



WATHAURONG ABORIGINAL CO-OPERATIVE

Community Newsletter

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Wathaurong

Aboriginal Co-operative

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PICTURED: Pako Festa 2021 - Reimagined. See Page 18

Left to right: Adam Lampton-Nicholls, Linda Tanner, Jasmine-Skye Marinos, Mark Thompson.

Calendar of events

MAY 2021

26th - National Sorry Day (see page 21)

27th - Anniversary of the Referendum - Reconciliation Week begins

30th - Reconciliation In The Park (see page 21)

JUNE 2021

3rd - Mabo Day - last day of Reconciliation Week

14th - Public holiday (Co-op closed)

25th - Last day of Term 2 (school holidays start)



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





Acting Chairperson

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

2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Sunday March 21st, Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative Limited held it's Annual General Meeting for the 2019/2020 financial year.

Craig Edwards saw the cultural significance and importance of holding our AGM out on country on the Wurdi Youangs. It was great to be able to get our members together on country at Wurdi Youang, after having to postpone the meeting last year due to COVID-19 restrictions.

We would like to welcome and congratulate our Board Members appointed as part of the AGM:

- Judy Dalton-Walsh, re-appointed at the 2020 AGM for a period of 2 years
- Wendy Brabham, re-appointed at the 2020 AGM for a period of 2 years
- David Flagg, appointed at 2020 AGM for a period of 8 months (after being co-opted to a vacancy in July 2020)
- Shane Clarke, appointed for the first time at the 2020 AGM for a period of 2 years

Chairperson Craig Edwards is excited to continue working with the reappointed Board Members, as well as new Board Member Shane Clarke.

A copy of the 2019/20 Annual Report is available to download and view on our website.

We have had positive feedback from members on the way the Annual Report was presented at the AGM, with Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative managers providing updates and discussions with those present. This included presentations from Finance, Health Services, Family Services and Corporate Services managers. Additional presentations were provided as part of the Community Meeting held immediately after the AGM;

Early Years – the Early Years team presented an overview of the move to online playgroup and engagement throughout the COVID-19 lockdown period. This video can be viewed on our website at <https://www.wathaurong.org.au/news-events/agm2020agenda/> and more information on the program is on page 12 of this newsletter.

Closing the Gap Consortium – Lisa Briggs provided an overview of the Closing the Gap Consortium and proposed regional governance model and invited community to assist with the design and structure of the model. More information on how to get involved can be found on Page 5 of this newsletter.

Draft minutes of the AGM are now also available on our website at <https://www.wathaurong.org.au/publications/agm-minutes/>. These minutes will remain as draft until they are confirmed at the 2021 Annual General Meeting, which is scheduled to be held on Sunday 28th November 2021.

Acting Chairperson

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Annual General Meeting in March. I encourage all community members to put forward their ideas and share their thoughts to assist us in the planning for Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative.

In closing, I haven't attended an AGM that provided opportunity for Managers to present and Members to join in discussions in a longtime

The next Community Meeting will be Monday 21st June beginning at 5:30pm. If there is something you would like to add to the agenda, please send details through to the Secretary Fiona.ryan@wathaurong.org.au

Nyatne.

Wendy Brabham

Acting Chairperson

Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative LTD Community Meeting – Monday 21st June 2021 Agenda Commencement: 5:30pm

1. Welcome by Chairperson
2. Respect Protocol – minutes silence
3. Apologies
4. Previous Minutes
 - 4.1 Business arising from previous minutes
 - 4.2 Acceptance of 21st March 2021 minutes
5. Finance update
6. Presentations
 - 6.1 Social/WAC Housing
 - 6.2 Closing the Gap Consortium
 - 6.3 Infrastructure Development
7. Other General Business
8. Meeting closed

Lot 62 MORGAN STREET, NORTH GEELONG 3215 * PO Box 402, NORTH GEELONG 3215
PH: (03) 5277 0044 FAX: (03) 5278 4123 EMAIL: admin@wathaurong.org.au

The 2021 Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Sunday 28th November.

