

Caracaramigen House

The Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place

Community Yarn
Edition One

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Want to get the
Community
Newsletter by
email?

Know someone in
community who's
not getting a
copy?

Contact us on the details
below and you
will be added to our email
list; and you will be
emailed each new issue, as
soon as it's published.



Photo by Aunty Tarneen Callope



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



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After what has been a very different start to the year, we're pleased to deliver the first edition of Community Yarn – Caracarmigen House, The Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place newsletter.

With the current Coronavirus pandemic we have had to implement changes and place restrictions on the way Caracarmigen House operates, with varied hours and impact on service delivery and community engagement. We have continued to support community as best we can during this unprecedented process. We have been in regular communication with our auspice agency Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative and CEO Lisa Briggs, external stakeholders & support staff about pandemic planning and on the ground protective equipment, covid screening, clinical and medication/pharmacy supports for Colac and surrounding areas. Planning around on-call and emergency procedures for Colac and surrounds will continue for as long as it takes.

At this stage, we are encouraging you mob to prevent the Coronavirus from spreading:

Feel sick? Stay at home & call the Wathaurong Health Service on 5277 2038.

Wathaurong Health are able to do consultations via phone and organize prescriptions directly to the chemist. If you are concerned about yourself or a family member having symptoms of the Coronavirus, please call the Coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398.

We are hopeful that the Colac Otway & Corangamite Aboriginal Community continue to stick together and support each other (from a safe distance of course) during these challenging times. Share what you have (germs excluded), give your neighbors a call, shop within reason and most importantly - keep leading by example. I know I sound like a broken record however if goodness was a cure - I'm positive our community could bottle our heart, strength and resilience, we'd have enough to stop this bug in its tracks. Over the last couple of months we have managed to deliver 240 rolls of toilet paper (yes that's a currency now) and over 60 food hampers to community members. This was made possible by Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative and Wongarra Farm and I've sent thanks for the support.

Community Events and group activities at Caracarmigen House have ceased at this stage of the virus and the office is only staffed by appointment and for support that cannot be provided over the phone or via email.

I understand that this is challenging for our community and as soon as we get the all clear and I can trust the communities health and safety is in good check we'll throw the doors open again and be full steam ahead.

We have had news that the National and State NAIDOC celebrations have been postponed until November and in line with this announcement our celebrations will be postponed to November too!

This year has seen some exciting opportunities open up for Caracarmigen House with partnerships with Colac Otway Shire and Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation. We have been able to have more staff in the house which ensures the doors are open more often and it's been a great compliment to the house, keep reading and over the next couple of pages you can learn a little more about who's in the house and the roles they hold.





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Stay safe and don't forget to call out if you think I can be of assistance.

I'm so proud of the work we've been able to achieve so far this year and can't wait to see you all soon.

Ebony Hickey—Gulidjan Woman
Caracarmigen House Co-Ordinator
+ Community Development Officer
for Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op
0449 948 475



I am a proud Wamba Wamba man born and raised on Wathaurong country in Geelong. As the new Executive Manager of Corporate Services at Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op, I am excited to 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.

We have all faced challenges this year with COVID-19 and it is more important than ever to stay connected as a community. It's also important that we take care of our own health, by getting tested if you have any symptoms including fever, cough, sore throat or headache. Regular health check-ups are more important than ever.

This year marks an important anniversary for Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op, celebrating 40 years. While the pandemic has delayed our plans to celebrate together, our team is currently putting together stories, videos and memories to share online and we are looking forward to being in attendance at the Colac gatherings planned for later this year with Flag raising, Blak Friday and the Colac Community Christmas party.

The Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place will now come under my portfolio and as such will support Ebony to continue to grow our delivery and response in the Colac Otway region.

Simon Flagg





WATHAURONG

Aboriginal Co-operative

STAGE 3 RESTRICTIONS FOR REGIONAL VICTORIA

From Wednesday 5th August to Sunday 13th September, the following changes will apply to Wathaurong services



All of Mackey Street, and the administration building at Morgan Street, will be closed. Staff will work from home. Phone lines remain open, call 5277 0044 and your call will be directed to the appropriate staff member.



The Health Service will continue to provide Telehealth appointments. This service is available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday - CLOSED on Wednesdays. Call 5277 2038 to book your Telehealth appointment. (Note - Saturday appointments must be booked during the week)



The Colac Gathering Place and Essentials Clinic will remain closed. Colac community members can access Telehealth appointments at the Health Service by calling 5277 2038.



Wathaurong Food Drops will continue in partnership with Feed Me Bellarine with pre-packaged meals delivered on Mondays and grocery boxes delivered on Wednesdays. Sign up online - details on our website at www.wathaurong.org.au



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Eastern Maar
Aboriginal Corporation

The Eastern Maar are the Traditional Owners of south-west Victoria. The Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC) itself works to protect and advance the aspirations of Eastern Maar citizens by managing their native title and cultural heritage rights and interests and implementing aspects of the Eastern Maar Settlement Agreements to be negotiated with the State of Victoria under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010.

