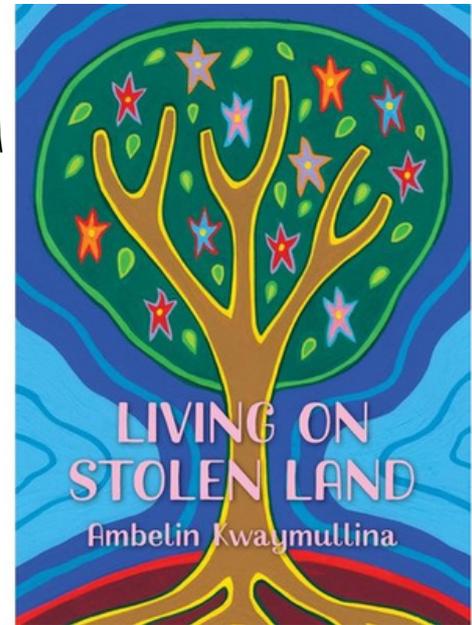
You are on Indigenous lands, swimming in Indigenous waters, looking at Indigenous skies.

There is no part of this place that is not cared for, loved by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander nation.

There are no tree's, Rivers, Hills or Stars that were no and are not someone's kin.

Living on stolen land is a prose-style manifesto about our settler-colonial "present".

At once a call and a guide to action, this beautifully articulated declaration is a must-read for anyone interested in decolonizing Australia.



Did You Know?

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day is a national day dedicated to celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Children's Day is an initiative of SNAICC

- National Voice for our Children, and is celebrated across the country each year on 4 August.

How was Children's Day founded?

On 4 August 1988, the first Children's Day was held against a backdrop of protests by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and supporters during the bicentennial historically year.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders peoples felt a day was needed to celebrate children, to give them confidence and make them feel special and included.

4 August was historically used to celebrate the birthdays of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children of the Stolen-Generations who did not know their birthday.



My name is Denise Charles and I am a Koorie Engagement Support Officer - KESO, employed by the Department of Education and Training and based in the Geelong DET Office - 75 High Street Belmont. I have lived in Geelong since 1988 when I moved there to study education at Deakin University. I am originally from Mooroopna in the Goulburn Valley. My father is Yorta Yorta from Cummeragunga (Reserve) near Barmah on the Murray River, and my mother is Gunai/Kurnai from Gippsland, with ties back to Wotjobaluk country in the Wimmera. We have 6 KESO's in the Barwon Office and we are all attached to primary and secondary schools. I cover the schools to the west of Geelong including Colac, the Otways and down the coast to Apollo Bay and Lavers Hill. I am also available to support Early Years Centres in those areas. KESOs play an integral role in working with families, communities, education and service providers to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners to participate fully in education. We are area based professionals who are members of the local Aboriginal community, and have an understanding of Aboriginal culture and the history of our community. We provide advice to schools and Early Years Centers about culturally inclusive learning environments for Koorie students. We also support schools and Early Years Centers with the co-ordination of services to support the engagement and improved outcomes for Koorie children and young people. We support students and families through transitions across all learning stages where appropriate - into early years, primary, secondary and further education. I strongly believe that an education is one of the most important things we can give our children - with education come choice, with choice comes empowerment. One of my favorite quotes is from Nelson Mandela - 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world'. Please contact me if you would like to discuss anything to do with your child's education, I would love to catch up for a chat and a coffee.

My contact details are: Tel: 52155172 Mobile: 0457 522 637 Email: charles.denise.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

Marrung - Aboriginal Education Plan 2016-2026

A strategy to ensure that all Koorie Victorians achieve their learning aspirations and realise the full benefits of the Education State reforms across early childhood, schools and further education.



KOORIE SUPPORT at SW TAFE COLAC

South West TAFE's Koorie Liaison Officers (KLO's) and Koorie Student Support Officers (KSSO's) provide on-going support assistance to Indigenous students at SWTAFE.

