



WATHAURONG ABORIGINAL CO-OPERATIVE

Community Newsletter

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Wathaurong

Aboriginal Co-operative

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2022 NAIDOC WEEK COMMUNITY AWARD WINNERS

Pictured from left to right: Jordyn Flagg, Piper Knox, Renee Howell, Mikali Harrison, Uncle Alfie Oram, Auntie Naomi Surtees

Read more on Page 9

Mundarra Edwards, son of Jordan Edwards and Lily Graham, shot to fame earlier this year after his shake-a-leg video posted by Bri Apma-Hayes went viral online. The video was picked up by NITV, and Mundarra got a front page spread in the Geelong Advertiser showcasing his deadly dance moves.

At just 3 years old it's easy to see Mundarra is being brought up strong in community, culture and country.

You can see the video of Mundarra dancing on our Wathaurong Facebook page.



DEADLY MUNDARRA'S

VIRAL SHAKE-A-LEG VIDEO



Join our socials!
@wathaurong



BOARD REPORT

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.

CEO UPDATE

The Board undertook a competitive recruitment process for the CEO position and on the 30 November 2021 the Board made the announcement that Simon Flagg was appointed the CEO at Wathaurong. Simon is a proud Wemba Wemba man and local Community member. Simon started his career here at Wathaurong as a Sports Administration trainee in 1996 and went on to gain extensive experience in the Victorian Public Sector. Simon is well equipped to lead the organisation now and into the future.

As a senior manager at Wathaurong and as a Director / Senior Executive in various roles across the Victorian Public Service, Simon is a passionate and talented advocate for our Communities. Simon brings highly relevant

skills, knowledge, and experience, coupled with his warm and engaging personal style, will see him perform as an excellent spokesperson for the Wathaurong Communities.

Moreover, his clear passion, combined with his demonstrated commitment to his Community and improving outcomes for Aboriginal people, will add even more energy to our efforts to make a difference for our people and our efforts to re-establish Wathaurong as the home and heart for our Community.

On behalf of the Wathaurong Community, we would like to congratulate Simon on his recent appointment and invite all members, Community, and staff to welcome him as we take this next step in our journey.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & COMMUNITY MEETING

We were finally able to hold our 2020/2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Community Meeting on country at Wurdi Youang on Sunday 20 February 2022. It was great to see so many of our community members there and to have their voices heard.

The 2020/21 AGM had two Board vacancies up for election with Craig Edwards and David Flagg's terms ending. Nominations for the two

BOARD REPORT

vacancies closed on Friday 14 January 2022, unfortunately we didn't receive any nominations. To fill the Board Vacancies the Board can implement Item 38 – Casual Vacancy of the Wathaurong Rulebook. The Board determined under Item 38 – Casual Vacancy to co-opt David Flagg back onto the Board until the 2021/22 AGM, with further discussion with Community that had expressed interest in joining the Board.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Board Member Craig Edwards. Craig has been instrumental in working with the Board to building our organisation to what it is today, and we thank him for his many years of service.

COVID UPDATES

After many months of collaboration with Barwon Health, our Wathaurong vaccination team has wound down their COVID vaccination clinics at the Ford Factory. I would like to thank our staff who have done an amazing job of supporting our mob being vaccinated in a culturally safe environment, everyone from our Aboriginal Health Workers, GPs, nurses, pharmacists, receptionists, ushers, and drivers have contributed to keeping our mob safe. If you still need to get your vaccine, or your booster, we have partnered with Community Care Chemists to make sure our mob can still access the vaccine in a cultural safe environment - check out page 12 of the newsletter for more information.

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

We were pleased to welcome representatives from the Australian Labor Party to Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative in late April, as they announced a \$15.6m election commitment to our Morgan Street Redevelopment Project. This commitment was exciting news for our Community and with the Labor government winning the Federal election it means our project is moving closer to being fully funded and ready to commence late 2023 or early 2024. More information on our Morgan Street Redevelopment Project can be found on page 24 of this newsletter.

NAIDOC 2022

The theme for 2022 NAIDOC Week was Get Up, Stand Up, Show Up!

This theme echoes the fight Wathaurong and our Community continue today following the footsteps of our ancestors. As a Community we have always stood up and fought for the needs of our Community. We were able to host a number of NAIDOC Week events this and it was great to see so many of our community and our allies involved and sharing the spirit for 2022 NAIDOC Week.

Nyatne.

Wathaurong Board

Chief Executive Officer

Simon Flagg

Firstly, I would like 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.

STAFF UPDATES

As part of our vision to re-establish Wathaurong as the home for all our Community we have been busy looking at ways to increase our connection to our Community. We have identified that we need to strengthen our engagement and I'm pleased to announce we were successful in obtaining funding to establish a Community Engagement Team.

The Community Engagement Team will be led by our new Executive Manager of Community Strengthening, Jason Kanoa. Jason joins Wathaurong after being CEO at Gunditjmara Aboriginal Co-operative and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation. Our new Engagement Team are Jordyn Flagg, Shannon Secombe, Jayden Hickey, Mikali Harrison, Aunty Sandy Manning, James McKinnon, Rylie Evans and Natalie Sullivan.



You can learn more about our Community Engagement Team them on page 7 of this newsletter.

As mentioned at our Annual General Meeting, our focus is on bringing community back together, and the new Community Engagement Team will be reaching out through many different ways to find out the best way to do that.

I would also like to take this time to say thank you and farewell to Shellee Strickland, who has moved on from her role as Executive Manager of Family Services. Shellee joined Wathaurong in 2018 and has always been a passionate advocate for our mob. We wish her all the best in her new chapter. After acting in the role for a number of months now, I am pleased to let our community know that Kristie Fraser-Lange has been officially appointed as the new Executive Manager of Family Services.

Chief Executive Officer

Simon Flagg

Mark Shaw has also been appointed to the role of Executive Manager of Corporate Services after acting in this position since July 2021. Our Executive team continues to work hard to deliver on the priorities for our community and make sure our organisation is continuously improving.

INFRASTRUCTURE & STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES

Morgan Street Infrastructure Project

One of the first things our Community Engagement Team will be reaching out to our mob for is get your feedback, input, and comments on refreshing our strategic plan, and the proposed infrastructure redevelopment at our Morgan Street site. As you can read about on page 24 of the newsletter, we have appointed Woods Bagot as architects to lead the design of this project, and we want to make sure that our Community has every opportunity to provide their input on what they want to see as part of our new Community facility.

Forster Street Infrastructure Project

We will be redeveloping Forster Street to be our new Youth Hub in late 2022 with the aim to launch the new space for 2023 NAIDOC Week. This is an exciting development that will ensure our Youth

have their own space to connect, share and learn culture. Stay tuned for more details to come.

Strategic Plan Refresh

Our Strategic Plan is also an important piece of work that we want to make sure is inclusive of our Community's voice and that the Board and our organisation is heading in the direction that you, our community members, want and need.

You may receive phone calls or emails from our Community Engagement Team to get involved and get your feedback. I also encourage anyone who wants to have their say to pick up the phone and give us a call – our Community Engagement team will be more than happy to have a yarn at a time that suits you.

Strong Community, Strong Culture, Strong Country!

