



# WATHAURONG ABORIGINAL CO-OPERATIVE

*Community Newsletter*

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**Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative**

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Have you visited our new Geelong West location? Read more on page 12!

## *Calendar of upcoming events*

### **DECEMBER 2022**

5th - Geelong Cats Premiership Cup visit  
10th - Adventure Park Community Day  
20th - Aunties & Uncles Christmas Lunch (see page 26)  
20th - Wathaurong Community Christmas Party (see page 27)  
21st - Last day Wathaurong offices open before Christmas Closure

### **JANUARY 2023**

4th - Wathaurong offices re-open  
4th - Stand Up paddleboarding with Surfing Victoria (see page 28)  
6th - Surfing with Surfing Victoria (see page 29)  
26th - Day of Mourning

*For full details of our school holiday program activities running in January 2023, see page 30 of this newsletter*



Join our socials!  
[@wathaurong](https://www.facebook.com/wathaurong)



# BOARD & CEO UPDATE

The Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative (Wathaurong) Board of Directors wish to acknowledge the country that we work and live on is and has always been Wathaurong Country. Wathaurong provides supports to our Community living on Wathaurong, Gulidjan and Gadabanud country. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and to all Aboriginal people on Country who have contributed to the diverse Aboriginal Cultural Society we have today.

It has been another very busy year and as we get close to Christmas and New Year break, we would like to acknowledge all our staff that have faced challenges working through COVID but continued to go above and beyond for our Community. To our Community we thank you for helping shape the direction of the organisation with a clear focus on reconnecting with many Community events held over 2022 and many more to come in 2023. Some of the important work that has been happening the past few months are highlighted below.

## **RULEBOOK REFRESH & COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

Wathaurong has been committed to working with our Community to review and refresh our Rulebook. In October 2022, we commenced our first Community meeting

to discuss the rulebook refresh project and outlined the framework for this review. We held our first Community workshop at our November Community meeting, and we received some great feedback from Community.

To ensure that as many Wathaurong members as possible have the opportunity to contribute to this important project, we intend to run further Community meetings in January / February 2023. Over the Christmas period we will be seeking further feedback via online survey's, further information will be sent out to members via email and put on our social media platforms. It is very important we get Communities feedback on the rulebook refresh project, so we can better reflect our Community's ongoing values and needs. If you have any feedback to provide and aren't able to attend the meetings, please reach out to Wathaurong staff to have a yarn.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Wathaurong has written to Consumer Affairs Victoria to request an extension to delay our 2021/2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) as we would like to complete the rulebook refresh project as this has been a priority of the Boards and our Community. It is expected that we will host our AGM in February/March 2023. Further details on the date, location and information about vacant Board positions and nominations will be sent by mail to members in the new year.

# BOARD & CEO UPDATE

## **FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

With many exciting infrastructure projects in the works, we were thrilled to be able to announce in September that Wathaurong was successful in receiving a grant through the Victorian State Government Aboriginal Infrastructure Fund to redevelop our Forster Street site and create a Healing Spirit Youth Hub. We were granted \$1.6m from this round of funding, which along with a \$647k investment from the Victorian Health Building Authority will allow us to bring this project to life. The future site will provide a culturally safe gathering place to enable young people to connect and engage with each other on a day-to-day basis to gather and yarn, participate in cultural activities, strengthen life skills, receive support and guidance from a range of services via outreach and/or referral. You can read more on the latest of Forster Street in our Infrastructure Update in this newsletter.

## **COMMUNITY UPDATES**

With our Community Strengthening Team now in full swing, it has been fantastic to see so many of our community coming back together for so many different events. In the past few months alone, we have had multiple community dinners, a Rainbow Mob BBQ, a community breakfast and smoking ceremony, a youth camp with other Western District ACCOs, activities for Indigenous Literacy Day and we were finally able to participate in the VACSAL Senior Football Carnival. Unfortunately, due to the flooding in the

Shepparton region, the basketball carnival planned for November was postponed until March next year. Our thoughts are with all the mob up Shepparton way, and our Community Strengthening Team has also been working with VAHS to get donations to that community as needed.

## **COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS**

We love celebrating our mob and have so many deadly community members doing amazing things. You can read all about our deadly junior rugby stars, an AFL Barwon best and fairest winner, budding actors and even a trip to New York Fashion Week in this newsletter. We would love to hear more about your achievements, so if you know someone who is doing some deadly things, please get in touch with us and let us know so we can all celebrate our mob's successes.

## **CHRISTMAS CLOSURE DATES**

As we move towards the end of 2022, our staff will be taking a well-earned break over the Christmas/New Year period ready to return refreshed in 2023. Our final day of operation for 2022 will be Wednesday 21st December, with all offices closed from Thursday 22nd December. We will re-open in 2023 on Wednesday 4th January. A list of emergency service numbers that can be accessed during our closure period can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Nyatne (thanks)

Wathaurong Board

# STAFF UPDATES

## WELCOME NEW STAFF

Welcome to some of our newest staff members who have joined us over the past few months:

- Chloe Jackson -GP Registrar
- Elyssia Graham - Family Services Caseworker
- Alllison Olbrich - Cleaner (Colac)
- Lyndon Perry - Disability Support Worker
- Paul (PJ) Graham - Kinship Case Worker
- Ella Devery - Medical Receptionist
- Sheree Grootveld - Disability Support Worker
- Cameron Dodson - Finance Manager
- Valinda Dimovski - Medical Receptionist
- Sara Shanahan - Mental Health Intake Worker
- Dale Wiseman - Towards Home Plus Worker
- Scott Gorringe - Workforce Mentor & Leadership Lead
- Denise Sweet - Bringing Them Home Worker
- Rachael Topp - Foster Care Recruitment
- Nicole McFadyen - Disability Support Worker
- Lilian Kitete - Support Coordinator
- Alicia Gregory - Disability Support Worker
- Benjamin Silva - Active Community Coordinator
- Rebecca Smallwood - Out of Home Care Case Worker
- Shurooq Al Barhi - Aboriginal Hub Practitioner, The Orange Door