EMAC was last month appointed Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) status over a large portion of land in south-west Victoria recognising Eastern Maar as the primary guardians, keepers and knowledge holders for the management and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage within the determined area. The determined area extends along the coast from east of Port Fairy to west of Anglesea and extends inland to include the Great Otway National Park and the townships of Warrnambool, Terang, Mortlake, Camperdown, Colac, Apollo Bay, Lorne and Cressy. This decision, made by the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, will help underpin Eastern Maar's ongoing settlement and native title negotiations.

EMAC is governed by a Board of 12 Directors, each representing a family group of the Eastern Maar People. EMAC has an expanding team of seven staff members, three of which have started working at the Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place. They include EMAC's General Manager of Operations and Policy, Ange Jeffery, General Manager of Cultural Landscapes, John Clarke and Cultural Heritage Natural Resource Manager, Craig Edwards.

Ange Jeffery - General Manager, Operations

Ange Jeffery commenced with Eastern Maar in September 2019 as the General Manager of Operations and Policy. Ange grew up on Country and is a northern Wiradjuri woman. More recently Ange has been living on Gulidjan Country, Eastern Maar, for over six years. Over a few years, Ange successfully completed an Environmental Science Degree with Southern Cross University NSW as an external student.

Prior to Ange's appointment with Eastern Maar, Ange held positions in





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Natural Resource Management public organisations including VIC Fisheries, Catchment Management Authorities and the Department of Water VIC. Ange says Eastern Maar is at a very exciting time and that she really looks forward to being a part of the history of this deadly and strong organisation and community.

John Clarke - General Manager, Cultural Landscapes

Born and raised on Country, John is the grandson of Banjo and Audrey Clarke and Jack and Rita Abrahams. John is Eastern Maar's General Manager of Cultural Landscapes and has been in the role now for several months. John has come into the role after finishing at Parks Victoria where he had held several positions over the past two decades, starting as a seasonal ranger at Port Campbell and finishing in a senior state-wide position as Heritage Coordinator. John is passionate about our heritage and Country and uses the skills he has gained over the years for the benefit of our community. John's other passion is football (soccer) and he still plays for Colac. He is a huge Western United FC fan.



John is proud and honoured to be working for his nation and says he will do so to the best of his abilities. John looks forward to learning more during his time at Eastern Maar.

Craig Edwards—Cultural Heritage Natural Resource Manager

Trevor (Craig) Edwards began as the Cultural Heritage Natural Resource Manager for Eastern Maar in late 2018. Craig was born in Geelong and grew up at Framlingham before he ended up in Geelong where his dad, Trevor, was the founding member of the Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative and where Craig worked for nearly 25 years in various roles from health sector management to interim CEO.

Craig has also been drawn back to Framlingham and says his connection to Country is incredibly important to both him and his family. Craig says he is extremely passionate about working with the community to preserve cultural heritage for future generations.





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Introducing Zephlyn Taylor Beginning Steps Project Co-ordinator

Zephlyn Taylor was born in Colac and has called the Colac Otway Region home for most of her life; having lived in Colac, Nalangil, Forrest and Apollo Bay.

Before starting as the Project Coordinator for The Beginning Steps Project for Colac Otway Shire based from The Gathering Place, Zephlyn worked in childcare, whilst gaining a Cert III in Early Childhood Care and Education.

Learning a new role during a global pandemic is a challenge and it's one Zephlyn has embraced, we welcome Zephlyn warmly to our office and are excited to see what's to come from the Beginning Steps project moving forward!



THE BEGINNING STEPS PROJECT

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The Beginning Steps Project aims to compliment and enhance early years services accessed by Aboriginal families living locally.

The Project Co-ordinator would love to connect with Aboriginal community members to hear about their experiences accessing Maternity, Playgroup and Kinder services throughout Colac Otway and Corangamite Shires.

Get in touch with Zephlyn Taylor, the Project Coordinator for more information:
M. 0428680577.

E. zephlyn.taylor@colacotway.vic.gov.au.
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The Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place
4 Miller Street, Colac





HOW TO USE TELEHEALTH AT WATHAURONG

1

Call (03) 5277 2038



2

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

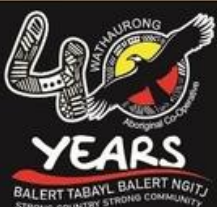


3

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**



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Pang-ngooteekeeya weeng malangeepa-ngeeye

January 26

Ngatanwarr Everyone,

January 26 means different things to different groups of people in Australia but to the people that attended Pang-ngooteekeeya weeng malangeepa-ngeeye at Red Rock in 2020 it meant solidarity, respect and inclusion.

We came together from all walks of life to celebrate community, family, music and story. Kids, adults, Indigenous, Non Indigenous.

It wasn't political - it was about being together and caring for each other. There was some great dancing, deadly live music, great crafting, grouse food and education (masked as a Trivia contest) to keep the crowd on their toes.

Even with a fair wind blowing down from the North, everyone was respectful and thankful to be on Gulidjan country and optimistic for the future of Australia and Aboriginal people..