2020 AGM AT WURDI YOUANG



Chief Executive Officer

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

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

I would like to welcome the new board members Wendy Brabham, Judy Dalton-Walsh, David Flagg and Shane Clarke and I look forward to working with them throughout the year.

YOUR VOICE

I wanted to raise the important matter of ensuring that WAC has greater participation from our local Aboriginal members and community to ensure they have an opportunity to assist in the planning, development and monitoring of WAC. It is important that our Aboriginal community members participate in the strategic directions and design of our programs to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our local Aboriginal community.

WAC holds Community Meetings and consultations to ensure that we are providing a forum for our local Aboriginal community voices to be heard. The Board and myself raised the importance of an Aboriginal community voice at the Annual General Meeting held at Wurdi and we are looking for feedback on how we can improve this. Over the next couple of months we will conduct a survey via the website on how we can increase our local Aboriginal members and community participating.

We are also seeking Expressions of Interests which are open now to join Barwon Aboriginal Advisory Group (BAAG). Further details are on the next page and can also be found on our website at www.wathaurong.org.au.

COVID IMMUNISATION PROGRAM

WAC Health Service has been actively working with Barwon Health in the development of the Barwon Health Covid Immunization Program that will be held at the Ford Factory. We will be onsite to support Barwon Health at the Ford Factory, just look for with Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative Banners as you walk in or ask one of the staff. We have also put out an Expressions of Interest to our members and community to register if they want to participate in the program or receive more information. WAC Health Service are currently also planning an onsite Covid Immunization Program and more details will be provided to community as soon as this is finalised.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIVES

There has been a lot of developments over the last 3 months with 2 key strategic policy reforms with the Commonwealth Closing the Gap Refresh and Wungurilwil Gapgapduir Aboriginal Children and Families. Both of these are significant to our people in ensuring they have two outcomes:

- Improving the quality of life and health outcomes for Aboriginal people and;



- Reducing the numbers of Aboriginal children and families represented in the Justice system;

These are two examples of where local Aboriginal community voices are needed and we will present these two items at the next Community Meeting.

OUR SERVICE DELIVERY

I wanted to share with you the increase in service delivery to our local members and community which was provided in our Annual Report.

This demonstrates how we are responding to your needs and a way for community to monitor this. Over the last financial year we significantly increased our service activity across 4 themes, they are:

Chief Executive Officer

- 60% increase Cultural and Community Engagements
- 43% increase Health Service appointments
- 28% increase Family Services
- 31% increase of funding

The most significant is the Cultural and Community Engagements which demonstrates that WAC is providing the right services to meet our communities cultural needs. Like our 40th Anniversary theme states Balert Tabayl Balert Ngitj Strong Country, Strong Community and we want to continue our path of keeping community strong and their voices heard.

WAC STAFF

I want to acknowledge the commitment of WAC Staff and this is demonstrated in the service activity above and also their ongoing commitment in building their skill base.

Over the last few months we have seen 18 of WAC Staff Complete their Diploma in Community Services, 3 Staff complete the Cert IV Aboriginal Health Practitioner course. We also had 8 Community Members completed the Certificate II Construction Course. This is all part of our WAC Workforce Development Strategy and recently we have also gained 3 VACCHO Aboriginal

Traineeships and encourage as many Aboriginal people to apply.

We have a commitment to reach 70% Aboriginal employment across the organization and it is through such pathways and local Aboriginal community support that we will be able to achieve our target.

I look forward to seeing you at the WAC Community Meeting providing further updates and hearing your voice around the table.

Gobata
Lisa Briggs

BARWON AREA ABORIGINAL GOVERNANCE CONSORTIUM

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I invite community members to express your interest in joining our Wathaurong's Community Reference Group to contribute to the Barwon Area Aboriginal Governance (BAAG) Consortium, and to support the implementation of the Co-operative's refreshed Strategic Plan.