Our 'Koorie Team' can:

- Help with enquiries about courses and enrolment process
- Assist when looking at study and course options
- Develop support plans
- Provide in-class support & tutoring
- Help refer to other in-house and community based services
- Engage and liaise with community organisations
- Identify education needs within the Community
- Assist with Abstudy, or Scholarship applications
- Liaise with teaching and support staff on Students behalf
- Orientation to TAFE services, wellbeing, skills & jobs
- Liaise with Skills & Jobs Centre on Students behalf
- Advocate for Cultural Safety, training and awareness

KLO'S & KSSO'S OPERATING FROM ALL CAMPUSES

FEE FREE COURSES* (2022):

- Horticulture*
- Training & Assessment*
- Licence to operate a forklift truck*
- Prepare to work safely in the construction industry*
- Trades*
- Traffic Management Skill Set*
- Building & Construction*
- Children's Services (Education Support)*
- Food & Hospitality*
- Information Technology*
- Nursing, Health & Community Services*

FEE FREE*

Call Charmaine for more information on FEE FREE* courses

**Eligibility, course availability, terms & conditions apply. Not all fee free courses are available in Colac and may operate from Warrnambool, Portland, Sherwood Park (Warrnambool) or Hamilton Campuses. Call for more information.*

STUDY IN COLAC

COLAC COURSES:

- Agriculture
- Horticulture
- Arts
- Early Childhood Education
- VCAL
- Disability
- Training & Assessment
- Community Services
- Individual Support



CHARMAINE HOPGOOD

0422 995 764

Koorie Liaison Officer

E: Charmaine.hopgood@swtafe.edu.au



CONGRATULATIONS TARA!!!



Indigenous woman, Tara Roe was the successful and well deserved recipient of the Mt. Gellibrand Scholarship at SWTAFE Colac.

Tara is currently studying Cert IV in Disability at SWATFE and received a \$2,000 scholarship prize which she is hoping to use to purchase a laptop to further her studies.

Well done Tara!!



CALLING ALL INDIGENOUS ARTISTS !!!

South West TAFE are looking for expressions of interest from any local Indigenous Artists who may wish to be contacted for upcoming art projects within SWTAFE.

All art media types welcome.

Contact Charmaine at SWTAFE for more information or to register your interest.

CHARMAINE
KOORIE LIAISON OFFICER
0422 995 764



How can 13YARN help me?

13 YARN

If you're reading this, you might be wondering how 13YARN can help you.

As the first national support line for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in crisis, 13YARN has been developed to provide a confidential, culturally safe space to yarn about your needs, worries or concerns.

A place where you know you will be connected to another Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person who will understand where you are coming from and value knowing HOWV to listen, without judgement or shame.

So if you, or someone you know, are feeling worried or no good, we encourage you to connect with 13YARN on 13 92 76 (24 hours/7 days) and talk with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter today.



Koorie Kids Shine at Kindergarten

**15 hours a week FREE kindergarten
is available for your child.**



Education
and Training



ENROL YOUR CHILD TODAY, IT'S FREE!

At kindergarten, your child will make new friends, enjoy fun activities and get ready for school.

Your child will:

- learn through play, art, music and dance
- learn to express themselves in a safe, inclusive and caring environment
- build the skills and confidence to prepare them for school

Kindergarten programs have a qualified teacher and run for 15 hours per week. All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who turn 3 or 4 years old by 30 April, can attend kindergarten for 15 hours per week for free through the Early Start Kindergarten grant.

For more information visit:
www.education.vic.gov.au/kindergarten



BARWON SOUTH WEST JUSTICE UPDATE

WITH ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER JORDYN FLAGG
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
BARWON SOUTH WEST REGION
MOBILE: 0417 112 779



New Aboriginal Youth Justice Strategy

We are excited to announce that the Wirkara Kulpa document is now able to be accessed online. For the Wirkara Kulpa website, please see the link below:

<https://www.aboriginaljustice.vic.gov.au/Aboriginal-youth-justice-strategy>

Fee increase for Births, Deaths and Marriages

The Victorian Government has increased the fee for a legal certificate in the Births, Deaths and Marriages (Fees) Regulations. Increase to legal certificate fee from 1 March 2022

After consultation with a diverse range of stakeholders, the Victorian Government has decided to increase the fee for a legal certificate. This includes the fee for a: • birth certificate • death certificate • marriage certificate.