Nyatne (thanks)

Simon Flagg

CEO

STAFF UPDATES

WELCOME NEW STAFF

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

- Atawhai Ogle - Medical Receptionist
- Nikita Pillai - Quality & Compliance Manager
- Nicole Asker - Senior Case Worker, Kinship
- Rochelle Anderson - Receptionist
- Lillian Eastgate - Disability Support Worker
- Sadie Morell - Domestic Assistant
- Leah Parker - Business Support Officer
- Kristen Holmes - Family Services Case Worker
- Aya Li - Payroll & HR Support Officer
- Layla Boseley - Communications & Events
- George Nnoku - Disability Support Worker
- Shirley Darcy - Social Emotional Wellbeing Worker
- Dominic Gordon-Manager, People & Performance
- Diksha Thakur - Accounts Officer
- Renee Layton - Manager of Wellness & Recovery
- Erin Mieszkowski - Midwife
- Sarah Lowes - Disability Support Worker
- Osei Owusu Banahene - Disability Support Worker
- Kristen Holmes - Case Worker, Family Services
- Hannah Wentworth - Case Worker, Family Services
- Bridie Bracken - Clinical Practice Nurse
- Ella Devery - Medical Receptionist
- Vaughan Gray - Aboriginal Youth Worker
- Blake Natoli - Local Justice Worker
- Philip Drummond - Alcohol & Other Drugs Worker
- Georgia Lennon - Case Worker, Kinship

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 jobs@wathaurong.org.au with your details so we can let you know when opportunities are listed.

FAREWELLS



Following a decision to take some extended leave, Shellee Strickland made the personal decision to resign from Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative in February 2022.

Shellee has been an integral part of Wathaurong since joining in 2018, after five years with the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS). In her time at Wathaurong, Shellee has been part of the Executive Management Team working across the Health and Family Services teams. Shellee's passion has driven change and great outcomes for our community.

Shellee has always been passionate about Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing and ensuring that our families are advocated for and that their needs are a priority. On behalf of Community, Board, Executive Team, and staff we wish Shellee all the best as she moves on to the next chapter.

We would also like to send best wishes to Gordona Kerr (Payroll), Stacie Murphy (Balart Care Connections), Alice Knight (Balart Care Connections), Justin Haas (Accounts), Rachael Knight (Human Resources), Danielle McLeod (Strategic Grants), Tania Craig (Quality & Compliance), Terri Khan (Family Services), Andrea Sullivan (Family Services), Dr. Adam Brownhill (Health Services), Jason Simpson (Works Crew), Michelle Heywood (Family Services), Cheryl Meath (Health Services) and Judy Rosson (Bringing Them Home) who recently left to pursue other opportunities.

SAFE TRAVELS NAOMI!

Family Services Team Leader Naomi Edwards is off on an adventure, taking extended leave to travel around this great country of ours. We wish Naomi safe travels, a deadly time and look forward to her return to Wathaurong!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

WELCOME

For those members who attended our Annual General Meeting, you will know that Wathaurong has made a commitment to get the focus back on what is most important - community.

Over the past few months we have welcomed our new Community Engagement Team, who will be connecting with our community and finding out what is important to you and how we can best deliver it.

Some of the staff members in the new team will be familiar, having worked at Wathaurong in other roles, and some may be new faces who are keen to get to out in community and get involved! Get to know some of the new Community Engagement team members below. We will be profiling some of the other team members in future newsletters!



Meet our new Community Engagement Team!

Pictured from left to right, front to back:

Rylie Evans - Therapist (Healing)
James McKinnon - Facilitator
Sandra Manning - Facilitator (Elders)
Mikali Harrison - Facilitator
Natalie Sullivan - Therapist
Jordyn Flagg - Manager
Jayden Hickey - Facilitator
Jason Kanoa - Executive Manager
Shannon Secombe - Team Leader

MEET THE TEAM



JASON KANOA

EXECUTIVE MANAGER - COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING

Jason is a proud Gunditjmara and Bunitj man. Jason has worked in Aboriginal Affairs and government agencies for around 20 years, including cultural heritage, sports and recreation, family violence and community development. The last 5 years Jason has been CEO of Gunditjmara (2yrs) and Windamara (3yrs).

Jason is excited about joining Wathaurong for a new challenge and continuing his passion working for the mob.



JAYDEN HICKEY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FACILITATOR

Jay is a proud Gulidjan man who lives and works on Wathaurong country. Jay started working at the Co-op in 2019 in the Family Services team, but he has been around the Co-op for most of his life. Since starting work at Wathaurong, Jay has had some great opportunities for further study and has moved to the Community Engagement team.

Jay's favourite thing about working at Wathaurong has been the strong relationships he has been able to build, both with the workers and with our amazing community.



MIKALI HARRISON

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FACILITATOR

Mikali is a proud Gunai/Kurnai man. After leaving high school early, Mikali went into demolition and construction, and even appeared on the Foxtel reality show, "Demolition Man"! After a few years in an excavator, Mikali decided to move into mental health support work and saw his opportunity to be able to work at Wathaurong and with mob.

Mikali loves working around culture and being able to engage with community. Since starting work at Wathaurong, Mikali says that he feels empowered and proud about his culture.



SHANNON SECOMBE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM LEADER

Shannon is a proud Wotjobaluk/Gunditjmara woman who was born on Wathaurong country. Shannon has worked in different communities in Victoria for a number of years and is qualified in Narrative Therapy and Management.

Shannon says she is looking forward to connecting with mob around Wathaurong again - listening to their voices and understanding what mob want to see and do in their community.

Some of the activities the team have been involved in so far include community dinners, NAIDOC Week, Community Care Chemist clinics, All4Kids Children's day event, Wauron Ponds Shopping Centre, Deakin Uni Open Days. We have lots of future activities planned and can't wait to share them with you. We're excited about the opportunity to re-connect with everyone in our community.

Want to have a yarn with the Community Engagement Team? Call us on 5277 0044 or email CETeam@wathaurong.org.au

AWARDS

GEELONG WOMEN IN COMMUNITY LIFE AWARDS

Congratulations to all the deadly women from our Wathaurong community who were nominated in the 2022 Geelong Women in Community Life Awards in March 2022. All are deserving, and a special shout out goes to Meagan Howell, winner of the First Nations Woman in Community Life Award, and to Renee Owen, winner of the Leadership in Women's Health Award.



MEAGAN HOWELL

Meagan Howell was nominated in two categories - First Nations Woman in Community Life (sponsored by Christine Couzens, MP) and Women in Community Life for Education (sponsored by Soroptimist International of Geelong), taking out the award for **First Nations Woman in Community Life**. Meagan is a proud Arrernte woman who was born and raised on Wadda Wurrung Country. She is a Koori Education Support Officer with the Department of Education and, in her work, prioritises cultural connection for members of the Aboriginal community,

engaging both children and their families. Meagan is passionate about children's learning, maintaining community connection and encouraging young people in their educational journey. In her nomination, Meagan was described as having a big heart and someone who goes 'above and beyond' her work duties to make sure children are supported not only in their education, but also in their kinship and community connections.



RENEE OWEN

Renee Owen was nominated in two categories - First Nations Woman in Community Life (sponsored by Christine Couzens, MP) and Women in Community Life for Leadership in Women's Health (sponsored by Jean Hailes for Women's Health), taking out the award for **Women in Community Life for Leadership in Women's Health**. Renee was born and raised on Wadda Wurrung Country and is a member of the Yorta Yorta and Taungurung Nations.

She has always been active in her community, but in her role as the Manager of Aboriginal Programs at Barwon Health has displayed outstanding leadership by showcasing health career pathways for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander young people, developing culturally appropriate maternity services at Wathaurong Health Services and advocating for initiatives that address family violence. Renee has also co-authored papers, presented at conferences, provided cultural supervision, and filled community advisory roles. In her nomination, Renee was described as someone who embodies respect for cultural protocol and practice and stands strong in her cultural obligation to the community. In her vision and drive to improve health outcomes for her people, Renee has had a profound impact on individuals, families, and the community.

2022 NAIDOC AWARDS

CREATIVE TALENT AWARD - LOWELL HUNTER

A massive congrats also goes out to Lowell Hunter, who received the "Creative Talent Award" at the 2022 National NAIDOC Awards held in Naarm (Melbourne) on Saturday 2nd July.