## FAREWELLS

Sending our best wishes to staff who have left Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative in the past few months to take up other opportunities, including:

- Jessica McDonald (Aboriginal Health Practitioner)
- Nick Kwashi (Disability Support Worker)
- Kathryn Dahm (Disability Support Worker)
- Mikayla Anderson (First Supports Case Worker)
- Tyler Cole-Frost (Navigator Cultural Worker)
- Kiralee Hogema (Aboriginal Health Practitioner)
- Dominic Gordon (HR Manager)
- Adrian Huddart (AOD Worker)
- Rachel Oxford (Housing Manager)
- Esteban Santos (Therapeutic Out of Home Care)
- Dr Sourav Saha (General Practitioner)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Are you or someone you know looking for a job? We have a number of job vacancies at Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative, ranging from casual to full time. There are also traineeships available. Check out the Careers section on our website at <https://www.wathaurong.org.au/careers-with-us/>

Or, you can send an email to [hr@wathaurong.org.au](mailto:hr@wathaurong.org.au) with your details so we can let you know when opportunities are listed.



# AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

## DEADLY RUGBY SUPERSTARS

### U11 CHAMPIONS!

Four of our Deadly young community members – Kieran Wellington, Izayah Maka, Connor Van Parreren and Aquilar Luki clinched the minor premiership for their team this year, narrowly losing in the Rugby Vic Under 11s Grand Final. A great season!



### PACIFIC CUP

The finals of the Pacific Cup was held in Melbourne on Saturday October 22nd, with three of Wathaurong's community kids representing - Izayah Maka (Tonga), Kieran Wellington (New Zealand) and Lewis Brinkworth (Australia).

### SPRING 7s U12 CHAMPIONS

Izayah Maka, Kieran Wellington and Aquilar Luki recently competed in and WON the Rugby Victoria 'Be Woke Be Anti-Racist Sevens Rugby Tournament' in Shepparton! WELL DONE!



### REPRESENTATIVE RUGBY

Lewis Brinkworth was selected for two representative teams this year. In July he was part of the Vic Rugby U14 State Team who won the Southern States Champion in Canberra. Later this month Lewis will travel to Queensland with the Samoan Team to participate in the Pacific Youth Rugby Festival!



# AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

## CAITLIN CHARLES KICKING GOALS

Caitlin Charles capped off an incredible year on the football field with two Best & Fairest trophies in the Under 18 Division 1 Women's competition. First winning her club Best & Fairest trophy for the Geelong West Giants, Caitlin went on to poll the highest votes across the whole league and winning the AFL Barwon Under 18 Division 1 Best & Fairest award. Congratulations Caitlin!



## DAVE MCLACHLAN A MASTER ON THE FOOTY OVAL

He's not quite in the Under 18 age group anymore, but Dave "Boobie" McLachlan is still showing the young ones how it's done on the footy field! After winning the Geelong Masters premiership in September, Dave was named to the Vic Metro side that would compete in the AFL Masters Nationals in Adelaide. Dave's Vic Metro team ended up winning the Over 55s Division 1 Championship! Congratulations to Dave and the Vic Metro team.



## DEADLY DESIGNS AT NEW YORK FASHION WEEK

Local artist Lowell Hunter (Salty One Here) has been continuing his incredible success, this year being invited to New York Fashion Week to collaborate with Bobbi Lockyer and her fashion label Gantharri.

Lowey and Bobbi collaborated on an art piece which was then incorporated into the clothing designs that were on display on a rooftop in Brooklyn for NYFW, with some absolutely stunning creations.





# AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

## WATHAURONG COMMUNITY MEMBERS SHINE AT FRINGE FESTIVAL

Congratulations to Wathaurong community Elders Aunty Nellie Flagg and Uncle Glenn Shea for their involvement in the successful Melbourne Fringe Festival play *The Whisper*, a moving story about a Ngarrindjeri family trying to remain together in the 1940s, after a tip off causes them to flee their home and Country to avoid the forced removal of their children.

Called 'a powerful new play' by *The Age* newspaper, *The Whisper* is written and directed by 21-year-old Wamba Wamba and Scottish-Australian playwright Brodie Murray. It is a re-imagined telling of the story of his own family, who made the 400-kilometre 12-month journey from Bordertown South Australia to Swan Hill Victoria on horse and cart, to escape what came to be the intense and ongoing trauma of stolen generation families.

The script is based largely on interviews with Murray's own grandmother Lorraine, who Murray has noted that despite the very real threat to the family's unity and survival, she says that as a child the adventure was one of the best times of her life. Along the way, the travellers built comradery with many people they met who helped and hid them, including some white people.

Herself a Wamba Wamba woman, this was Aunty Nellie's theatre debut, having previously done other work in the arts. Providing diversion from a period of *Sorry Business*, Aunty Nellie has enjoyed her new role as Nan Rose, with her performance being very well received.

Introducing Aunty Nellie to the production was Ngarrindjeri and Wathaurong playwright, director and actor Uncle Glenn Shea. Uncle Glenn was instrumental in the development of *The Whisper* as he used his vast theatrical experience to mentor the young playwright Murray, and to help mould the writing and drafting of the script. Appreciatively, Murray has publicly acknowledged his gratefulness for this support.

It is great to see Wathaurong community members achieving and receiving well deserved accolades that stem from their inner strengths and talents – well done to Aunty Nellie and Uncle Glenn, and we look forward to your next projects.



# AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

## UNCLE GLENN SHEA - AN INDIGENOUS TRILOGY PERFORMANCE

Across the month of November, Uncle Glenn Shea's powerful Indigenous Trilogy was performed live at the La Mama Theatre in Carlton. Wathaurong purchased tickets for community to go and see the performance live, and we also hosted a live stream event at our Forster Street hub which sparked many conversations. Congratulations to Uncle Glenn on such a brilliant and deadly performance.