I spoke at the Community Meeting on 21st March 2021 about the BAAG Consortium, which will see Wathaurong implementing our refreshed Strategic Plan and driving systemic change for the implementation of Closing the Gap in our Barwon region. Led by Wathaurong, the BAAG Consortium will

- Enact the right of self-determination by centring Aboriginal culture and community and Aboriginal Co-operative model leadership and decision making at all levels of government departments, local government, and partner organisations including the transfer of authority, decision making and control and resources to Aboriginal people.
- Engage with and centre the diversity of Aboriginal communities across the Barwon Region, including the specialist expertise of our Aboriginal Co-operative sector.
- Align with Wathaurong's refreshed Strategic Plan and support cultural and community centred implementation to support our communities' strengths and needs

- Provide accountability and transparency to Aboriginal communities through "radical reconfiguring of relationships of power" (Bond and Singh 2020) between Aboriginal peoples and Local, State and Federal governments across the Barwon region

The Wathaurong Community Reference Group will strengthen the input and guidance of our communities to our cultural and community-centred ways of working in delivering services and driving systems change for all Aboriginal people living on Wadda-Wurrung Country. The Community Reference Group will be engaged from May 2021 and we envisage members participating in the Consortium Governance Committee, Working Groups, and community consultation events. If you are interested in sharing your experience, skills, community, and cultural knowledge in self-determining our Co-operative and achieving a thriving future for our communities, please register your interest with Wathaurong by

- Emailing admin@wathaurong.org.au
- Calling us on (03) 5277 0044

We will then invite you to attend a presentation and conversation to learn more.
Nyatne, gobata (thanks, take care),

Lisa Briggs
CEO Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative

STAFF UPDATES

WELCOME NEW STAFF

We welcome some of our newest staff members, including Yohan Kumaran who has stepped into the role of Chief Finance Officer, and Mark Shaw who joins us as Systems Transformation Manager.

MURRI MATTERS STAFF WORKSHOPS

Over the past few months, many of our staff members have had an opportunity to participate in a workshop run by Scott Gorringer from Murri Matters.

The workshops are the first in a series that are planned to engage our staff, and engaging with community, to set the vision and strategic plan for Wathaurong in the future.

Nyatne (thanks) to Scott for grounding us, yarning with us, and helping us to keep culture at the front of our minds in our work.

Stay tuned for more announcements throughout the year on how the community can get involved in these workshops and help set the vision for our organisation.



FAREWELL

Finance Manager Kevin Bartlett hung up his calculator at the end of 2020, moving into retirement.

Kevin worked for Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative for over a decade and we wish him the best in his next adventures!

Tony McCartney has also recently finished up with Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative as Executive Manager of Health Services. This role is currently vacant and being advertised. In the interim, Duane Luki has been appointed as Acting Executive Manager of Health Services. As part of the new structure of the organisation, Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative is committed to having Aboriginal-led executive management team and this role is designated as an Aboriginal identified position. Check our website for details on how to apply if you are interested!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Are you or someone you know looking for a job?

We have a number of job vacancies at Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative, ranging from casual to full time. There are also traineeships available.

Check out the Careers section on our website at <https://www.wathaurong.org.au/careers-with-us/>

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

FUNDING UPDATES

MINISTER NATALIE HUTCHINS VISITS WATHAURONG

On Tuesday 9th February we welcomed The Hon. Natalie Hutchins MP, Minister for Youth Justice, Corrections, Crime Prevention and Victim Support, along with representatives from the Department of Justice and Community Safety to Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op for a site visit and to have a yarn about how we can continue to support our youth in community and the need for funding and programs for our young mob before they end up in the justice system.

The group was welcomed with a smoking ceremony by Lachlan Edwards.

Some good yarns had about the crucial need for more mental health support for our Indigenous youth in the community.

We look forward to continuing these conversations and advocating for more services and funding for our mob.



Pictured from left to right: Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative CEO, Lisa Briggs; Minister for Youth Justice, Corrections, Crime Prevention and Victim Support The Hon. Natalie Hutchins; Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative Executive Manager of Family Services, Shellee Strickland; Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative Executive Manager of Corporate Services, Simon Flagg

VICHEALTH FUNDING FOR CLOSING THE GAP REGIONAL CONSORTIUM

Late last year, VicHealth CEO Dr. Sandro Demaio and VicHealth Chair Hon. Nicole Roxon visited Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative along with Member for Geelong Christine Couzens MP and Member for Lara Hon. John Eren MP.