Taking a break from the pressures of life one day, Lowell Hunter took himself to his beloved Gunditjmara sea shore.

The Nyul Nyul man from the Dampier Peninsula in Western Australia was born in Naarm, and grew up by the sea.

Sitting in the sand, the artist began drawing circles around him. He says it made him feel powerful, and protected by his ancestors.

So began his practice that continues today of creating incredible sand "carvings" that need to be observed from the sky to be fully appreciated. The drone photography of his works have found willing buyers around the world.

Lowell is always active in his community, engaging with youth organisations locally and interstate to encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids to embrace and engage with their culture.



Congrats Lowey!

AWARDS

WATHAURONG COMMUNITY NAIDOC AWARDS

The winners of the 2022 Wathaurong Community NAIDOC Awards were announced at the Flag Raising & Community Day held at Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative on Monday 4th July, 2022. Congratulations to all of the 2022 Wathaurong Community NAIDOC Award Winners.

Nedok Yoongga (Elder/Respected Person)

Joint Winners – Aunty Naomi Surtees & Uncle Alfie Oram

AUNTY NAOMI SURTEES was nominated because she is always there to support and advocate for community. Not only is her work with the Orange Door so important, but Aunty Naomi can always be found at community events sharing culture, and puts in many volunteer hours to help with women's group activities and much more.

UNCLE ALFIE ORAM was nominated as a great role model for the community – a man who gets things done. Uncle Alfie can always be found helping organise activities for the men's group, or cooking the BBQ at any Wathaurong community event.



Ngarrwa Ngitj (Community Person)

Winner – Renee Howell

RENEE HOWELL was nominated for her amazing work as the female Aboriginal Liaison at Barwon Health. In her role, Renee shows her deep connection and community spirit by always going above and beyond to support patients and their families.

Many community members have seen first-hand Renee stepping out of her own family time and gatherings outside of her work hours on numerous occasions to call or check in on patients and talk to their families.

Renee is incredibly supportive for families and staff at the hospital appreciate Renee for sharing her knowledge and educating them, as well as the comfort, support and advocacy she provides the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients.



Koolay Goopma (Young Male Achiever)

Winner – Mikali Harrison

MIKALI HARRISON was nominated for always going above and beyond in his role in the community, as a person and an employee of Wathaurong. Described as having an uplifting attitude and a kind heart, Mikali helped many of our community members through the COVID pandemic, whether through delivering food, driving to appointments, or helping with the vaccine rollout.



Moordeemoondeek Goopma (Young Female achiever)

Joint winners – Piper Knox & Jordyn Flagg

PIPER KNOX was nominated for being an incredible role model to our young mob. Finishing her VCE even when her whole family was devastated with sudden sorry business and loss of her younger brother, Piper has moved straight into uni for midwifery and specialising in Aboriginal Health. Piper is also a senior member and mentor for the younger children in Dhungala Children's Choir. She has beautifully represented our community in many performances. Piper is also on Barwon Health's Consumer Advisory Committee and was a representative in Youth Parliament for the Bill on First Nations Education in schools. Piper proudly strengthens her connection to culture and community through cultural dance and mentoring opportunities, and is the first to reach out and support others in the community who are experiencing difficult times.

JORDYN FLAGG was nominated for being a leader in the community. Growing up in the Wathaurong community, she has always been around and is always giving back. Jordyn is an active part of her community through work, community events and meetings. She has been approached on various occasions to provide mentoring to young Aboriginal girls to encourage them to reach their fullest potential. In her previous job roles with RAJAC and Victoria Police, Jordyn has played an instrumental role by being involved in many community policing initiatives. Walking between culture, history, collective trauma and Australian or western systems, Jordyn is a force of strength for other young women.



How deadly to see this artwork, created by Bri Apma-Hayes, displayed proudly all around Victoria for NAIDOC Week. Bri's art was chosen for the 2022 NAIDOC Week poster and was used for banners and merchandise as well!

Bri Pengarte Apma Hayes is a 19-year-old emerging Arrernte artist, born and raised in Geelong on Waddawurrung country. Bri shares her love and passion for culture through her art by telling stories and showing connections in her works. Named after her great Nana Minnie (Undeyla), 'Ntulye Art' honours the connection to her Nan and family.

From a young age Bri has watched her Father Joel Penagnte Apma Hayes a renowned Aboriginal artist and started her own painting journey at the age of 16. Bri incorporates many different aspects into her paintings using dots and symbols alongside lots of blues and earthy tones.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

MINGO-WALOOM ABORIGINAL BEST START

Best Start brings professionals together to create and measure positive sustainable changes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families in Early Childhood Education and Maternal and Child Health.

Who can Best Start help and how?

Aboriginal Best Start works with Early Start Kindergarten (3yo) and Year Before School Kindergarten services as well as Maternal and Child Health services to ensure that our families feel comfortable, welcomed and heard within these services, improving engagement with them. The focus is to improve outcomes of our children and their families.

There is a focus group that we would love parents and carers to be involved in that occurs 4 times a year and is held online via Microsoft Teams for the foreseeable future. The next date coming up for 2022 is;

Tuesday 1st November 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Shantelle Lucas-Baillie is the Aboriginal Best Start Facilitator at Wathaurong and encourages community members to get in touch if they want to be a part of the focus group or have any concerns and suggested improvements. You can email Shantelle at Shantelle.Baillie@Wathaurong.org.au or call or text Shantelle on 0417 158 086.



BALERT GERRBIK : KOORIE FAMILIES AS FIRST EDUCATORS (KFFE) GROUP PROGRAMS

 **Circle of Security Parenting**
0 - 5yrs

Circle of Security is an 8 week supportive program for parents and caregivers of children aged birth – 5 years. The program aims to:

- Help parents/caregivers understand how to build feelings of security for children in their early years.
- Assist parents/caregivers with skills to build on the positive relationship with their child.
- Develop confidence in parents/caregivers to respond to their child in a way which builds a secure foundation.



We welcome Mothers, Fathers, Grandmother's, Grandfather's, Aunties, Uncles and Caregivers of Aboriginal children aged 0-5 years to our group sessions!



Indigenous Triple P

0 - 5yrs

Indigenous Triple P is an 8 week supportive program for parents and caregivers of children aged birth – 5 years. The program aims to:

- Help parents/caregivers manage behaviour confidently and encourage behaviour you like!
- Assist parents/caregivers with becoming more confident and managing self-care for yourselves.
- Further develop and strengthen family relationships.

smalltalk Smalltalk

0-5yrs

Smalltalk is an 8 week supportive program for parents and caregivers of children aged birth – 5 years. The program aims to:

- increase parents' confidence to do the things we know can have a positive impact on their child's learning.
- Help parents understand how activities we already do in the home enhances our children's learning and development
- Give ideas on how parents can look after themselves and helps build links with their community and local services.



DO YOU THINK ANY OF THESE PROGRAMS MIGHT INTEREST YOU?

Group sessions will be held once a week. You'll meet other community members, share stories and enjoy some refreshments. Scan the QR code to register your interest!

One-on-one sessions are also available in the comfort of your own home or at a location of your choice at a pace you're comfortable with!

All programs facilitated by Wathaurong's KFFE Team!



Gina



Jackie



Shan

For more information, give us a call on 5292 9800 or request a call back on our expression of interest form. Just scan the QR code above on your device!



Wathaurong Playgroups

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



Kitjarra Booboop

Playgroup for babies 0-12months
Every Tuesday 10am till 11am



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



What to expect when you come into the Playgroup space:

Temperature check for parents and children
Parents must sanitise their hands before coming into
the playgroup area



Why come to Playgroup:

Children learn and develop through play and social
interaction with their parents, carers, family and
other children and adults.