The first play in the trilogy, *Three Magpies Perched in a Tree*, arose from Shea's time at the front line of Indigenous youth justice, working with children "who are disconnected and who came face to face with the criminal justice system". Glenn Shea plays an avuncular Aboriginal social worker, for whom only an escape to Country offers respite from psychologically punishing work.

Parts 2 and 3 of An Indigenous Trilogy represent a change from ruminative, free-flowing monodrama into something that feels drawn towards, and is to some extent limited by, the kind of Oz gothic that's having its international moment in the sun.

In *Masterpiece*, we meet former social worker Peter (Glenn Shea), hiding from his past in the desert. He has withdrawn from the world and become a celebrated Indigenous artist – at ease with both European and Aboriginal painting traditions – when his solitude is intruded upon by Hope (Lucy Payne).



The two develop a tentative rapport, complicated when Peter tries to paint Hope's portrait while she sleeps. Understandably, she flinches at being cast as an unconscious muse, and as they come to understand one another better, it becomes clear Hope has braved the forbidding desert to escape domestic violence. Her vicious and controlling partner (Syd Brisbane) is hunting her down, and a violent confrontation seems inevitable.

Some Secrets Should Be Kept Secret expands the canvas further, the horror telescoping back to Peter's traumatic past as a member of the stolen generations. With the death of their adoptive mother, Peter and his foster siblings Camille (Payne) and Matthew (Brodie Murray) – a sex worker and a gay man about to get married, respectively – return home to face festering family secrets.

Through both desert road trip and claustrophobic ghost story, the cruelty and depravity inflicted upon them in childhood is revealed. Aboriginal language and ceremony haunt the eerie reunion, as Peter confronts the desperate deed he committed as a child.

Playwright Shea – himself a member of the stolen generations – refuses to turn away from the grim toll of historical injustice and lays bare a legacy of trauma, while setting sights firmly on a new day.



# WATHAURONG GLASS

## ST PAULS CATHEDRAL



Wathaurong Glass has recently completed installation of 6 panels at St Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne.

The panels were designed by Glenn Loughrey, a Wiradjuri man who was appointed as St Paul's first Indigenous canon in 2021.

Loughrey designed the panels, which are installed at the entrance to the cathedral, to depict the traditional lands on

which the cathedral stands. Loughrey said he wanted to prompt people to think more deeply about where and what they were standing on when they entered the building, because "you have to remember you're walking still on Wurundjeri country".

The panels also include an image of the wedge-tailed eagle Bunjil, the creator spirit for the people of the Kulin nation.

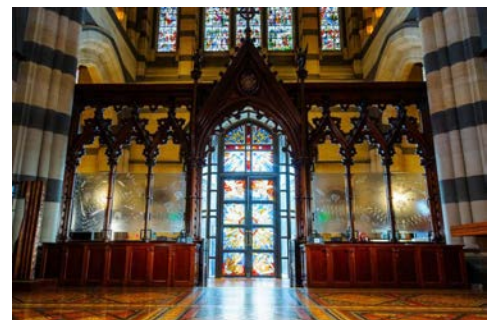


Cathedral authorities are hopeful the artwork will not only get people thinking about the traditional lands on which the building is situated, but also about the role of Indigenous Australians in the church and society.

St Paul's Cathedral now also has a second Aboriginal canon in their church, with the reverend canon Helen Dwyer being appointed this year.

Wathaurong Glass has a range of standard acknowledgement plaques for sale as well as being able to design custom plaques and panels. See the website or call the team for more information.

[www.wathaurongglass.com.au](http://www.wathaurongglass.com.au)



**Wathaurong Glass & Arts**

16 Rodney Road, North Geelong, 3215

Ph: (03) 5272 2881

Email: [info@wathaurongglass.com.au](mailto:info@wathaurongglass.com.au)

## Wathaurong Playgroups



At Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-Op  
Children Services building  
62 Morgan Street, North Geelong

### Kitjarra Booboop

Playgroup for babies 0 - 12 months  
Every Tuesday 10.30am till 12pm



Milla Milla Playgroup  
Every Thursday and Friday  
11am till 1pm



Lunch provided and transport available for Milla Milla Playgroup



### Why come to Playgroup:

Children learn and develop through  
play and social interaction.

Playgroup also provide an opportunity for  
children to interact with other children and families  
in the community.



Playgroup provides a culturally safe space where  
children have the opportunity to  
strengthen their identity through play  
and other cultural activities.



Playgroup is a great way for adults to  
meet other families in the community.



For more information on our Playgroup Sessions  
please call or e-mail **Kristi Watts**

52770372 - 0419698264

Kristi.Watts@wathaurong.org.au





# CHILDREN'S SERVICES



## Koorie Preschool Assistant



(KPSA)

The KPSA supports Koorie families in the Wathaurong community to enrol and engage in kindergarten, while also supporting kindergartens to provide a culturally safe space and support the implementation of cultural activities in day-to-day practice!



For all your Kinder inquiries, contact:

Hayley Boehm – KPSA Wathaurong

0427820750

[Hayley.Boehm@wathaurong.org.au](mailto:Hayley.Boehm@wathaurong.org.au)





# HEALTH SERVICES



*Pictured: Dr Eimir, Piper, Lynne, Dr Marg and Hope  
from our team at Geelong West*

Did you know our visiting Paediatric clinic is now seeing community members from our Albert St location every Tuesday?

If you have an appointment with our Paediatric Team, you'll be visiting us at 10-12 Albert St, Geelong West on Tuesdays.

To find out more or book an appointment call our reception team on 5277 0044.