My wife Madeline and I got to play live and it was one of my proudest gigs. The best possible backdrop with Lake Colac in the distance and opening with a Welcome to Country were only two highlights.

This date and how it is perceived will continue to be debated moving forward but for us we will stay strong and stay together every day, not just January 26!

Todd Angus of the Angus Duo.





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Pang-ngooteekeeya weeng malangeepa-ngeeye
January 26



Thanks to Lowy Hunter for the images



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First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria Membership



First Peoples'
Assembly of
Victoria



North West

Board



Members



South West



North East



South East



Metropolitan



Office contact details

1800 TREATY (1800 87 32 89) enquiries@firstpeoplesvic.org

Yarkeen, the artwork that reflects the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria

The predominant image is the trees, strong and powerful roots planted deep within country. The scars representing culture and identity, formed from generations passing on knowledge, ensuring a continuing succession of proud and strong Peoples. The leaves signify the future, the generations that will continue to come, benefiting by the seeds planted by the previous generations and the present. The central design represents the coming together of the Assembly. The diversity of countrymen and countrywomen, young and old, linked by purpose. The designs above and below the central design represent the conversation to date and the below design representing the conversation to come, unwritten, a new chapter. The pink and orange design represents the past, our old people, our elders, our leaders, now in the dreaming but ever present. The reason we exist today is in their strength, courage, wisdom and compassion. Traits of character integral as much today as it was in the past. The designs above and below the pink and orange design represent our lineages, from across the state. Each with a powerful story, each powerful and proud, evident today as it ever was.

The individual lines throughout the piece are representative of the people, past, present and the future. The artwork is titled Yarkeen, a Gunditjmarra word for dreaming, for we all dream of a better future for our generations that are coming and there is a power in a collective dream."

Tom Day, Gunditjmarra - Yorta Yorta - Wemba Wemba





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WATHAURONG
Aboriginal Co-operative



THE CO-OP IS REMAINING OPEN

with services delivered by phone
Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

For **Health Services** call
5277 2038

For **urgent after hours**
Health issues call
0419 630 719
Monday to Friday,
5pm to 9pm

For **emergencies**
call 000

For **Family Services,**
Aged Care, NDIS,
Housing or Justice
call 5292 9800

To speak to someone
about **Family**
Violence call
1800 312 820

Colac community members can email
ebony.hickey@wathaurong.org.au

For the **Coronavirus Hotline** call
1800 675 398

**To stay
up-to-date
please visit:**

Our
Facebook page
www.facebook.com/wathaurong
and our website
www.wathaurong.org.au



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Ngal-Ngal-La online exhibition

Ngal-ngal-la features works by Indigenous artists from Marngoneet, Karreenga and Barwon, the three prisons located in the Barwon South West Region.

The artists have created works in response to the theme of unity and reconciliation, representing a diverse range of styles and cultural groups from across Victoria and wider Australia.

This exhibition was due to come to Colac at RRRTAG but due to covid moved online.

The Torch provides art, cultural and arts industry support to Indigenous offenders and ex-offenders in Victoria. With the aim to reduce the rate of re-offending by encouraging the exploration of identity and culture through art programs to define new pathways upon release.

Today Indigenous Australians are 13 times more likely to go to prison than non-Indigenous Australians. Between 2000 and 2010 the Indigenous imprisonment rate increased by 51.5% while the non-Indigenous rate increased by just 3.1%.

The artworks are available for purchase and 100% of the purchase price goes directly to the artist.

For further details please contact:

Sarah Barrow, Art Coordinator on 0481 169 891 or artcoordinator@thetorch.org.au.

[https://geelongaustralia.com.au/
reconciliationweek2020](https://geelongaustralia.com.au/reconciliationweek2020)



Together We Are
One, 2019

Dylan B

Gunditjmara/
Gunaikurnai people

Acrylic on canvas

52 x 69 cm



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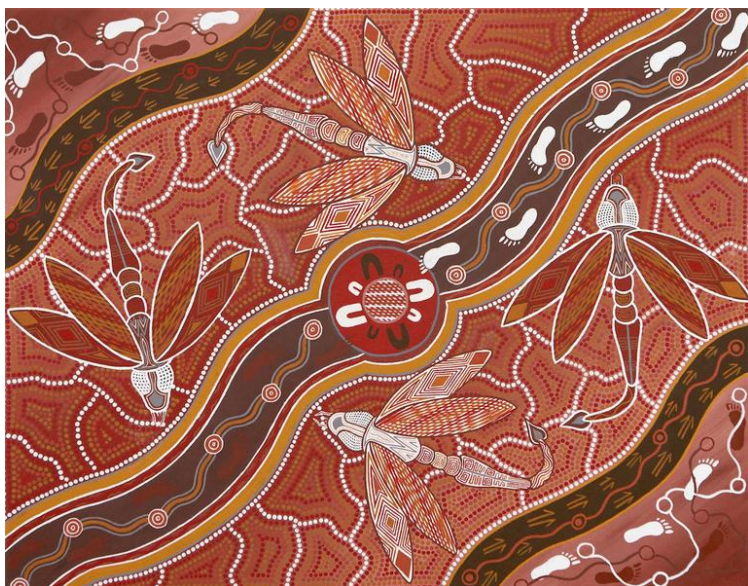
Time for Change, 2019