Playgroup provide an opportunity for children to Strengthen their
cultural identity through play and other cultural activities.
It is a great way to meet other families in the community.



For more information on Playgroup
please call or e-mail **Kristi Watts**
52770372 - 0419698264
Kristi.Watts@wathaurong.org.au



HEALTH SERVICES

COVID VACCINATION CLINICS



On January 21st our kids rolled up their sleeves for our first big COVID-19 vaccine clinic for the 5-11 year olds at Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative. Caleb (pictured) was our very first patient - at 9 years old he had been waiting to get his jab, his older sister had it and now he is the last one in the family to be protected. Caleb said it was important for him to get the jab so he could help protect his community.

Since the COVID-19 vaccine roll out began 12 months ago, our Wathaurong health team has been at the forefront of making sure that our mob not only had access to the vaccine, but that they felt safe, supported and informed about getting the vaccine and what it meant to protect themselves and their family.

We are proud to say that our team has delivered over **2000** doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, and has contributed to getting our Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander population in the greater Geelong region to a 90% double vaxxed rate for over 16s.

After many months of working in close collaboration with Barwon Health at the Ford Factory Vaccination Hub, our team is no longer delivering vaccinations personally, but we are still committed to helping our mob access the COVID-19 vaccine in a culturally safe environment.

We have partnered with Community Care Chemists in North Geelong and Newcomb to run two sessions per week until at least the end of October, where we have our Wathaurong support staff on hand to help our community feel comfortable in getting their COVID-19 vaccine from a trained pharmacist. Check out the dates available below, and call us on **5277 044** to book your COVID-19 vaccine appointment.

You can also still get your COVID-19 vaccine from the Barwon Health vaccination hub located at Reynolds Road in Belmont. .

Did you know? Anyone over the age of 30 is now eligible to receive up to 4 doses of the vaccine, to give you the best protection against getting severely sick from COVID-19.

For the most up to date information on where you can access your COVID vaccine, make sure you check out <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/book-your-vaccine-appointment>

UPCOMING COMMUNITY CARE CHEMIST VACCINE DATES

August

Mon 8th - North Geelong
Wed 17th - Newcomb
Mon 22nd - North Geelong
Wed 31st - Newcomb

September

Mon 5th - North Geelong
Wed 14th - Newcomb
Mon 19th - North Geelong
Wed 28th - Newcomb

October

Mon 3rd - North Geelong
Wed 12th - Newcomb
Mon 17th - North Geelong
Wed 26th - Newcomb
Mon 31st - North Geelong

Appointments available between 1pm and 4pm

Newcomb: Bellarine Village- Shop 5, 25-29 Bellarine Highway

North Geelong: 75 Separation Street

HEALTH SERVICES

COVID CARE PACKS

Have you or a family member recently tested positive to COVID-19 and need to isolate? We have some COVID Community Care Packs that we can drop off to your doorstep.

Packs include paracetamol for aches and pains, cup of soup, saline nasal spray to clear congestion, throat lozenges for sore throats, tissues, cold packs for fever, hand sanitiser, hydrolyte for rehydration from sweating, and heat patches for aches and pains.

Call our medical reception team on 5277 0044 and we can organise to get you a COVID Community Care Pack!



RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS

Need some Rapid Antigen Tests? Wathaurong community members can access FREE RATs from our Health Service. No healthcare card is required. If you, or someone you know, have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive to COVID-19, you can collect your RATs from us.

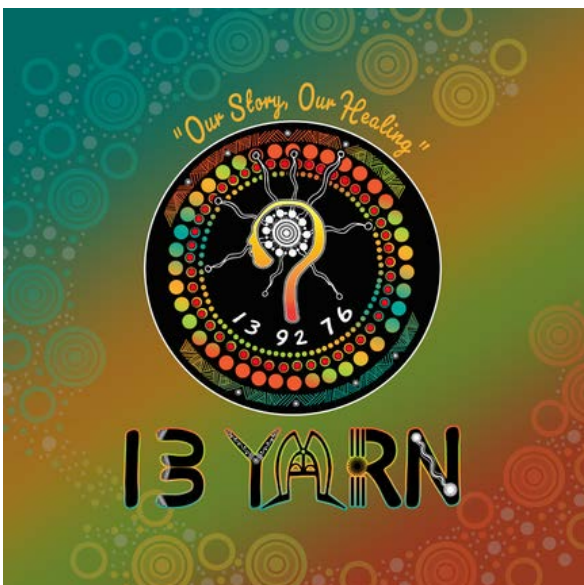
Please make sure that you call us ahead of time to pick up your RATs if you've been identified as a close contact - do **NOT** exit your car or enter the Health Services building. One of our friendly team will bring the RATs out to you in your car.

If you are a close contact or have tested positive and aren't able to come and collect RATs yourself, give us a call and we can try to arrange for RATs to be dropped off if necessary.

Instruction sheets on how to use the RATs will be provided.



13YARN - NEW SERVICE



13YARN is a new National 24/7 crisis support line that is run by mob, for mob. 13YARN is there to provide crisis support 24/7 to yarn with you without judgement and provide a confidential, culturally safe space to yarn about your needs, worries or concerns. They will work with you to explore options for on-going support. You know you will be connected to another Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person who will understand where you are coming from and value knowing HOW to listen, without judgement or shame.

This free and confidential service is available 24/7 from any mobile or payphone. Call 13YARN (13 92 76) at any time of the day or night if you need crisis support.

BALERT CARE CONNECTIONS

"NDIS has
changed my
life."
- Josh

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

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 allows me
to continue to connect
with my peers."

-Joylene

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

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

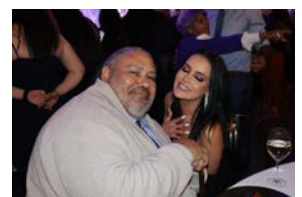
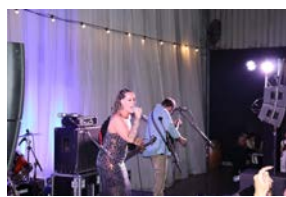
OPAN Advocacy: 1800 700 600 or www.opan.org.au



NAIDOC WEEK 2022

NAIDOC BALL 2022

Our mob sure knows how to party, and at our Wathaurong NAIDOC Ball we did just that at the beautiful Mt Duneed Estate. Such a deadly night with a Welcome to Country from Aunty Judy Dalton-Walsh and Kristi Watts, and the Stray Blacks playing one of their last ever gigs, plus some special guest performers! A shout out to our "Patron" (Uncle Steve Walsh), "Beau" (Jay Hickey) and "Belle" (Tahlia Easton) of the ball! We chose not to award a Matron of the ball this year, instead honouring Aunty Kwementyaye Apma-Hayes who recently passed to the Dreamtime, but was always the life of the party and the first on the dance floor. Special thanks to Uncle Glenn Shea for being the MC for the night. What a deadly time!



FLAG RAISING AND COMMUNITY DAY

What an amazing day this was! The day included a Welcome to Country, smoking ceremony, dance performance, flag raising, kids activities, music entertainment, a BBQ, a community market and much more. It was so exciting to see mob back together, supporting one and another celebrating NAIDOC week.



MOVIE DAY

Our movie day was a big hit again, with more than 200 community members coming together to watch 'Minions: The Rise of Gru' at Village Cinemas!