Each year, our Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative community is supported at Christmas time through various donations of generous organisations and individuals - including as recipients of donations made through the Bethany Group - Community Support and Kindergarten Services Geelong Giving Tree Appeal.

The Geelong Giving Tree Appeal is on now until December 6th - anyone can make a donation of any amount, that will go towards supporting families all across the Geelong region, including our local Wathaurong families.

If you are in a position to donate this year, please consider donating to the Geelong Giving Tree Appeal using the link below, or scanning the QR code.

[www.geelonggivingtree.com.au](http://www.geelonggivingtree.com.au)



# HEALTH SERVICES

## Coronavirus hotline

What we can do if you need urgent help



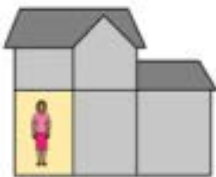
### If you test positive on a rapid antigen test

You **must** report your result. Please call the hotline.



### If you need food

We can help you get support if **no** friends or family can assist.



### If you need a safe place to stay

We can help you isolate with COVID-19.



### Call 1800 675 398

We can help you from 8 am to 8 pm every day.



Press 0 to speak to someone in another language.



Use the National Relay Service if you need help to speak or listen.

[nrschat.nrscall.gov.au/nrs/internetrelay](https://nrschat.nrscall.gov.au/nrs/internetrelay)

This Easy English poster was created by Scope (Aust) Ltd. in August 2022 using Picture Communication Symbols (PCS). PCS is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox, LLC. All rights reserved. Used with permission. This poster must not be sold to third parties. The images must not be reused without permission.



Families,  
Fairness  
and Housing





# BALERT CARE CONNECTIONS

"NDIS helps me  
achieve living  
independently  
with ease."

- Jenny

*Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative NDIS client*

<https://www.ndis.gov.au>

**Contact us today to find  
out how the NDIS could  
help support you.**

**[bcc@wathaurong.org.au](mailto:bcc@wathaurong.org.au)**

**Wathaurong Balert Care Connections: 52929800**  
**NDIS Quality and Safeguard Commission: 1800 035 544**  
**NDIS: 1800 800 110**  
**Rights, Information & Advocacy Centre: 5222 5499**  
**Complaints and feedback: 1800 800 110**





# BALERT CARE CONNECTIONS



Help at home for older people



"My Aged Care is  
culturally appropriate."  
-Aunty Lyn

*Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative My Aged Care client*

**Contact us today to find out how My Aged Care can help support you**

**[bcc@wathaurong.org.au](mailto:bcc@wathaurong.org.au)**

**Wathaurong Balert Care Connections: 52929800**

**My Aged Care Quality and Safeguard Commission: 1800 951 822**

**My Aged Care: 1800 200 422**

**Elder Abuse Number: 4324 5611**

**OPAN Advocacy: 1800 700 600 or [www.opan.org.au](http://www.opan.org.au)**



# INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

## FORSTER STREET

In September 2022, we made the exciting announcement that we have received a \$1.6m investment from the State Government of Victoria to re-develop our Forster Street site into a Healing Spirit Youth Hub.

While we had hoped to be able to have a grand opening in NAIDOC Week 2023, the project has been slightly delayed with the impact of ongoing delays in the construction industry.

A Town Planning submission has been lodged with Council and will soon be advertised for public feedback as per standard planning and development requirements. Town Planning approval expected by December 2022. From there, the expected timeline is:

- Construction documentation, stakeholder consultation and building permits - Jan/Feb 2023
- Construction to commence March 2023 through to November 2023 (expected timeframe 6-9 months for actual construction)

We will keep community members updated with the detailed design documentation and construction timeline, so you are well aware of any impact on use of the existing site.

*(Images below are concept design only)*



## COLAC GATHERING PLACE

We are yet to secure a new location for the Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place, however Merit Architects have been engaged to design options for a future gathering space in Colac.

We are working through the costs of redevelopment options and will share further information with community in the coming months.



# INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

## MORGAN STREET

After some delays to the concept design process, we have recently completed value management workshops and budget realignment process with Woods Bagot, and we are back on track!

The Board have approved a total overall project budget of \$50 million. That consists of \$40 million for the main hub site and an additional \$10 million for the future early years space.

Woods Bagot (the appointed architects) are currently tweaking the concept designs to align to the budget, new site access option and have presented the first re-work of these to our project team.

We are working towards having the revised concept designs and project cost plan approved by the Board end Nov/early December. We look forward to sharing the revised concepts with community in the near future.

We are working towards having the revised concept designs and project cost plan approved by the Board end Nov/early December. We look forward to sharing the revised concepts with community in the near future.

Following this, the project will proceed to Town Planning submission to Council in early 2023 and remaining project phases and timeline will be confirmed following this. This includes the detailed design phase where community will be engaged to work through the finer detailed design of the future site.

After many years of negotiation, the City of Greater Geelong council has agreed to sell/transfer the 'triangle grass site' near the top carpark of the Co-op, where our future Early Years Centre will be built. However, it is subject to a complex transfer process and

the first step is for Council to understand their legal obligations in relation to any contamination/former landfill issues on the site. Council has engaged Tetra Tech Coffey to provide them advice over the next 2 months. The advice will not include actual soil/contamination testing at this point, however, will help Council to understand the next steps and requirements for testing/reports to be completed during the sale/transfer of land process. Community will be kept informed of this process.

While the process of securing the site continues, the Early Years and Strategic Policy Teams are working through a series of visioning workshops and site visits to determine the operating model for the future Early Years Centre. Following these processes, we will look at the infrastructure design in the new year.