D.J.C.
Gunditjmara people
Acrylic on canvas
50 x 70 cm



Totem Dreaming, 2019

ReiReiYorta Yorta/Lama
Lama/Gunditjmara people
Acrylic on canvas
51 x 71 cm



Moving Forward, 2019

Jay
Gunditjmara people
Acrylic on canvas
53 x 68 cm



Rainbow Serpent, 2019

Dylan B
Gunditjmara/ Gunaikurnai people
Acrylic on canvas
50 x 69 cm



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BOOROOK

Interview by Vicky Hebbs for <https://amnpify.com.au/>

Indigenous Cultural artist Boorook is striving to create positive change & social justice for his people. Contemporary Aboriginal music from Australia. Boorook's songs are grounded in the traditional stories and wisdom of his people, manifested on the ultra-modern stage of World Music. From sweet lullabies and sad love songs to proud protest and groovy dance rhythms, songs that continue to grow and evoke a strong sense of unity.

Aboriginal singer songwriter Boorook is excited to announce his

Keep the Dream Alive album. Funk edged tunes, soulful voice, songs to evoke a sense of unity.



Were you always drawn to creative pursuits like song writing? When did you know you wanted to make your own music?

Since grade 5 when I was 10 years old I started to become interested in poetry & started to put pen to paper writing things & getting on piano & keyboard trying to turn them into songs. This is when my passion for song writing & music making began. 5 years later I picked up the guitar and tried to figure out how to play it.

Growing up in a strong Aboriginal Cultural family I have been surrounded with creativity all of my life.

My mother being a artist & Author/Illustrator of Dreamtime Creation stories inspired by her late father who had been taught endless ancient knowledge of our tribal ancestors by his old people. Also being the keeper of the untold stories of our area Pop also taught me the ancient art of making traditional wood artefacts. I spent much of my teenage years living there & learning from him.

How would you describe your personal sound?

To describe my personal sound on my Ep I would say upbeat electronic dance grooves with Indigenous conscious lyrics with an uplifting vibe.

What genres of music did you grow up listening to? Who were the musicians you heard growing up who have inspired you most?

I grew up listening to range of genres country, folk, roots n blues, reggae. I grew up listening to Coloured Stone, Warumpi band, No Fixed Address, Tiddas, Bob Marley and Uncle Archie Roach. These are artists that do inspire me the most.

Last year you released your EP 'Our Own Destiny'. What does the release mean to you? What were the origins of the EP?

Our Own Destiny is about taking control of your life following you heart your intuition. Its about breaking the chains of oppression which has been inflicted upon first nations Indigenous People all across the world. It's about standing up & fighting for your rights. The origins of my Ep evolves from growing up in a Aboriginal family watching & hearing the struggles what our people go through in everyday life. Our Own Destiny is to inspire & empower the individual to make a stand on Racism, Equal Rights and social justice for our people.

Is there a common thread running through every song in the EP, or is it a collection of many different concepts?

The songs were recorded over 5 years ago. They are songs that where written around that same time. The common thread running through the songs are this is contemporary Indigenous music, singing about life and self-determination, songs about listening to your elders, learning the cultural knowledge from them of protecting our special scared sites, listening to the spirit land & healing the motherlands.

What do you hope listeners take away from listening to 'Our Own Destiny'?

I hope listeners become inspired by the songs, to be more consciously aware of Indigenous cultural sensitivities' & to evoke a sense of unity to be open to new ways of thinking & learning to create a better understanding & relationships between Indigenous First Nations People's & other nationalities/cultures.



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Can you share the inspiration or thought process behind your beautiful song, 'A Friend In Need'?

An old Aboriginal principle is helping people in need, sharing and caring for one another. Growing up listening to my grandfather yarn about his upbringing in the old Purnim bush with family and how if one family had a better feed than the other it would be shared equally. Pop's door was always open & was very welcoming to visitors. People from all walks of life would go there to meet him have a yarn & a feed. A Friend in Need is off the Keep the Dream Alive album which I have just digitally released on 13/03/2020 a day before the 20th anniversary of his passing. Most of the songs on this album have been inspired by grandfathers' teachings.

Do you believe it is important to create impact through your music? Or do you just focus on making music from the heart?

When writing my songs I write from the heart with the hope to have a positive impact.

Are you working on any more new music at the moment?

Yes, I have many new songs and music in the mix. Keep The Dream Alive full band album Indigenous Roots RnB Funk was released 13/03/2020 and I have a Single 'Where Do I Go' drops 3/04/20 which is RnB.

What do you think about the role of Indigenous rap and R'n'B in the contemporary Australian music scene? Have you seen that shifting significantly over the years?