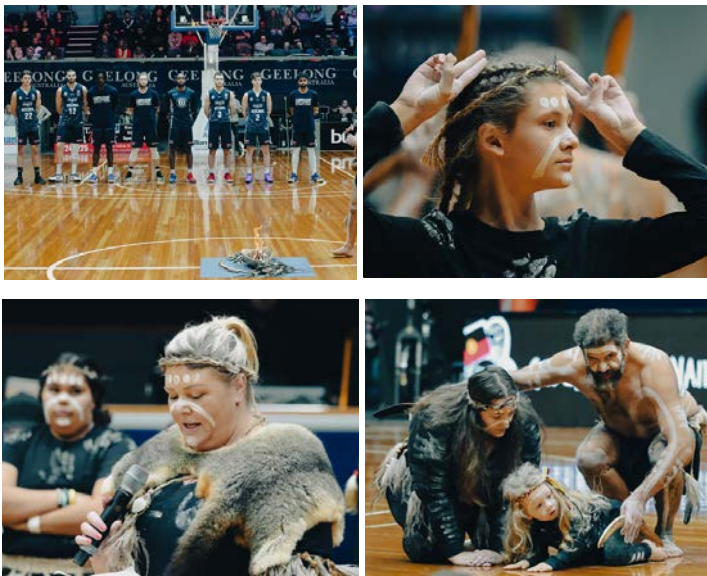
KIDS DISCO

Our Kids Disco was back at Forster St, where the kids had a blast dancing, singing, and having fun in the Photobooth! Thanks to DJ Troy for spinning the tunes, and special thanks to Dominos Pizza Corio for donating half of the pizzas!

NAIDOC WEEK 2022

NAIDOC MARCH

The Victorian NAIDOC march was back on this year. The rain came, it was cold and wet. But it didn't stop us from marching the streets of Melbourne. A small group from Geelong travelled up to Melbourne by bus and joined in the march. Every day, we Get Up, Stand Up, and Show Up for our community, our culture, our country.



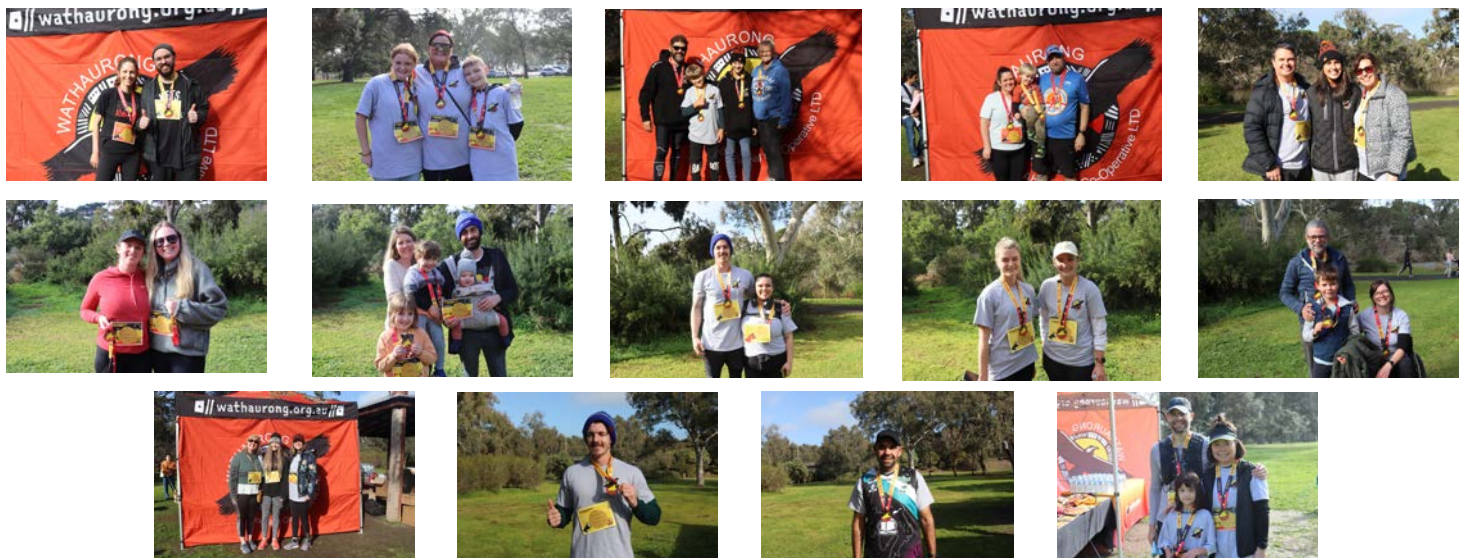
SUPERCATS FIRST NATIONS ROUND

On Saturday 9th July, the Geelong Supercats hosted the NBL1 First Nations Round, with the teams wearing uniforms designed by David Flagg. A Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony was performed by Kristi Watts and David Tournier and our community kids were part of the dance performance on court at halftime of both the womens and mens games!



MOB RUN THIS!

To finish off NAIDOC Week we had more than 100 people head out in the sunshine to get active and get moving for our Clothing The Gaps Foundation "Mob Run This" event along the Barwon River. Well done to everyone who smashed out their distances - whether 3km, 5km, 10km or 21.1km - or those brave souls who took on the 42.2km! Great to see so many families participating, and many allies joining us to GET UP, STAND UP, SHOW UP for NAIDOC Week.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

WADDA WURRUNG LANGUAGE COURSE

Just before Christmas last year, we celebrated the graduation of our first group from the 12 week beginners Wadda Wurrung language course.

This deadly mob were learning the basics of Wadda Wurrung language with Auntie Judy and Jordy and at the final session they all had the opportunity to stand up and speak a sentence in language.



Many of our participants in this first course were Wadda Wurrung Traditional Owners, or family members of Wadda Wurrung Traditional Owners, and it was powerful to listen to their words in Wadda Wurrung language. It was amazing to watch the growth and see the connections and bring back that identity to people and to country.

Nyatne (thank you) to everyone who participated, you now all carry the responsibility to continue learning and keep language and culture alive for future generations. We are so excited to continue this program, it is the first of many!

A HUGE nyatne (thank you) to Auntie Judy and Jordan Edwards, who brought this course to life and are such a huge part of keeping this connection to language and country in our community.

If you are interested in participating in future language courses, please reach out to Jordan Edwards by emailing Jordan.edwards@wathaurong.org.au

WELCOME NEW FOSTER CARE FAMILIES

In March we welcomed our newest families to the Wathaurong foster care program with a smoking ceremony. These incredible people have put their hand up to help care for our kids – they have been through the application and training and accreditation process and are ready to welcome kids in need into their homes. They are committed to caring for our kids, and helping to keep our kids connected with culture. Together we will build our kids up strong in community, culture and country.



If you are interested in learning more about becoming a foster carer with Wathaurong, contact our deadly team by emailing fostercare@wathaurong.org.au

COMMUNITY EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2020/2021 Annual General Meeting was held at Wurdi Youang on Sunday 20 February 2022, which was followed by a Community Meeting where updates were provided on the upcoming Strategic Plan refresh.

It was deadly to see so many of our community come out on country and have a yarn with the Board and CEO and have their voices heard.

Hopefully this year will allow us to have many more community meetings after missing out on coming together over the past couple of years.

A digital copy of the 2020/2021 Annual Report, featuring the deadly artwork of Gerard Black, is available to download from our website at <https://www.wathaurong.org.au/annual-reports/>

NATIONAL APOLOGY DAY

Each year, February 13th marks the anniversary of the public apology made in 2008 by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in on behalf of the Federal Government to the Stolen Generations – the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were forcibly removed from their families and successive colonial and Australian governments.



On Friday 11th February 2022, Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative

hosted a live stream to acknowledge the 14th anniversary of the apology and to hear from Stolen Generation survivors.

Uncle Glenn Shea, Aunty Helen Brotherton, and Aunty Helen's daughter Simone shared their stories, experiences, what the apology meant to them back in 2008, and what it means today.