*The images shown are updated draft concepts as of October 2022. These are concept images only and final designs will be shared with community when available.*



*The team have also been working on developing a funding prospectus document that will be the key driver in raising the funds required to achieve the project! We will share this with community and hope that you can all support us in spreading the word.*

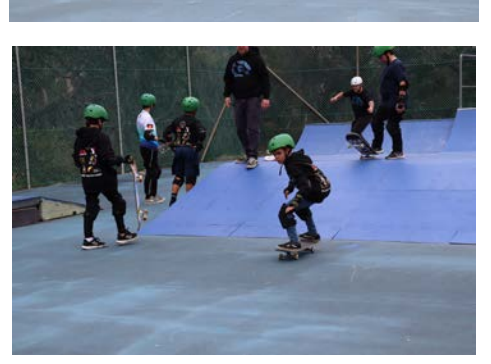


# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## KOORIE YOUTH CAMP

In the September school holidays, our Wathaurong community kids got a chance to spend some time with kids from Gunditmara Aboriginal Co-operative, Windamara Aboriginal Corporation and Ballarat & District Aboriginal Co-operative at our combined Western District ACCO Koorie Youth Camp at YMCA Anglesea.

The kids enjoyed some skateboarding, a vertical challenge, damper making, mini golf, canoeing, rock climbing and more!





# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## STAFF SEWB CULTURAL TOUR

On the 30th September, the Wathaurong Social & Emotional Wellbeing Team had the privilege to be led by Uncle Reg Abrahams for a cultural tour around town and a tour of Wurdi Youang to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the rich Aboriginal history in Geelong.

Highlights of the trip included a trip to the Geelong Keys, where we learnt about the vastly different landscape of today's waterways, natural environment, and architecture. While there, we were able to visit the large concrete couch overlooking Corio Bay which recognises the damage the previous Government removal policies and Stolen Generation has caused to the region, and its ongoing impacts. We were lucky enough to also witness a show put on by a pod of dolphins hunting in the shallow waters of Corio bay. From here, we also visited Toolim Beal + Duneed Aboriginal Reserve, along with the Geelong West Cemetery where Willem Baa Ni Ip (King Billy) was laid to rest.

Uncle Reg Abrahams then guided us around the beautiful Wurdi Youang, where we listened to his knowledge on native grassland restoration and rehabilitation, the incredible stone arrangement, how Aboriginal Astronomers were able to track the winter and summer solstices, and its reflection to the rocks in the mountains across the You Yangs.

At the conclusion of the day, the team were able to come together and share their highlights, what they had learnt, the importance of truth telling, and share their appreciation for the rich cultural history here on Wathaurong Country.

A big thanks to Uncle Reg and Megan Frazer for putting on and co-ordinating such a great day!



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## MEN'S GROUP

Our Men's Group has been doing a range of activities over the past few months, including outings to Serendip Sanctuary, Indented Heads, a bowling activity and a yarn about dementia at Forster Street with Harry Douglas and Kate Bradley presenting to the group.

Wathaurong Men's Group meets regularly every Friday, if you're keen to get involved with the Wathaurong Men's Group activities get in touch with Uncle Alfie on 0409 624 110.



## WOMEN'S GROUP

Women's Group continues to meet regularly on a Wednesday at Forster Street between 12pm and 2pm. There's plenty of activity and excursions to get involved in and all Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander women are welcome to join. For more information get in touch with Michelle Gray on 0428 619 284.

Below are some photos from a "Bush Tucker" tasting that the Women's Group organised in September!





# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## VACSAL SENIOR FOOTBALL/NETBALL CARNIVAL 2022

On Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th October, Wathaurong organised a senior men's football and a senior women's netball team to participate in the VACSAL carnival for 2022, held on beautiful Bunurong Country in Keysborough. As well as entering teams representing Wathaurong, we also had a number of our community members playing in the West Vic Eels representative teams. It was the first time the carnival was held since the COVID pandemic and it was deadly to get back together with other mobs and have a fun weekend of sport!

First game of the weekend the Djilang Warriors came out on top against Cummera Gurranyin, winning 29-0. Great to see Michael Sinclair pulling on the boots alongside his oldest son Mick Jr and his nephew Coen Apma Hayes.

The second game was a hard fought battle against Bunurong in wet and rainy conditions, finishing in a draw with both teams scoring 26 points.

In the last game of Day 1 we came up against Tooka's Blues. With a couple of lads heading home early we called in the super subs, father/son duo Ryan and Lewis Brinkworth. Tooka's Blues were too strong for us in the end and took the game with a 2 goal win.

Sunday morning saw the last of our pool games, against the Wotjobaluk Warriors. With more players unavailable we called in another super sub, Malakai Walker, to join his dad Jye in the team. Both Malakai and Jye kicked a goal in the 55-point win over Wotjobaluk, unexpectedly sending us into the semi-finals! The Djilang Warriors played our hearts out but lost by 2 goals in the semis to a strong and experience team.

It was a great weekend and the team wanted to send a special shout out to Jye Walker, proud Yorta Yorta and Wemba Wemba man who is an integral part of the Wathaurong community. Jye has been organising our footy teams from Wathaurong to participate in these carnivals for the past nine years and done a deadly job, with the love and support of his wife Nicole. Together they have created a small tight knit community of young indigenous men within Wathaurong. The Wathaurong community thank you!



### THANK YOU BESIX WATPAC!

A massive THANK YOU goes out to Tina and the team at BESIX Watpac for their sponsorship and support of the Djilang Warriors team at the VACSAL senior carnival. A casual conversation earlier in the year at our "Careers in Construction" night at Forster Street convinced Tina to get involved and support the team. These carnivals are bigger than just sport - it allows families a chance to see other, and builds relationships and memories that last a lifetime.

Thank you BESIX Watpac for your continued support of our community!





# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## WEST VIC EELS TAKE THE TITLE



The West Vic Eels first started back in 1982, and have represented the mob of the Victorian western district area at sports carnivals for forty years.

It's been 20 years since West Vic won their last footy carnival premiership, and in 2022 the West Vic Eels are back on top, taking out the title at this year's VACSAL Senior Footy Carnival!

Well done to all our Wathaurong mob who were part of this year's West Vic Eels premiership team!



