



# WATHAURONG ABORIGINAL CO-OPERATIVE

*Community Newsletter*

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## *Calendar of events*

### **DECEMBER 2020**

12th - Adventure Park Family Day

15th - Co-op Community Christmas Party

18th - Last day of Co-op before holiday closure

### **JANUARY 2021**

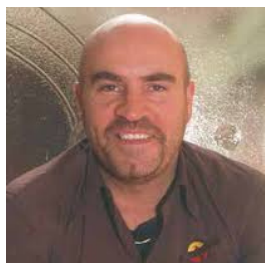
4th - Co-op first day open after holiday period

26th - Survival Day (public holiday - Co-op closed)



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





# Chairperson

Nyoora Woorreeyn Wadda- Wurrung Dya-Nyook (Hello this is Wadda-Wurrung Country).

As we come to the end of one of the strangest and most challenging years in recent history, I would like to wish all of our community a safe, happy and deadly Christmas. I look forward to being able to celebrate with some of you at our Community Christmas on Tuesday December 15th.

As noted in previous communications, Consumer Affairs Victoria has granted Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative an extension to convene our Annual General Meeting in 2021. We want to ensure our members can attend safely in person to encourage active participation. The AGM Notice with the new date will be sent out shortly and we thank you for your understanding.

I would like to congratulate all of the Year 12 students who have graduated in 2020 and are featured in this newsletter. To complete your high school studies with all of the challenges 2020 has thrown at us is an amazing achievement. Whatever your next steps, we wish you the best and hope that you remember that community is always here for you.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the Board and staff of Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op for their ongoing commitment, especially as part of our COVID-19 response this year.

Have a deadly Christmas. Nyatne, Gobata, Koon Gadyee (Thanks, Take Care, Goodbye)

Craig Edwards

# Chief Executive Officer

I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners, the people of the Wadda-Wurrung, their elders past, present and emerging.

It has certainly been a year to remember. Throughout 2020, our community, our staff and our families have shown resilience, compassion and spirit to make it through anything the year has thrown at us. I am extremely proud of the way our community responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, in keeping everyone safe, staying home, wearing masks and pitching in to help wherever possible. Thanks to each and every one of you, we were very fortunate to keep COVID numbers extremely low in the Aboriginal community in Victoria, and practically non-existent in the Barwon South West Aboriginal community.

We celebrated NAIDOC week in November this year, with most of our celebrations being held virtually. Our NAIDOC community awards will be presented to winners at our Community Christmas on Tuesday 15th December. I congratulate all of our winners, featured in this newsletter, on their ongoing commitment to culture and community.

The Co-op will be closed for two weeks over the Christmas/New Year period, with emergency and on-call numbers provided at the back of this newsletter. Wishing you all a merry Christmas and a deadly New Year!

Gobota (take care)

Lisa Briggs





# NAIDOC WEEK 2020

NAIDOC Week 2020 certainly looked different, with most of our activities not being able to take place in person this year. On Monday November 9th we hosted a "virtual" flag raising, streamed over Facebook and being viewed by more than 8000 people.

The restrictions on gathering numbers lifted just in time for us to host our Kids Cultural Dance workshop, the first time our kids have been able to come together in over 6 months.

Our community also came together "virtually" to participate in the Closing the Gap "Connect to Country" virtual run. Participants walked or ran 5km, 10km, 21.1km or 42.2km and received a deadly Wathaurong 40 Year Anniversary shirt.





# CLASS OF 2020

Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op would like to congratulate all Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander students who have completed Year 12 in 2020. In what has been a challenging year, you have shown resilience and strength in finishing your high school years. We wish you all the best in your next steps, whatever they may be!