These yarns and acknowledgements must happen all year round as we commit to truth telling and working for change for our mob.

You can watch a short snippet of the 2022 National Apology Day live stream by scanning the QR code to the right. This clip is a powerful story and message from Uncle Glenn Shea about the impact of removal of children from family, community, culture and identity, and the importance of reconnecting and reclaiming Indigenous knowledge.

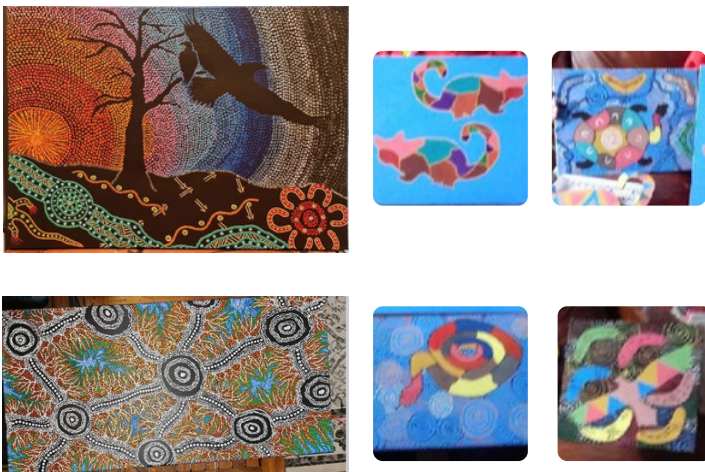


COMMUNITY EVENTS

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group is back meeting in person again every Friday. If you're interested in learning more about how you can get involved with Men's Group activities, contact Adam Lampton-Nicholls on 0437 071 786 or email adam.lamptonnicholls@wathaurong.org.au.

During various COVID lockdown restrictions, some members of the men's group have been doing some deadly paintings. See below some examples of the artworks created and shared with us.



KOORIE YOUTH CAMP

Our Koorie Youth Camp was finally able to return to YMCA Anglesea in the April school holidays, with overnight camps for our kids aged 10-16, and a day trip excursion for our 7-9 year olds.

The kids enjoyed a range of outdoor adventure activities while making new friends! Our deadly hoodies and t-shirts that all the kids received featured artwork from Bri Apma-Hayes.



ALBERT STREET BUILDING OPENING

Late last year, our Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative Social & Emotional Wellbeing staff moved into a new building with plenty of space for our expanding team.

While COVID restrictions and lockdowns have made it difficult to welcome our community to the new facility in recent months, we were able to have a small gathering of staff for a Welcome and smoking ceremony from Jordan Edwards.

We look forward to being able to welcome community to this new facility for services and activities in the coming months.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

NATIONAL SORRY DAY

On Thursday 26th May, Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative hosted a panel discussion with guests from the City of Greater Geelong, One Fire Reconciliation Group, and Stolen Generation Survivors about the Bringing Them Home report. National Sorry Day was first held in 1998, one year after the Bringing Them Home report was tabled in parliament.

Unfortunately not much has changed since the report was tabled and the panel discussion held was a powerful reminder of that, and acknowledged that everyone should play a part in the healing process by listening and learning from the voices of Stolen Generation Survivors.

RECONCILIATION IN THE PARK

Sunday May 22nd saw the return of the Reconciliation in the Park event at Johnstones Park, hosted by One Fire. Our new Wathaurong community engagement team were there and all the community that came through added their hand prints to a deadly banner to share their hopes for reconciliation action. A great day of sharing culture with the wider community.



SKATEBOARDING DAY

The June/July school holidays also gave us an opportunity to get our community kids back on the decks - skate decks, that is! The crew from YMCA Anglesea came down to host an indoor skateboarding and scooter session at The Park in North Geelong. From beginners to those doing flips and tricks, everyone had a blast!



KOORIE ASPIRATIONS DAY

The Koorie Student Aspirations Day was held on Wadda Wurrung country at GMHBA Stadium on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th April, bringing together Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander secondary school students from the greater Geelong and Colac region.

Supported by the Polly Farmer Foundation, the two day event was organised by the Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (LAECG). The event provided an opportunity for students from Years 7-12 to hear from inspirational young Indigenous role models who have achieved success in their chosen field. The program also presented a number of opportunities for students to learn about post school career and education pathways and opportunities.

Each day included a Welcome to Country from Corrina Eccles, followed by a "speed dating" session where students visited a number of stalls to learn more about opportunities available to them post school in a number of different fields and industries.



Students heard from representatives from educational institutions such as universities and TAFE, representatives from building and construction organisations, Unions, employment agencies and local organisations with Indigenous traineeships and pathways.

Staff and Alumni from the Polly Farmer Foundation also ran a goal setting session, where students were encouraged to start small but dream big, and work their way through developing SMART goals to achieve whatever they want to do in life.



Isaiah Firebrace (a Yorta Yorta/Gunditjmara man) winner of 2016 X-Factor and 2017 Eurovision Australian representative, was the guest speaker for the Koorie Aspirations Day. Isaiah shared his story of growing up in Echuca and his first experience of singing in front of a crowd at school in Year 8, his failures and how he worked through them before winning the X-Factor at the age of just 16.

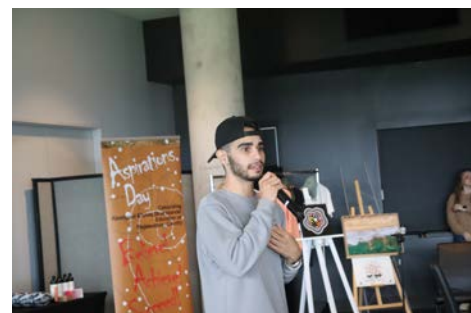
The afternoon sessions included hip-hop dancing, art and painting, Indigenous games, the AIME Leadership program and Clothing The Gaps Foundation's "Shades of Deadly" campaign.



LAECG co-Chair Aunty May Owen shared how wonderful it was to see this annual event happen again after two years of COVID postponements. "We want to make sure our kids know they can do anything, and there are people all around who can help them get to wherever they want to go," said Aunty May. One of the best things about these days is seeing all the kids come together and connect with each other, with their culture and to meet new people and know they have support in whatever they want to do now and in the future."

The Koorie Aspirations Day is designed to instil pride in First Nations youth and to provide them with many options for their future.

The artwork, designed by proud Gunditjmara Kerray Woorroong woman, Tarryn Love for the 2022 Koorie Aspirations Day is called Wootyook – meaning Star – and the words Mok Borriyn mean proud in Wadda Wurrung language. The logo also includes the words "Believe, Achieve, Succeed," and these are the words that these students will take with them from this year's Koorie Aspirations Day.



UPCOMING EVENTS

The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria is visiting Geelong in August to hear from our Elders and yarn about the pathway to Treaty.

All Elders and Respected persons are welcome to attend.

ELDERS VOICE GATHERING

The Elders' Voice
When Elders speak, we listen.

Elders' Voice Gathering – Geelong

We want to hear from you, our Elders!

Join our Elders' Voice Gathering in Geelong and help us shape the Elders' Voice – a council of Elders to guide the pathway to Treaty.

RSVP

Drew Berick: 0476 811 368
drewb@firstpeoplesvic.org

We will be holding two gatherings in Geelong on
Tuesday 16 August.

Midday session (Lunch
provided)

12pm – 2pm

62 Morgan St, North Geelong

Evening session (Dinner
provided)

5.30pm – 7.30pm

10 Albert St, Geelong West

All Elders are paid a fee for
their time and contribution.



FIRST PEOPLES'
ASSEMBLY OF
VICTORIA



firstpeoplesvic.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

KEEN ON A CAREER IN CONSTRUCTION?