## FIRST & FOREVER AT HANGING ROCK

On Sunday 27th November, a busload of Wathaurong community members headed to Hanging Rock for a celebration of Blak excellence at the First & Forever Festival. This deadly event was a non-stop party, with performances from some of Australia's best First Nations music artists. Such an amazing event and awesome to get community together for a fun day out!



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

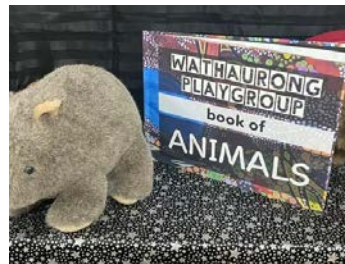
## INDIGENOUS LITERACY DAY

On Wednesday 7th September we celebrated Indigenous Literacy Day with a deadly event at our Children's Services building. There were stories, songs and dancing - all in Wadda-Wurrung language!

The deadly Kristi Watts put together this beautiful picture storybook teaching the Wadda-Wurrung language words for some of our native animals.

Our early years team shared this story book with our community kids that came along to our Indigenous Literacy Day sessions, as well as some songs in language and the "Wombat Wobble" dance!

Literacy is about more than just reading and writing - it's about how we tell and share our stories and language which can be in many different ways.



## OTHER RECENT COMMUNITY EVENTS

We've had a busy few months! Our Community Strengthening Team has been hosting a range of different events to get our community connected again after a long period of not being able to come together. Recent events have included:

*Rainbow BBQ (Saturday October 15th)*  
*Community Meeting (Monday October 17th)*  
*Community BBQ (Friday October 21st)*  
*Community Breakfast (Monday November 7th)*

***Want to know more about upcoming community events? Get in touch with our Community Strengthening Team on 5272 8895.***

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## VIGIL FOR CASSIUS TURVEY

On Wednesday 2nd November, Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative joined communities across Australia in a National Day of Action, hosting a candlelight vigil to honour the memory of 15 year old Cassius Turvey. Cassius was a much-loved teenager who loved basketball and football and was strong in his community and culture, who was tragically murdered in WA while walking home from school.

It was incredible to see more than 200 people come out in support of the Turvey family for the candlelight vigil for Cassius Turvey on Wadda Wurrung country. As part of the vigil, we held a minute's silence, and a statement was read out that was written by the mother of Cassius, Michelle Turvey.

From Michelle's statement: "As mum of Cassius Turvey, I extend on behalf of my family, sincerest love and gratitude. The love, the generosity, the kindness, and the outpouring of tributes across the nation has been so appreciated. My family and I send our love to each one of you for supporting, for raising voices and for showing so much kindness and respect. I am overwhelmed and eternally grateful."

Nyatne (thank you) to everyone who came out, and those who were unable to attend but sent messages of support, dropped off food, donated money, and all the rest.

#ForeverFifteen

#JusticeForCassius





# COMMUNITY EVENTS

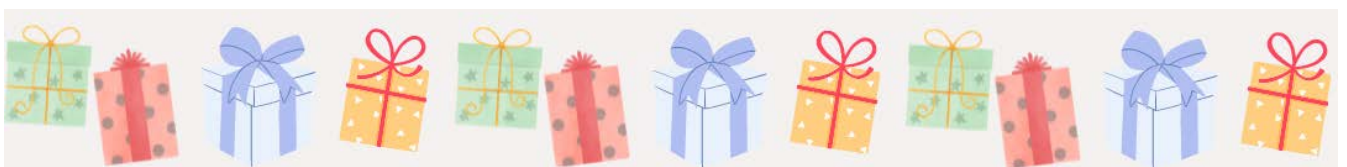
## BUY BLAK CHRISTMAS MARKET

After the success of our NAIDOC markets over the past couple of years, we decided to support our local Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander owned businesses by hosting a "Buy Blak Christmas Market" on Black Friday this year!

It was such a deadly day, the weather was perfect, the crowds came out, and our stall holders sold lots of great gifts for Christmas.

It was a great success and we look forward to hosting more Blak markets in the future to give our local community members an opportunity to promote their businesses and sell their products.

We love to see the wider Geelong community supporting our Blak Businesses!



# UPCOMING EVENTS

All of our Elders, respected persons, Aunties and Uncles are invited to join us for a Christmas lunch at Morgan Street on Tuesday 20th December. Contact Aunt Sandy to RSVP!



**BABA RRANG  
TANDOP NGITJ**

AUNTIES AND UNCLES TOGETHER

 **CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

20TH TUES DEC 2022

 **Time:** 11am - 1pm

**Where:** 62 Morgan St, North Geelong (Boardroom)

**RSVP:** Sandy 0488 991 388



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## WATHAURONG ABORIGINAL CO-OPERATIVE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

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TUES 20TH DEC | 4PM - 7PM

*20A Forster St, Norlane 3214*

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PRESENTS FROM SANTA | BBQ | KIDS ACTIVITIES

**\*\* CHILDREN MUST BE  
REGISTERED ONLINE TO  
RECEIVE A CHRISTMAS GIFT BY  
MONDAY 12TH DECEMBER\*\***



# UPCOMING EVENTS



VICTORIAN  
INDIGENOUS  
SURFING PROGRAM

## **SURF COAST INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY SUP DAY**

Wednesday 4th January 2023  
Anglesea River Bridge  
12pm

**A family fun Stand up paddle boarding  
session for all ages,  
Auntys, Uncles, Elders  
all encouraged to get involved**

**All surf equipment will be supplied.  
You will need to bring bathers, towel, sunscreen, water  
bottle and a change of clothes**

**Please contact Jordie Campbell to register:  
Ph: 0488 935 183  
Email: [jordie@surfingvic.com](mailto:jordie@surfingvic.com)**