**JAIME DUMBELL**  
*Bellarine Secondary College*



**ANGELA MOTHERWELL**  
*Bellarine Secondary College*



**ARCHER PANKHURST**  
*Bellarine Secondary College*



**KIANA VOCALE**  
*Bellarine Secondary College*



**BRI APMA-HAYES**  
*Clonard College*



**MCKENZIE CHAPMAN**  
*Clonard College*



**MOLLY CHRISTENSEN**  
*Geelong Grammar School*



**OLIVIA CHRISTENSEN**  
*Geelong Grammar School*



**AIDEN FINN**  
*Geelong Grammar School*



**SUNNY HANDY**  
*Geelong Grammar School*



**DARCY PALMER**  
*Geelong Grammar School*



**JAYCEE SELLINGS**  
*Geelong Grammar School*



**ZOE WALTERS**  
*Geelong Grammar School*

# CLASS OF 2020

**DJUBUGITJ-GRACE LEWIS**

*Geelong High School*

**BRIANNA SMITH**

*Oberon High School*

**JAKE WOOD**

*Oberon High School*

**ANGELINA STEWART**

*Newcomb Secondary College*

**ARCHER PANKHURST**

*Bellarine Secondary College*

**KAITLIN CHERNIH**

*Western Heights College*

**AJ MCDONALD**

*North Geelong Secondary College*

**CASEY SCHOBEL**

*North Geelong Secondary College*

**WILL CHERNIH**

*Western Heights College*



**KAYLAH TAYLOR**

*Lara Secondary College*



**HAMISH ROSE**

*Lara Secondary College*



**PATRICK GRACE-  
LONG**

*Geelong College*



**GIGI HOOPER-BIRCH**

*Geelong College*



**STEPHANIE WILLIAMS**

*Geelong College*



**CHELSEA BOEHM**

*Grovedale College*



**JASPA NOTT**

*Grovedale College*



**ETHAN SCHLENSOG**

*Grovedale College*



**ROSE BUX**

*Newcomb Secondary College*



**LACHLAN FITZPATRICK**

*St Ignatious College*



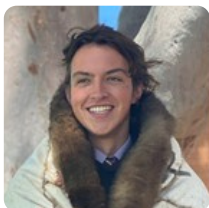
**MIA CLAY**

*Sacred Heart College*



**JAYANNE JOHNSON**

*Sacred Heart College*



**FLYNN KINSEY**

*St Joseph's College*



**TYSON NEAL**

*St Joseph's College*

# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## Funding boost for new consulting rooms

More Geelong patients will get the world-class care they deserve with the Andrews Labor Government giving hospitals across the state the latest life-saving medical equipment and upgrading vital infrastructure.

Member for Geelong, Christine Couzens has announced that Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-Operative and Barwon Health were 2 of 76 health services that will share \$160 million in funding to ensure hospitals across the state can continue doing what they do best – saving lives.

Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-Operative will receive \$2 398 267 to build 9 new consulting rooms from the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund (RHIF).

Barwon Health will receive \$3 929 059 to replace medical equipment including the computed tomography unit (CT), operating room ophthalmic microscope and transoesophageal echocardiogram ultrasound (TOE) as part of the Medical Equipment Replacement Program.

The RHIF received a further boost in the Victorian Budget 2020-21 with an additional \$120 million bringing total funding to \$470 million and is the largest program of its type in Victoria.



From left to right: Christine Couzens, Craig Edwards, John Eren, Lisa Briggs

Christine Couzens has long been an advocate for funding for Indigenous services and was pleased to be able to deliver this funding announcement to Wathaurong.

"I'm proud of the Andrews Government's commitment to the health of our first nations people. Aboriginal people are amongst our most vulnerable in the community, in regards to health, as evidenced in the Covid 19 pandemic.

These new consulting rooms will help Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-Operative to continue to provide health services to our region's first nation's community," Geelong MP Christine Couzens said.

Member for Lara, Hon John Eren, joined Christine in making the announcement and in welcoming the funding to support those in the Northern suburbs.

"This funding for Barwon Health and Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative will directly benefit residents in Geelong and particularly in Geelong's Northern Suburbs.

I'm proud of our Governments investment which will deliver the high quality and safe care every Victorian deserves," Lara MP John Eren said.

The new consulting rooms will allow Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op to expand it's services and continue to provide culturally safe and community based health care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people in the Barwon South West region.

This funding announcement is an exciting step in the growth and vision of the Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op Board and Executives for the organisation as a whole.

# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op will be closing for the Christmas period with the last day of operation on Friday 18th December 2020, re-opening on Monday 4th January 2021.

During this closure period, community with mental health needs can contact and yarn with any of the services below:

**Yarning Safe'n'Strong - 1800 959 563**

*24/7 confidential crisis phone line managed by VAHS*

**Brother to Brother - 1800 435 799**

*24/7 confidential support line for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander men managed by Dardi Munwurro*

**Lifeline- 13 11 14**

*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*

**Suicide Call Back Service - 1300 659 467**

*24/7 service that provides free telephone, video and online counselling for anyone 15 years and older affected by suicide*

**Beyond Blue - 1300 22 4636**

*24/7 service providing advice and support via phone, web chat or email*

**Kids Helpline - 1800 55 1800**

*24/7 support for young people aged 5-25*

**eHeadspace - 1800 650 890**

*9am - 1am daily, online and phone counselling for youth aged 12-25*

**Barwon Health Mental Health Triage - 1300 094 187**

*24/7 service for phone support, referrals and intake*

**The Orange Door - 1800 312 820**

*9am - 5pm Family Violence Support. For after hours support, call Safe Steps on 1800 015 188*



# ASSISTANCE & 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	5223 9220
Barwon Youth (Homeless Support Provider for 24 and under) can help young people with accommodation and welfare support, give them a call	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 Barwon Health Emergency Department have the facilities and expertise	4215 0000
For situations requiring police support or advice, call Geelong Police	5225 3100
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
Do you feel unsafe because of Family Violence? Support is only a phone call away. Safe Steps 1800 numbers are also available for support, referrals and refuge 24/7	5224 2903 1800 015 188 Or 1800 737 732
Family Services support including Family Violence is through The Orange Door Barwon HUB	1800 312 820
If you need legal advice or support, get in touch with the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service.	1800 064 865
After Hours Service National Home Doctor Service	13SICK ( 13 7425)

**Need to update your details?**

We maintain the mailing list and this helps us to keep in contact with you. We may need to send you newsletters, update the waiting list for WAC housing, or provide members with meeting dates, community events, etc.

Members 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 calling the Co-operative 5277 0044.