With funding from VicHealth, Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative will assist in setting up a local Aboriginal centred and led Closing the Gap (CTG) Regional Consortium for the betterment of Aboriginal health, wellbeing, education, lifestyle, and housing.

This funding, as well as the previously announced funding from the Andrews Labor Government for nine new consulting rooms as part of the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund, will assist Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative to continue to increase and improve the services available to our community and provide the best possible care in a safe cultural environment.



Pictured from left to right: Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative CEO, Lisa Briggs; Member for Geelong, Christine Couzens; VicHealth CEO, Dr Sandro Demaio; Member for Lara, The Hon. John Eren; VicHealth Chair, The Hon. Nicola Roxon; Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative Executive Manager of Corporate Services, Simon Flagg

DHELK DJA FUNDING

Wathaurong has been successful in receiving funding over the coming two years associated with the Victorian Government's Dhelk Dja: Safe Our Way – Strong Culture, Strong Peoples, Strong Families, Aboriginal-led agreement to address family violence.

This funding will support Wathaurong to strengthen how our local Aboriginal communities and

families are self-determining, safe, and thriving in our culture across the Barwon region, free from violence.

Our whole families and communities will be supported by a transformed service system with the capacity to develop and embed our local self-determined, holistic, and integrated, whole of family and community-led model on

Wathaurong and Eastern Maar country for strength-based, culture and trauma-informed family violence prevention, early help seeking and response and healing from first to last breath. We look forward to sharing opportunities for your contribution and regular communications about this work with you all.

AWARDS

WATHAURONG COMMUNITY NAIDOC AWARDS 2020

Congratulations to all of the winners of the Wathaurong Community NAIDOC Awards for 2020. NAIDOC week was celebrated "virtually" from the 14th November - 21st November in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Wathaurong Community NAIDOC awards were presented at the Community Christmas event held on Tuesday 15th December, when outdoor gatherings allowed us to get together in person and celebrate the achievements of our winners.

Nedok Yoongga (Elder/Respected Person)

Winner – Glenn Shea

GLENN SHEA was nominated for this award by members of the Wathaurong community for his tireless commitment to the 40 Year anniversary project; sharing his wealth of community knowledge; putting together videos and memories of Wathaurong's 40 years; stories for virtual quests and his work with promoting and instilling culture through new and different activities.



Ngarrwa Ngitj (Community Person)

Winner – Tahlia Dempsey

Tahlia Dempsey was nominated for this award by members of the Wathaurong community for her passion and commitment to leadership in the development to the early years space; ensuring healthy and connected young mob and families; always putting community first and being the first person to help out; and keeping early years families connected through COVID.

Koolay Goopma (Young Male Achiever)

Joint winners – Keeden Graham & Jordan Edwards

KEEDEN GRAHAM was nominated for this award by members of the Wathaurong community for being a role model for the younger generation; stepping up into challenges and thriving in leadership roles; being reliable, responsible and grounded; and his selection to the Victorian Youth Congress this year, working to amplify Indigenous voices.



JORDAN EDWARDS was nominated for this award by members of the Wathaurong community for his work as an elected Member of First Peoples Assembly for Treaty; working to bring the Koorie youth up with the culture; and continuing to work to bring engagement to the youth and ensuring that culture is at the front of all things at Wathaurong.



Moordeemoondeek Goopma (Young Female achiever)

Joint winners – Taleena Black and Naomi Edwards

TALEENA BLACK was nominated for this award by members of the Wathaurong community for turning her life around despite challenges; always being respectful; and growing with ambition and pride. *(Image not available)*



NAOMI EDWARDS was nominated for this award by members of the Wathaurong community for her continuous commitment to helping families grow stronger together; her devotion to helping children to better lives; her passion for self-determination and advocacy with a strong sense of community and culture; and her artistic side in weaving and creating earrings showing a positive role model for youth.

AWARDS

WOMEN IN COMMUNITY LIFE AWARDS

The annual City of Greater Geelong "Women in Community Life" award winners were announced on Friday 5th March at a virtual awards ceremony as part of the city's celebrations of International Women's Day.