Yes I think Indigenous rap and RnB have an important role in the music industry which is starting to make waves in the water, it's teaching mainstream society the real histories of our First Nations people of this country. I think there should be more opportunities & initiatives created for our people to be more in the spotlight to showcase our deadly musical artists. I believe there needs to be more mainstream radio stations & Tv media coverage that play & support our First Nation Peoples music it's vital that our voice is heard as we are the original sovereign people of this land. We have been silenced for too long and treated like prisoners since the beginning of the white colonisation of Australia. The multicultural communities want to hear more from the true people of this land. So its great to see Indigenous music of the many different diverse First Nations is on the rise which is having a ripple effect & is creating positive change as music is good healing for the spirit & soul.

If you could say anything to an inspiring Indigenous rapper or musician today, what would it be?

To the inspiring Indigenous musicians out there I would say to you follow your heart & your dreams, make realistic goals, and don't give up, you can be anything you want to be. Respect your Elders, & learn the stories of your old people & keep the stories alive.

If you could perform onstage with any musician, who would it be, and why?

To perform on stage with Deline Briscoe would be amazing. I remember seeing her perform at the port fairy folk festival many years ago with her sister. I was so memorised with her performance & was totally blown away with her vocal range. I was so inspired by the songs and the way they weaved their traditional language blended so smoothly with the groove of their very funky sound guitar work.

What are your plans for your music career in the coming year?

My plan in the coming year is to release more of my songs as singles. To collaborate with other artists writing recording & performing.

Where do you see yourself in five years' time?

I plan to have a music space set up to teach music production & creation, song writing, recording.

Do you have any major aspirations you are striving for?

My main aspirations I'm striving for is to teach the younger generation the ancient history of my people. From the magical Dreaming stories to the beautiful stories of our ancestors and how they lived in harmony with the natural environment.

To follow BOOROOK : <https://www.facebook.com/gunditj>

<https://soundcloud.com/boorook-gundidj>

and *subscribe* to Boorook on Youtube.com





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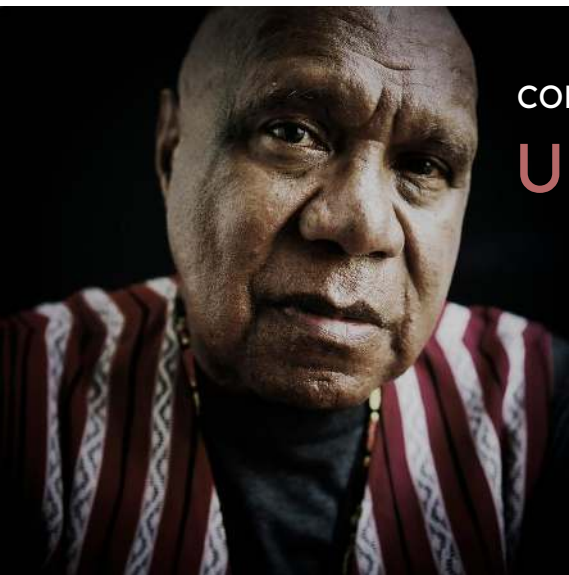
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The Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place would like to congratulate our good friends at RRRTAG on a successful funding application through Creative Victoria we can't wait to see the new creative working space! Well done team RRRTAG.



Save the Date
BLAK FRIDAY
13th Nov
NAIDOC EVENT
@RRRTAG



COPACC is very pleased to announce that

Uncle Archie Roach



Will be performing at COPACC on

Friday, 12 February, 2021

Subject to COVID restrictions

We extend our welcome to the local Aboriginal Community, always and, especially for this show on the eve of National Apology Day. We are honoured to have Uncle Archie perform in our venue.



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Unity in Community - Arts Trail Competition

The Arts Trail will challenge the thought process associated with generational racism and family violence. We will use art to inform and educate non-Aboriginal people whilst empowering Aboriginal people to harness and grow traditional and contemporary art skills.