	Current Fee	Fee from March 2022
Fee for a legal certificate	\$34.30 in 2021-22 (2.28 fee units)	\$51.40 in 2021-22 (3.42 fee units)

The fee increase will enable sustainable funding for BDM and improve our service delivery for community in the long run. More information is on Engage Victoria, including the Statement of Reasons with responses to feedback.

Fees and fee waiver policy

We understand that fees can have an impact – further information about fees is available on our website. Our fee waiver policy for people experiencing financial hardship will continue to apply.

Mob can access certificates for free if they meet the following criteria:

Circumstance	Evidence you must attach
You are on a low income	Certified copy of your current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centrelink health care card, or • Pension concession card, or • Disability Support Pension Card
You are a survivor of family violence	A letter on official letterhead confirming these details, from either a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government agency, or • Recognised community or outreach organisation

Aboriginal prisoners born in Victoria can also access their birth certificates for free. You can contact us at bdm.koori@justice.vic.gov.au, and learn more about our fee waiver policy.

Spent Convictions Act

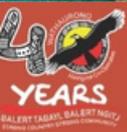
The Spent Convictions Act 2021 provides rules about when a person's criminal history can be disclosed (revealed). The majority of the Act started on 1 December 2021.

The Act will remove the unfair barriers faced by Victorians who previously committed an offence but have since demonstrated their ability to rehabilitate.

For some kinds of convictions, if a person does not reoffend again for a period of time, disclosure will be protected. When this happens, the conviction is described as being 'spent'.

This means: • spent convictions will not show up on a police record check (unless an exemption applies) • a person cannot be asked to disclose information about their spent conviction, except in a small number of circumstances where another law permits the question • a person does not have to disclose they have a criminal record if their only convictions are spent, except in circumstances where another law says that the spent convictions scheme does not apply.

Discrimination because of a spent conviction is also prohibited because of changes to the Equal Opportunity Act 2010.



GOT UNPAID FINES?

You might be eligible for the Work and Development Permit scheme (WDP).

The Work and Development permit scheme (WDP) provides a non-financial way for people to clear their unpaid fines, with the support of a sponsor organisation.

Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative is an accredited sponsor under the WDP. By engaging in eligible programs & services with Wathaurong, you could reduce or clear your fine debt.

Contact Local Justice Worker Sandra Manning on 0429 137 912 to find out more or sign up.

AM I ELIGIBLE?



You are eligible for a WDP if you:

- have a mental or intellectual disability, disorder or illness
- have an addiction to drugs, alcohol or a volatile substance
- are experiencing homelessness
- are a victim of family violence
- are experiencing acute financial hardships



WORK OFF RATES

Activities that you can undertake as part of a WDP and the rates that you can pay off fines include:

\$49.57 per hour

- unpaid work
- courses - including educational, vocational or life skills courses
- counselling, including financial counselling
- mentoring (if you are under 25 years of age)

\$1,090.45 per month

- treatment by a doctor, nurse or psychologist
- drug or alcohol counselling



Fines Day

WHEN
Last Wednesday of every Month

WHERE

4 Miller Street,
Caracaramigen House The Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place

Danny Chatfield is our SALO for the Barwon South West region and will be visiting the to help assist/discuss fines and warrants with the community, feel free to come along and have a yarn.

GATHERING PLACE-TIMES 2.00PM-3.00PM



Covid permitting -
Give Danny a call
on 0439 529 345



ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY JUSTICE PANEL



Currently recruiting Aboriginal volunteers to be part of the local ACJP panel in Geelong, Corio, Lara, Colac, Torquay and Winchelsea areas.