# UPCOMING EVENTS



VICTORIAN  
INDIGENOUS  
SURFING PROGRAM

## **SURF COAST INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY SURF DAY**

Friday 6th January 2023

Bancoora Beach

Schedule

**Surf Session 1**

10-12

**Surf Session 2**

12:30-2:30

**A family fun surfing day for all ages,  
Auntys, Uncles, Elders  
all encouraged to get involved**

**All surf equipment will be supplied.  
You will need to bring bathers, towel, sunscreen, water bottle  
and a change of clothes**

**Please contact Jordie Campbell to register:**

**Ph: 0488 935 183**

**Email: [jordie@surfingvic.com](mailto:jordie@surfingvic.com)**





# UPCOMING EVENTS



ALL AGES

**WEDNESDAY 4TH JANUARY** - STAND UP PADDLE BOARDING (SURFING VIC)

**FRIDAY 6TH JANUARY** - SURFING (SURFING VIC)

**MONDAY 23RD JANUARY** - MOVIE DAY \*\*NEED TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS\*\*

## PRIMARY SCHOOL AGED

**THURSDAY 5TH JANUARY** - BOOMERANG THROWING 11AM-2PM @ WINTER RESERVE

**THURSDAY 12TH JANUARY** - ART THERAPY 11AM - 2PM @ FORSTER ST

**THURSDAY 19TH JANUARY** - SKATEBOARDING 11AM - 2PM @ THE PARK

## HIGH SCHOOL AGED

**TUESDAY 10TH JANUARY** - BOOMERANG THROWING 11AM - 2PM @ WINTER RESERVE

**TUESDAY 17TH JANUARY** - ART THERAPY 11AM - PM @ FORSTER ST

**WEDNESDAY 25TH JANUARY** - SKATEBOARDING 11AM - 2PM @ THE PARK

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE:







## Need help with a legal issue

**We can help you with free and confidential information about the law.**

Drop in for a yarn with an Aboriginal Lawyer and our Aboriginal Community Engagement Officer at Wathaurong.

Alternatively, you can book an appointment to speak with us.

For more information or to book an appointment call:

**John Cattanach or Belinda Foley**  
0457 450 437

**Victoria Legal Aid Geelong**  
5226 5666

**Address:** Wathaurong, West 2, 35 MacKey St,  
North Geelong

**Time:** 10am – 3pm, appointments available

**When:** Wednesdays, every fortnight



 **Victoria Legal Aid**

[www.legalaid.vic.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au)





# COMMUNITY NOTICES

A man with a beard and curly hair, wearing a black, red, and yellow long-sleeved shirt and black pants, stands on a sandy beach. In the foreground, there is a small fire burning in a pile of sand, surrounded by several white seashells. The background shows the ocean and a cloudy sky. A large orange and yellow circular graphic is partially visible on the left side of the image.

IT'S TIME TO  
TELL YOUR TRUTH

Yoorrook is calling on all  
Victorian First Peoples to tell  
their truth about injustice

Make a truth-telling submission at  
**[yoorrookjusticecommission.org](https://yoorrookjusticecommission.org)**



# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## Join a Barwon Water community advisory committee



**Barwon Water is seeking First Nations voices to help respond to customers' needs, involve community members in key decision making discussions and help us protect the natural assets upon which we all depend.**

Barwon Water continues to listen and learn from our customers and community to strengthen the economic, social, cultural and environmental prosperity of our region through the delivery of sustainable, affordable, innovative and reliable water and sewerage services and applying a caring for Country approach to our operations.

These committees are an opportunity to add your voice to our region. Help shape the future of water, customer support and the environment.

### About the committees

#### Customer Advisory Committee

Since it was first convened in 1996, our Customer Advisory Committee has been helping us respond to customer needs, involve our community in project planning, understand issues raised by interest groups and access valuable community knowledge.

Key topics often include customer support programs, inclusion and diversity improvements and community projects.

#### Environmental Advisory Committee

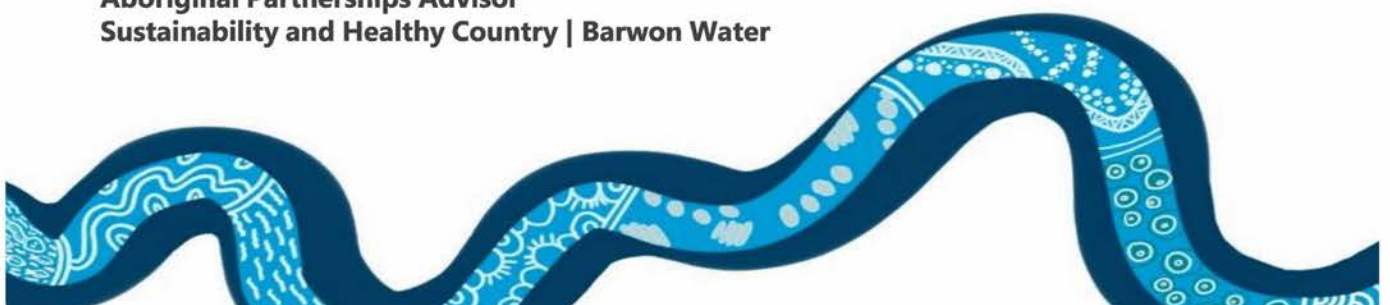
Since being established in 2000, the Environmental Advisory Committee has been advising us on local environmental and sustainability issues and initiatives. The committee comprises representatives from local environment groups and the community.

Key topics often include waterway and catchment health, environmental projects and water security investments.

Both committees meet (face to face, or online) four times a year usually in Geelong for two hour discussions, with an end of year combined excursion / celebration event to showcase the work Barwon Water is doing in the community.