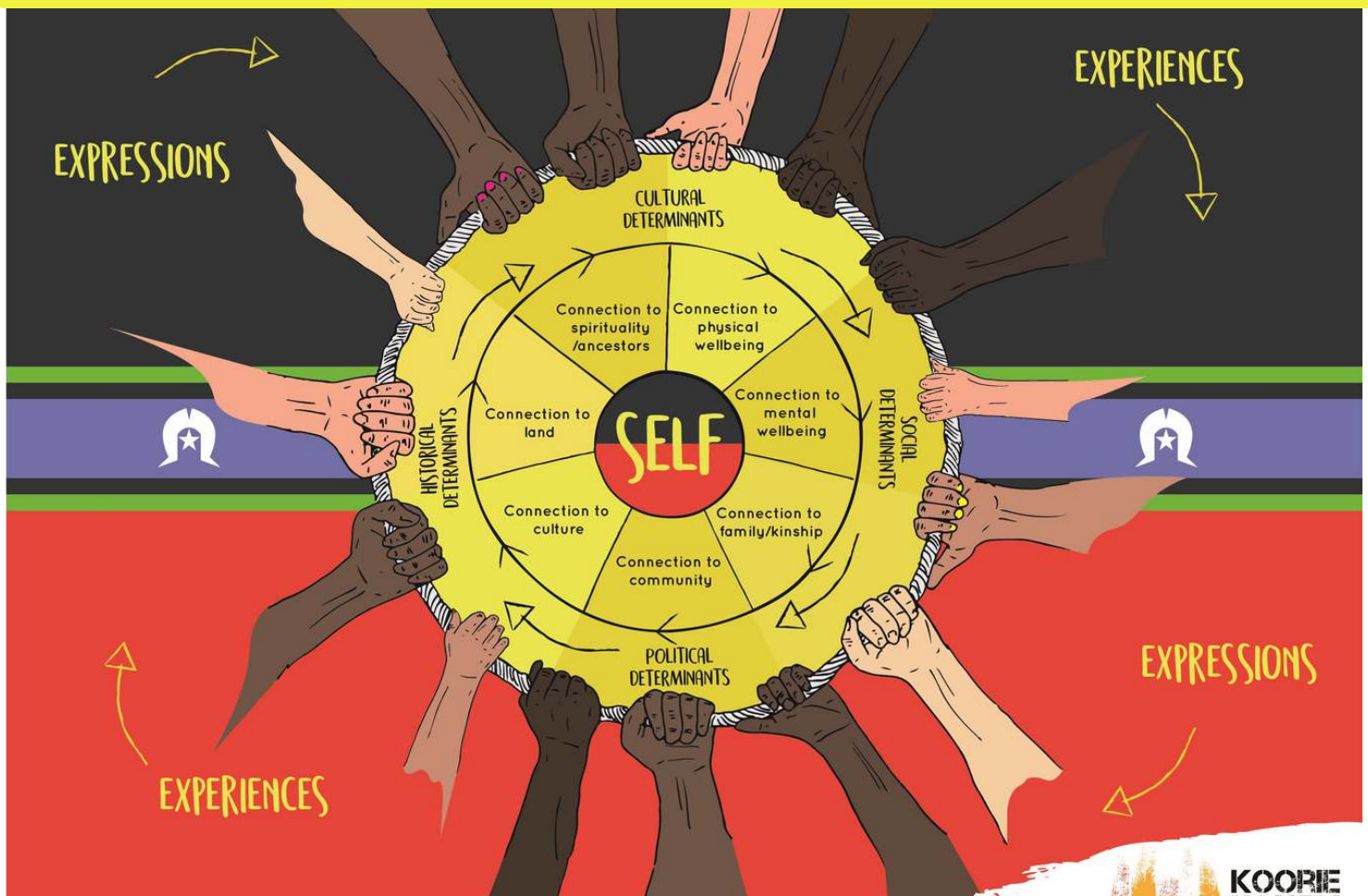
Unity in Community funded through the Barwon South West Dhelk Dja is going to be a dynamic and engaging process of thought provoking public pieces highlighting the strength, connection and resilience of Aboriginal People living in the Colac region.

Wanna get involved? Enter our [Unity in Community - Arts Trail Competition](#), details below

Submit your artwork on the theme Unity in Community to Ebony.Hickey@wathaurong.org.au or in person by October 31st to win a \$150 gift card!

Artworks must be 2D and selected works will become large scale vinyl prints and displayed as part of the Arts Trail.

Please include your name, phone number and your mob.



Gee, Dudgeon, Schultz, Hart & Kelly, 2013 on behalf of the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association.
Adapted by the Koorie Youth Council (KYC) for the Ngaga-dji (Hear me) project.
Illustration by Jacob Komisaroff from original art by Tristan Schultz, Relative Creative.





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Confined 11

Is an exhibition of artworks by Indigenous artists currently in or recently released from prisons in Victoria. Presenting 300 artworks, from 286 artists, Confined 11 creates a strong visual metaphor for the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system.

The Confined exhibition is the key annual public event of The Torch's Indigenous Arts in Prisons and Community program which provides art, cultural and arts industry support to Aboriginal offenders and ex-offenders in Victoria. Artworks created through The Torch are part of a rehabilitation process that helps build confidence, social capital, economic stability and pathways to reconnect with the community. Confined plays an important role in supporting Aboriginal offenders and ex-offenders to tell their stories, connect with the community, develop arts networks and reintegrate back into society.

We are a creative bunch at The Torch and are excited to be bringing all of the magic of our Confined exhibitions to you in a new and engaging online format.

What you can expect from Confined 11 this year, is more artwork in one exhibition than The Torch has ever presented before!

www.thetorch.org.au/C11

100% of the sale price of all artwork goes directly to the artist.

Image: Sunset Cockatoo, Stacey, Taungurong/Boon Wurrung people





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MarraMarra

Ange

04291 76640

marraMarra@protonmail.com



Growing up on Country (Northern Wiradjuri) in her hometown Geurie (Google it), and communities Wellington and Dubbo was amazing, and as life is, sometimes hard going for Ange. As children they spent an astronomical amount of time on Country and more specifically at Wambul (the Macquarie River) and Little River. After high school Ange completed a certificate of ceramics at the local TAFE, and you'll still find those created pieces today in Ange's home. As life evolves for Ange, her interest and enjoyment in art and creation has continued to bloom.