What is ACJP?

Aboriginal Community Justice Panels is a 24/7 face to face welfare service offered to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that have been taken into police custody throughout Victoria to insure their welfare and safety. ACJP was established in 1988 in response to the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

We are currently looking for local community members in the locations above to be part of the on-call volunteers for the local ACJP.

Volunteer's requirements

- Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander
- Current Victorian Drivers License
- Hold a current working with children check
- Covid 19 vaccinated

For more information or to express your interest please contact Chris Harrison ACJP Statewide Chairperson via mail charrison@vals.org.au or Wathaurong Co-Op via email ACJP@wathaurong.org.au



REMINDER

You can still leave home to escape family violence, even through lockdown.



The Orange Door recognises that family violence is not and has never been a part of Aboriginal culture. People who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander can choose to be supported by an Aboriginal worker at The Orange Door or be referred to an Aboriginal service.

The Orange Door has an Aboriginal Team and they work with local Aboriginal services and communities to meet the needs of families and support self-determination.

The Orange Door is a free service for adults, children and young people who are experiencing or have experienced family violence and families who need extra support with the care of children.

You should contact The Orange Door if:

- someone close to you is hurting you, controlling you or making you feel afraid - such as your partner, family member, carer or parent(s)
- you are a child or young person who doesn't have what you need to be OK
- you are worried about the safety of a friend or family member
- you need more support with the care of children, e.g. due to money issues, illness, addiction, grief, isolation or conflict
- you are worried about the safety of a child or young person
- you need help to change your behaviour and stop using violence in your relationships

Workers at The Orange Door also know that people continue to be affected by family violence long after the violence stops. If you have experienced family violence in the past and would like help, it's available at the Orange Door.

Contact: Colac/Corangamite Access Point 03 5232 5500

In an emergency please call 000



The Orange Door welcomes people of any age, gender, sex, sexuality, culture, religion and ability. They acknowledge that they are on Aboriginal land and pay our respect to Elders past, present and future.

For more information please go to : <https://orangedoor.vic.gov.au/>

If you need immediate help please call 000



The printing of this edition was made possible with the support of Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative



COLAC MOB

DO YOU TAKE MEDICATION?

Did you know not all medications work the same in everyone and what works in someone else may not work in you and in fact can sometimes make you feel worse?

Do you want to know more about your medication?

- WHAT ARE THEY FOR?
- DO THEY GO TOGETHER?
- DO YOU THINK YOU TAKE TOO MANY MEDICINES?
- DO YOUR MEDICINES MAKE YOU FEEL SICK?
- COULD YOU BE HAVING SIDE EFFECTS?
- WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T TAKE YOUR MEDICATIONS?
- ARE THE BRANDS ALL THE SAME?

Come and have a yarn with our pharmacist Pene to make sure your medications are working right for you. She can then work with your doctor to ensure you are getting the best results.

You can chat to her at the Youth Health Hub on Mondays, The Gathering Place, or she can come to your house. To make an appointment, contact Ebony Hickey on 0449 948 475 or Wathaurong Health Service 5277 2038



CARACARAMIGEN - The Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place



HOW TO USE TELEHEALTH AT WATHAURONG

1 Call (03) 5277 2038



Reception staff will take your details and determine if a Telehealth appointment is right for you, or make a physical appointment if necessary

2



3 A doctor will call you at the scheduled time for your Telehealth appointment



Telehealth appointments are available for most non-urgent queries or conditions for Wathaurong community members in Colac and Geelong

CALL (03) 5277 2038 TO BOOK YOUR TELEHEALTH APPOINTMENT

HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Health Assessments should be completed by Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people of all ages once a year and are FREE. Plus, once your Health Assessment is completed, you can choose from a range of deadly merchandise - a backpack, a scarf, a beanie, or a \$25 Woolworths gift card.

Call Wathaurong Health Service on 5277 2038 to book your Health Assessment!