WE ARE HOSTING AN INFO SESSION AT OUR FORSTER ST LOCATION!

WHEN: WEDNESDAY 24TH AUGUST 6PM-8PM

WHERE: 20A FORSTER ST, NORLANE

COME ALONG FOR A FEED AND HEAR ABOUT HOW YOU CAN START
YOUR PATHWAY TO EMPLOYMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY!

The organisations attending on the night have multiple job
and apprenticeship opportunities available now, so make
sure you get along to meet them and have a yarn!

HEAR FROM:

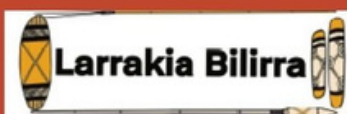
- Worn Gundidj
- BESIX Watpac
- Larrakia Bilirra
- The Gordon
- Dijilang Alliance
- Lend Lease

Welcome and Smoking
Ceremony at 6pm!

Presentation at 6:15pm

Dinner at 7pm!

contact ceteam@wathaurong.org.au for transport if required



Find out where
you want to go.

Find out how
to get there.



Aboriginal Career Counsellors are now available to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members.

What does a Career Counsellor do?

Career Counsellors can help you:

- Find jobs that suit your interests and abilities
- Identify your strengths and skills
- Look for pathways into the job you want
- Review your job applications, resume and cover letters
- Link to resources that can help you achieve your goals
- Empower you to take the lead in your career journey

What does the Career Counsellor service provide?

All eligible Victorians can access six free counselling sessions. These can take place online, on the phone, or face-to-face in some locations around the state.

Who can access the Career Counsellor service?

The service is available to all Victorian residents who do not have access to a Career Counsellor (e.g. current High School students). If you are under 18 please call us on 1800 967 909 and we can have a look at what options we have for you.

How do I book a Career Counsellor session?

If you want to talk to one of our Aboriginal Career Counsellors, call 1800 967 909 so the booking team can set up an appointment for you. All other bookings can be made through the booking team, or online at <https://ceav.vic.edu.au/jvccs>.

For more information, email careeryarns@ceav.vic.edu.au, or call Kristy on (03) 8402 7050



WATHAURONG GLASS

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

Our team over at Wathaurong Glass were scoring some aces over summer!

The Victorian Major Events team purchased these beautiful boomerang trophies from Wathaurong Glass to be presented to the winners for the Melbourne Summer Set series - the lead in event for the Australia Open Grand Slam.

Winners Rafa Nadal and Simon Halep are pictured here with their Wathaurong Glass boomerang trophies.



*Winner of the singles men
Melbourne Summer Set - Rafa
Nadal*



*Winner of the singles women
Melbourne Summer Set - Simone
Halep*



WATHAURONG GLASS TRAVELS THE WORLD

The new Deputy Prime Minister and Member for Corio, Richard Marles, dropped in to Wathaurong Glass recently to say thanks for providing him with quality glass art that he presents to international dignitaries all over the world.

Wathaurong Glass has designed and produced beautiful glassware with Aboriginal designs for many well known people over the years, including Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama, Naomi Campbell, Kathy Freeman, Debra Mailman and many more.



Wathaurong Glass & Arts

16 Rodney Road, North Geelong, 3215

Ph: (03) 5272 2881

Email: info@wathaurongglass.com.au

GLASS WORKSHOP



Glass Workshops for First Nations Artists



Glass by Bethany Wheeler

Commencing August 2022

Glaas Inc is offering 8-10 First Nations artists the opportunity to participate in a series of workshops of various glass techniques including leadlighting, kiln formed glass, copperfoiling, stained glass painting and sandblasting.

All tuition, materials, use of tools and equipment, and Personal Protective Equipment will be supplied to all participants free of charge.

A range of workshops will run weekly from August to early December in 2022. For those wanting to progress their work in glass, free studio time will be available from early 2023. Glaas Inc will organise an exhibition of the students work to be displayed at the Australian Centre for Glass Design in Prahran during NAIDOC Week in 2023.

GLAAS Inc is excited to offer this opportunity for First Nations artists to use glass to express their creativity and bring their unique cultural influences to glass art works.

**Aust Centre for Glass Design
144 High Street Prahran
Enquiries:
Donna Kennedy
0407 002 834
director@glaasinc.com.au
www.glaasinc.com.au**

Proudly supported by:



COMMUNITY NOTICES

\$15.6M ELECTION PROMISE FOR MORGAN STREET



From left to right: Simon Flagg (CEO, Wathaurong), Libby Coker (Member for Corangamite), Linda Burney (Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians), Richard Marles (Member for Corio) and Wendy Brabham (Acting Chairperson, Wathaurong) after the funding commitment announcement at Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative.

On Thursday April 28 April 2022, Member for Corio Richard Marles and Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney visited Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative to announce that an Albanese Labor Government will invest \$15.6 million to upgrade facilities as part of the Morgan Street Redevelopment Project to bring all Wathaurong support services under one roof.

Since opening our Morgan Street location in 1996, the Co-op has grown extensively, with additional premises being leased at the Federal Mills, North Geelong and Albert Street, Geelong West to cater for the growth in service delivery and staff. The need for a new facility that will serve as a cultural community hub has been highlighted over the past few years as a priority for the Wathaurong Board.

Wathaurong CEO, Simon Flagg, said that the redevelopment of the Morgan Street site was well overdue.

“Infrastructure is fundamental to meeting the needs of our community. Our vision is to develop spaces that embrace our cultural connection, bring community and staff together, enhance efficiency and increase accessibility, and strengthen our identity in the Geelong region,” said Mr. Flagg.

With the Australian Labor Party successfully winning the 2022 Federal Election, this funding promise is now a reality. With \$2.43m already committed from the Victorian State Government, this funding gets us closer to our goals of re-imagining Morgan Street to cater to all of our community in one location.

ARCHITECTS ANNOUNCED FOR MORGAN STREET REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Following a highly competitive tender process, Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative announced in February 2022 the appointment of Woods Bagot as the successful architects who will lead the proposed \$26m Morgan Street redevelopment project.

The appointment of Woods Bagot as architects for the project will allow Wathaurong to begin the process of engaging the local Aboriginal community to design a culturally safe and inclusive site.

Woods Bagot will be holding community engagement workshops and yarns with the local Wathaurong community over the coming months to begin the process of designing something that is strong in community, strong in culture and strong in country. If you have any questions or would like to provide your feedback on the project, get in touch with Infrastructure Manager Rose De Jong at rose.dejong@wathaurong.org.au



From left to right: Bronwyn McColl (Principal, Woods Bagot), Rose De Jong (Infrastructure Manager, Wathaurong), Simon Flagg (CEO, Wathaurong), Jasmine Kerdel (Graduate, Woods Bagot) and Tahlia Landrigan (Interior Designer, Wathaurong) stand in front of the existing Wathaurong Health Services building at Morgan Street

COMMUNITY NOTICES



ART ON PERMANENT DISPLAY

On Friday 1st July 2022, the Geelong BreastScreen Clinic proudly unveiled the permanent display of Arrernte artist Jasmine-Skye Marinos' artwork, "Kardeeneeyoo Toort-Barram". In Wathaurong language, this means Morning Stars. The rising sun represents a new day, and the stars above are our ancestors watching over us.

Jasmine-Skye's artwork was first used in the Beautiful Shawl project, a collaboration between BreastScreen Victoria, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation Inc and ACCOS across the state, including Wathaurong. The project provided customised screening shawls to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women that are culturally appropriate, familiar and beautiful to wear during their breast screen. The shawls, designed by more than ten local talented Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and artists, were gifts to take home after their screen was complete.