Just as life evolves, her inspiration and creativity has too, from drawing, painting, stenciling, sculpting, weaving and more. Two great memories from her childhood created at Wambul and Little River influence her interest and journey on Jewellery making years later.

'While walking up stream with the intention of floating downstream, a common thing we did, I stepped on an echidna quill. I lifted my foot expecting to pull a bindi (thorn) out but was met by a long beautiful light brown and dark brown tipped quill sticking out of my foot and thought to myself that it would be cool to turn into a necklace. I put it in my swim suit thinking I would take it home and tie a piece of rope to it and wear it. Another time while swimming in a deep-water section of Little River I noticed my dad had a piece of driftwood and his pocket knife out scraping at it. I asked what he was doing, and he said "not much" so I went back to swimming. On the ride home he gave me that piece of driftwood, he had turned it into a bracelet for me. It was just he and I on that trip'

Years later Ange still finds inspiration and resources from Country to form personal adornment pieces and incorporates traditional Aboriginal techniques and natural resources that I have been taught and shown. Ange says most of the pieces she makes are contemporary and draw on traditional techniques. In place of sinew she has used fake sinew, hemp and jute cord, cotton string, rope, and recycled silver wire. Instead of harvesting and processing reeds and rushes she uses raffia along with collecting nuts and seeds and washed up kelp and empty shells from a variety of locations to minimise any affect it might have on Country whilst purchasing quandong, sandalwood seeds and emu feathers direct from Australian farmers.

We in the Colac community have been beneficiaries of workshops on weaving personal adornment pieces and are looking forward to natural Jewellery making workshops at festivals down the track. We can't wait to see how Ange has been incorporating or solely using recycled silver or other metals into her creations and she reckons that soon you will be able to visit her in my new home studio. Who knows she might run a workshop from there too and we can't wait!

Raffia Weaving and 925 Earrings



Gwandang (Quandong) and Dinriwang (Emu) feather necklace on leather and 925 findings

Echidna Quills and 925 Earrings





Koorie Engagement Support Officer - KESO

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 Centre's 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 Centres about culturally inclusive learning environments for Koorie students. We also support schools and Early Years Centres 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 favourite 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



Caracarmigen House

The Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place

Community Yarn - Edition One





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Colouring with Nathan Patterson

Nathan Patterson is a proud Wagiman Man living in on the south coast of Victoria. His mother's people are from Pine Creek, near the Daly River Region in the Northern Territory, where the Wagiman clan are the traditional landowners.

Nathan burst onto the scene around 4 years ago with his ever-evolving Modern Aboriginal Art. He has been commissioned for numerous large scale mural projects as well as featuring on 4 AFL Indigenous Guernseys.

His art is a mixture of contemporary designs using traditional techniques that incorporate the dreamtime stories of his people and of the land he was born on. He continues to tell these stories through his art. Nathan strives to push the boundaries of contemporary Aboriginal art through the use of vibrant colours which his work is becoming well known for.

Nathan's artwork is inspired by his passion for Australian native wildlife and landscape



and especially loves painting birds, including the Red-Tailed Cockatoo and Wedge Tailed Eagles.

If you would like to see more of Nathan's artwork or purchase one of his deadly colouring books head over to his website

www.ilukadesigns.com.au



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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



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The Youth Health Hub is located at 15-17 Hart Street in Colac and is the central point for people aged 12 to 25 to access services and support. Wathaurong Health Outreach Clinic also runs a clinic from this location on Mondays (subject to Covid restrictions) for Aboriginal People of all ages.

To keep up to date with whats on at the Youth Health Hub you can follow them, Instagram Colac_Otway_Youth Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/Youth-Health-Hub-771142956315463/>

MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS SUPPORT

YOUNG PEOPLE 12-25 IN THE COLAC OTWAY SHIRE

WHERE TO GET HELP & WHO TO SPEAK TO

Currently in Australia

- 1 in 4 young people experience mental health issues
- 75% of mental health issues emerge before the age of 25
- 1/3 of young people who struggle with mental illness do not seek professional help



If a young person turns to you for help here's what you can do...



NO



First, assess the situation...

Is the young person at risk of harming themselves or someone else?

YES



Book in to see a GP & get a mental health care plan which will entitle you to 10 x subsidized counselling sessions through medicare

Call or drop in to the Youth Health Hub and book an intake appointment on **5232 5520**

The young person will be assessed by a support worker and then referred to the most relevant service

Call **Barwon Child and Youth Access** on 1300 094 184 187 to speak someone who will refer you to the most suitable service provider

Remember if you need an urgent response and immediate help in a crisis situation Always call **000**

Kids Help Line
24 hour phone line
1800 551 800

Lifeline
24 hour
13 11 14

Use the text service
0477131114
OR
chat online

What if the young person would like to seek anonymous support through their computer or device?