If you're interested in either committee or want to know more, please contact:

**Kiri Tawhai** | Noongar, Ngapuhi and NgatiTuwharetoa Woman (she/her)  
03 5226 2403 or [kiri.tawhai@barwonwater.vic.gov.au](mailto:kiri.tawhai@barwonwater.vic.gov.au)  
**Aboriginal Partnerships Advisor**  
**Sustainability and Healthy Country | Barwon Water**



# CHILD SAFE POLICY

Over the past eight years there have been a number of enquiries into the historical abuse of children whilst in the care of institutions. What these enquiries found was that the abuse of children was widespread throughout different types of institutions and all across the country. This abuse was particularly the case for vulnerable children, including Aboriginal children - who may have been separated from family and kin.

In order to stop abuse occurring, it is now an obligation for most agency's across Victoria to become Child SAFE, including Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative. This means having a more diligent approach in recruitment and management practices, reporting and investigating incidences of child abuse perpetrated by the agency's staff or volunteers, listening to clients and community more if they have a concern about their safety when receiving a service, and having a strong culture of zero tolerance of abuse of children and young people. Each and every Wathaurong staff member or volunteer, including Foster Carers, is expected to manage themselves in a way that is consistent with keeping children safe from harm. See below Wathaurong's formal Statement of Commitment and how community members or clients can express concerns for children's safety.

Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative is committed to providing a safe and friendly environment for children and young people, and Wathaurong has zero tolerance for any form of abuse of children and young people, including sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, cultural abuse, and neglect.

Wathaurong is committed to ensuring all children engaged with its services are culturally safe, including children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and children with disabilities. Wathaurong believes in the right of a child to safety in their physical and online environments.

Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative understands its obligations under the Commission for Children and Young People's Child Safe and Reportable Conduct schemes, as well as Victorian laws such as the Failure to Disclose offence and mandatory reporting obligations under the Children Youth and Families Act. Wathaurong will uphold these obligations in the best interest of Aboriginal children.

Wathaurong will make sure we include children and families in the decisions that affect them, and we understand how children's active participation in their care arrangements helps to prevent abuse – we will listen to children and young people and take their concerns seriously.

For more information about Wathaurong's obligations to keep children safe:

- <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safety/being-a-child-safe-organisation/the-child-safe-standards/>
- <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/reportable-conduct-scheme/>
- <https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/safer-communities/protecting-children-and-families/failure-to-disclose-offence>
- Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 ([legislation.vic.gov.au](http://legislation.vic.gov.au))

All Wathaurong staff, office holders, contractors and volunteers are required to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with a Child Safe organisation, and failure to uphold these obligations may result in disciplinary action.

To make a confidential complaint, please contact Wathaurong's Complaints Officer at 52770044 or [feedback@wathaurong.org.au](mailto:feedback@wathaurong.org.au).



# CHILD SAFE POLICY



*We are a safe organisation for children and young people. All children and young people have a right to be safe and feel safe all of the time.*

*If you don't feel safe, speak up, by talking to someone you trust, or making a complaint to us at [feedback@wathaurong.org.au](mailto:feedback@wathaurong.org.au)*



**Wathaurong  
Aboriginal  
Co-operative is  
committed to  
providing a**

**CHILD  
SAFE  
environment.**

We have zero tolerance of any abuse or maltreatment of children. We are committed to ensuring children and young people are able to actively participate in decisions that affect their lives.

We understand our legal and moral obligations to treat any child safety concerns seriously. We report any allegations and wellbeing concerns to authorities.

Visit [www.wathaurong.org.au/child-safety-commitment/](http://www.wathaurong.org.au/child-safety-commitment/) to learn more, or lodge a complaint by emailing [feedback@wathaurong.org.au](mailto:feedback@wathaurong.org.au)

# ASSISTANCE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

SERVICE	CONTACT
Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative is open from Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm for support with a range of services.	(03) 5277 0044
If you need help in an emergency, contact <b>Ambulance, Police, Fire Brigade</b>	000
The <b>After Hours National Home Doctor Service</b> provides non-emergency medical assistance.	13 SICK (13 7425)
If you need legal advice or support, get in touch with the <b>Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service</b> .	1800 064 865
<b>The Orange Door</b> can provide family violence support from 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. Outside these hours, contact <b>Safe Steps</b> for support, referrals and refuge 24/7.	1800 312 820 1800 015 188
For Drug & Alcohol advice, call the <b>DirectLine</b> 24 Hour referral service.	1800 888 236
For situations requiring police support or advice, call <b>Geelong Police</b> .	(03) 5225 3100
Are you seeking emergency accommodation? Call <b>Salvo Connect</b> (Homeless support provider for over 25s) for advice on housing and welfare support.	(03) 5223 9220
<b>Barwon Youth</b> (Homeless support provider for 24 and under) can help young people with accommodation and welfare support	(03) 5246 7500
<b>Feed Me Geelong/Bellarine</b> can provide support with free essential grocery deliveries.	0422 798 791
<b>Uniting Care</b> and <b>Salvo Connect</b> can help with providing food vouchers.	(03) 4210 1110 (03) 5223 5400
<b>Yarning Safe N Strong</b> is a culturally safe 24/7 confidential crisis line managed by VAHS.	1800 959 563
<b>Brother to Brother</b> is a 24/7 confidential support service specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men run by <b>Dardi Munwarro</b> .	1800 435 799
<b>Lifeline</b> is a 24/7 crisis support service. Calls to Lifeline from a mobile phone (whether pre-paid or plan) are free. Calls from a landline or home phone are charged as a local call	13 11 14
The <b>Suicide Call Back Line</b> is a 24/7 service that provides free telephone, video and online counselling for anyone 15 years and older affected by suicide	1300 659 467
<b>Beyond Blue</b> offers a 24/7 service providing mental health advice and support via phone,web chat or email.	1300 094 187
<b>Kids Helpline</b> offers 24/7 mental health support for young people aged 5-25.	1800 55 1800
<b>Barwon Health Mental Health Triage</b> offers 24/7 support for phone advice, referrals and intake.	1300 094 187