Jasmine-Skye's artwork was featured on the shawls given out as part of the Wathaurong breast screening clinics held over the past few years, and it will now be permanently on display at the Geelong BreastScreen Clinic to increase cultural safety in the clinical environment.

DEADLY CODERS - HOMEWORK CLUB

Check out our Deadly Coders!

In Term 2, our Forster Street Homework Club kids learned coding concepts through gaming. Each week they were having fun while learning new skills and becoming designers and programmers of their own worlds.

The Deadly Coders program run by Junior Engineers provides a space for creativity, exploration and learning in a drive to encourage more First Nations kids to think about careers in the STEM industry.

Homework Club runs every school term on a Monday after school at Forster Street with dinner provided – if you're keen to get your kids involved, get in touch with our Community Engagement team by calling us on 5277 0044 or emailing CETeam@wathaurong.org.au



COMMUNITY NOTICES

WILD AND WITCHY

ALLIRA POTTER'S DEBUT BOOK

A Yorta-Yorta woman living on Wathaurong country, Allira Potter has released her debut book - "Wild & Witchy".

The book is described as an all-in-one guide to self-love and is an extension of Allira's social media influencer messages about manifestation, gratitude, culture and creativity.



Wild & Witchy also explores Ms Potter's cultural identity and how she's come to walk confidently two worlds. Speaking to SBS, Allira said, "Being Indigenous, growing up with that identity, sometimes I did struggle. But I want to be the proof in the pudding, I love myself and I wouldn't want to change anything."

The book gave her opportunity to share her pride with others. "Self-love and cultural identity really do go hand-in-hand," she said. "To create a book that says to First Nations women and men, we don't need to hide... we get to be ourselves – that is so powerful."

Allira's book is available now in bookstores.

FLAG = FREED!



In fantastic news for our Aboriginal community, as of January 25th 2022 the Aboriginal flag is now freely available for public use without having to pay any fees for putting it on clothing or other merchandise.

Organisations like Clothing The Gaps (their "Free the Flag" campaign t-shirt pictured left) have done a huge amount of work over many years to raise awareness of this issue and push for the flag to be available for everyone.

While the flag is now available for retailers to use on clothing and merchandise, it's important to make sure that you are buying items displaying the Aboriginal flag from Aboriginal owned businesses.

COMMUNITY NOTICES



Kinaway is hosting Black Coffee – Business networking events

Black Coffee is a movement where Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander business owners get together for a short (or long) coffee to network and connect, talk all things business and provide peer support to each other locally. Non-Indigenous business partners are most welcome, and you also do not have to be a Kinaway member to attend as it is for all businesses and people who are interested in businesses to network and share info.

There is no cost, apart from what you buy at the café and it is an informal event where you can come and spend as long as you wish.

Did you know that in Ballarat , Geelong & surrounds there are Aboriginal owned businesses in the arts, consulting, construction, sports & recreation, wellness, engineering, fashion and retail and more?

Get in touch with Julie at Kinaway on 0497 631 724 or julies@kinaway.com.au to find out about the next planned dates for Black Coffee.

Kinaway - the Victorian Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce is the peak body and representative of all Aboriginal owned businesses in Victoria. It enjoys the unique position of being the lead agency in advocating for the economic participation and empowerment of Aboriginal people in Victoria. If you have just started a business or have been in business for a while, Kinaway can support your business journey.

Kinaway is an Aboriginal Community Controlled, member organisation. Currently membership is free and there are many benefits to joining.

Being a certified member of Kinaway means greater access to:

- Opportunities through social procurement across government and corporate (tenders)
- Opportunities to apply for grants (developing a website)
- Joining our Sista's in business network
- Access to the Western Victoria Business Broker
- Invites to Kinaway events for networking including Black Coffee
- Access to workshops/forums
- Access to the Kinaway TV channel
- Access to Webinars on specific topics
- Business information – what's happening in the business world
- Or just someone to talk to about your business

Membership:

<https://kinaway.com.au/membership/>

Website:

<https://kinaway.com.au/>

COMMUNITY NOTICES



Are you passionate about Koorie education?
Do you want to make a meaningful contribution to community?

The Geelong LAECG is seeking an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person with a knowledge of community and a passion for promoting Koorie Education in the Greater Geelong region to fill this position.

The Geelong Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (LAECG) is currently seeking a new Chairperson to lead and represent the group in the community.

This is an exciting position in a supportive environment and is an excellent opportunity to provide leadership in the Koorie community education space.

LAECG are community representatives of the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc (VAEAI). More information on the role of the LAECG can be found at www.vaeai.org.au.

Membership to the LAECG is open to all parents and carers of Aboriginal children in the community.

The role of the Chairperson is to attend and lead Geelong LAECG meetings, as well as attend and represent the Geelong LAECG at stakeholder and partnership meetings.

The role supports education sectors from early years through to post school including Catholic, Independent, Government schools, TAFE's and Universities.

The role is a voluntary position, although some reimbursement may be available for expenses incurred in the role.

It is expected that the Chairperson will have their own transport to attend meetings .

If time commitment is a problem, if this role may be shared between two or more people.

Please contact Shantelle at **shantelle.baillie@wathaurong.org.au** to register your interest.

COMMUNITY NOTICES



Are you **Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander**?

Do you **live in Northern Territory, South Australia or Victoria**?

Are you or your partner **pregnant** or have a **child**



Would you like to be part of an important Aboriginal-led study to improve support for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families?

We need your help to develop a questionnaire to improve support for parents who have experienced bad or hurtful things in their own childhood.

What's involved? Two separate interviews (30 mins to 1 hour each).

You will not be asked to share your personal stories and any information you provide will be strictly private and confidential.

We will provide **supermarket vouchers** and a **gift** to thank you for your time.

If you would like to know more, please:

- click on this link: <https://redcap.link/HPNFSelfReferral> and complete the 'Request to be contacted' form and the research team will get in touch with you.
- OR scan the QR code below.
- OR you can contact the research team directly below.

Phone: Project Team **0492 850 298**

Email: HPNF-project@unimelb.edu.au



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)

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.

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

**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/ to learn more, or lodge a complaint by emailing 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 Ambulance, Police, Fire Brigade	000
The After Hours National Home Doctor Service provides non-emergency medical assistance.	13 SICK (13 7425)
If you need legal advice or support, get in touch with the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service .	1800 064 865
The Orange Door can provide family violence support from 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. Outside these hours, contact Safe Steps for support, referrals and refuge 24/7.	1800 312 820 1800 015 188
For Drug & Alcohol advice, call the DirectLine 24 Hour referral service.	1800 888 236
For situations requiring police support or advice, call Geelong Police .	(03) 5225 3100
Are you seeking emergency accommodation? Call Salvo Connect (Homeless support provider for over 25s) for advice on housing and welfare support.	(03) 5223 9220
Barwon Youth (Homeless support provider for 24 and under) can help young people with accommodation and welfare support	(03) 5246 7500
Feed Me Geelong/Bellarine can provide support with free essential grocery deliveries.	0422 798 791
Uniting Care and Salvo Connect can help with providing food vouchers.	(03) 4210 1110 (03) 5223 5400
Yarning Safe N Strong is a culturally safe 24/7 confidential crisis line managed by VAHS.	1800 959 563
Brother to Brother is a 24/7 confidential support service specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men run by Dardi Munwarro .	1800 435 799
Lifeline 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 Suicide Call Back Line 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
Beyond Blue offers a 24/7 service providing mental health advice and support via phone, web chat or email.	1300 094 187
Kids Helpline offers 24/7 mental health support for young people aged 5-25.	1800 55 1800
Barwon Health Mental Health Triage offers 24/7 support for phone advice, referrals and intake.	1300 094 187