Beyond Blue
• Checkin app
• chat online
• call **1300 224 636**
• online forum

Headspace
1800 650 890
• Free online and phone support for young people and family and friends
• Online group chats available
• lots of resources on website

Reachout
Next Steps
access on phone or computer. Designed to recommend a range of support options for your situation





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WATHAURONG

Aboriginal Co-operative

FOOD DROPS

MONDAYS

Monday Ready Made meals include a combination of protein (meat dish) carbohydrate (rice/pasta) and dessert where possible

WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday Food Boxes include a combination of vegetables, fruit, bread products and other staple foods where possible

Feed me Bellarine
no questions no agendas

A COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECT

Wathaurong is working with support from FeedMe Bellarine to offer ready-made meals and further food resources to our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

FeedMe Bellarine turns food from the shelves into nutritious meals for our community in need & Wathaurong Cooperative will deliver it to your doorstep!

SIGN UP ONLINE

<https://forms.gle/jFXadZbs12WhpRqV9>

For enquiries please contact
lily.graham@wathaurong.org.au

FEED ME BELLARINE

no
questions
no
agendas



YEARS

BALERT TABAYL BALERT NGITJ
STRONG COUNTRY STRONG COMMUNITY



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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 Practice Leader and works with local Aboriginal services and communities to meet the needs of families and support Aboriginal 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



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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



KOORIStrong
KOORIProud
KOORIJustice
Victorian Aboriginal
Justice Agreement





ABORIGINAL TENANTS AT RISK (ATAR)

DURING COVID-19

Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative wants to ensure our community members are safe and healthy and in doing so there are changes to the way we are delivering our services. During this time it can be very stressful financially due to loss of employment or unsure with your current tenancy due to new laws put in place because of the Covid-19 Crisis.

The following services ATAR can provide during this time

- Advocate to resolve rent issues
- Advocate to resolve issues between household members or neighbors
- Advocate between Landlords and Tenants
- Liaise with Aboriginal Housing Victoria and Office of Housing
- Assist with establishing new tenancies

Who is eligible for the ATAR Program?

Tenants who are nominated on a lease and reside in Private, Public and Community managed housing .

Please contact Rory to discuss any issues you may have with your tenancy or to have a yarn if you are unsure or have any more questions with the details provided below

Rory Charles

Mobile: 0439 115 389

Email: rory.charles@wathaurong.org.au





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WATHAURONG

Aboriginal Co-operative



**Hey you MOB if your over 65
and need your flu shot**

**call Wathaurong health service
52772038**



**Flu Vaccinations
Available Now**

**STAY SAFE, STAY HEALTHY,
STAY DEADLY**



Upcoming Events

First 1000 Days	Oct 15th - 16th 8am - 4pm	Civic Hall - COPACC
NAIDOC Flag Raising	Nov 10th 10.30am	TBC
Blak Friday	Nov 13th 7pm	TBC



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Assistance and Emergency Services

Service	Contact
Are you seeking emergency accommodation? Call Salvo Connect (Homeless Support Provider for over 25s) for advice on housing and welfare support in the Barwon South West	5223 9220
Barwon Youth (Homeless Support Provider for 24 and under) can help young people with accommodation and welfare support in the Barwon South West	5246 7500
If you need help in an emergency you can contact Ambulance, Fire Brigade and Police	000
Are you struggling with finances and need some emergency relief or advice? Diversitat may be able to help you out.	5221 6044
If you require food vouchers, talk to Uniting Care or Salvo Connect	5223 5400
For medical, health and wellbeing support, contact Wathaurong Health Centre	5277 2038
In the event of a medical emergency Colac Area Health Urgent Care	52325100
For situations requiring police support or advice, call Colac Police Station	52300000
If you require Family Violence & Sexual Assault Support the Orange Door Barwon Hub provides services, advice and expertise.	1800 312 820
For Drug and Alcohol advice, contact Direct Line 24 hour referral service.	1800 888 236
If you, a friend or family member need immediate advice, call the Suicide Hotline.	1300 651 251
If you need legal advice or support, get in touch with the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service.	1800 064 865

We are building a mailing list to help us to keep in contact with **you**

Are you someone or know someone who would like to receive our newsletter?
Contact us and we'll add you to the list.

The way you'll receive our newsletter is up to you, we can deliver by snail mail or via email just make sure you keep your contact details up to date with us!

Moved house? Please remember to update your details.

Family members if you know of someone who has moved recently — please ask them to update their details by emailing
Ebony.Hickey@wathaurong.org.au



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THE FIRST 1000 DAYS AUSTRALIA

The First 1000 Days Australia – Short Course will run
in Colac on the 15th and 16th of October 2020.

The two-day intensive course aims to give a deeper understanding of the biological processes and environmental characteristics that shape development during the first 1000 days of a human life starting from conception, and the lasting effect that these have over a lifetime.

The course is delivered through a mix of group work, presentations and case studies. It looks at how to address the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from pre-conception up until 2 years of age, and the lasting effect that this has on their lives.

To express interest in attending the course or for more
information get in touch with

Zephlyn Taylor, The Beginning Steps Project

Coordinator. M. 0428680577 E. Zephlyn.taylor@colacotway.vic.gov.au