The event celebrates and showcases the leadership, achievements, work and spirit that women are contributing to keep our city prosperous, connected, safe and striving for inclusion and equality.

There were 7 deadly women nominated from our community across five different categories. Congratulations all of the nominees, and to those who won awards in their respective categories!

WINNERS



Kiralee Hogema - Wathaurong Aboriginal Health Practitioner with Koorie Maternity Services - Nominated for Leadership in Women's Health and First Nations Woman. Winner in Leadership in Women's Health



Tenaya Watts - Wathaurong Workforce Development & HR Officer - Nominated for First Nations Woman, winner of special scholarship for Leading in Education



Kylie Clarke - Leader of Nyarrn-gakgo mangki program - Nominated for First Nations Woman, Winner of First Nations Woman

NOMINEES

Stacie Murphy - Wathaurong Balert Care Connections Support Co-ordinator - Nominated for Human Rights, Disability Rights, and First Nations Woman

Naomi Edwards - Wathaurong Family Services Team Leader - Nominated for First Nations Woman

Susan Collins - Koorie Education Support Officer - Nominated for First Nations Woman

Jordyn Flagg - Executive Officer of the Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee - Nominated for First Nations Woman

DR. ED RECEIVES CLOSING THE GAP AWARD



Our very own Dr. Ed Poliness was recognised at the Rural Health Awards late in 2020, receiving the "Closing The Gap" award for services to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities for his work here at Wathaurong.

"Dr Ed has been an integral part of our organisation for 10 years and in that time has worked closely with our GPs and Aboriginal Health Workers to ensure that our Community is receiving the best care that is culturally safe," Wathaurong CEO, Lisa Briggs.

As an ACCO, Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative's values lie in its commitment to its Community.

"The initiative of Closing the Gap means more than just improving the health of First Nations people, it is about making sure that we as ACCOs are driving the decisions and delivery of programs to benefit our communities," Tony McCartney, Executive Manager Health Services.

"This award recognises the contributions that Dr Ed has made as part of our Wathaurong health service in reaching those goals."

Too deadly!

You can read the full story on Dr Ed's award on our website: <https://www.wathaurong.org.au/news-events>

Wathaurong's **Milla Milla Playgroup**

is on **facebook**



Milla Milla Playgroup at Home



What does Playgroup look like online on Facebook



MONDAY - TUESDAY - FRIDAY

- * KFFE team post a webcam video for parents
- * Share info from Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-Op
- * Feedback Day



WEDNESDAY - THURSDAY

- * Livestream from 11.30am
- livestream group session include
Singing songs, reading stories
and learning language



Milla Milla playgroup is a friendly
culturally safe space for parents, Aunts,
Uncles, Grandparents and
carers to strengthen their child's
cultural identity through play and
cultural activities



For more information on what's
happening at Milla Milla Playgroup please
call or e-mail

Kristi Watts 0419698264
Kristi.Watts@wathaurong.org.au



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Our deadly Milla Milla playgroup team have been recognised for their great work in keeping families connected through COVID. This article was published on www.indigenous.gov.au

MILLA MILLA PLAYGROUP - SHOWING HOW IT'S DONE

Putting playgroup sessions online during the COVID-19 shutdown has boosted 'attendance' at the Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative (WAC) Milla Milla Playgroup in North Geelong, Victoria.

Before the shutdown (March 2020), there were 17 families (23 children) enrolled for playgroup.

Now, there are 56 families (76 children) engaging with the online Facebook group.

This includes 19 families who had previously attended and were now reconnecting, as well as 28 new families.

Kristi Watts is a traditional owner of the Wadda-Wurrung people and Facilitator of the WAC Milla Milla Playgroup

'When COVID hit in March, we had to close the playgroup because of restrictions. During the first term school holidays, my team leader and I discussed what might look like during lock down,' Kristi said.

'And we came up with WAC Milla Milla Playgroup at Home on Facebook. We discussed how I could livestream our usual group session to help children stay connected to culture and to playgroup.'

Much of the pre-shutdown program was retained such as story time, singing and learning in language. This kept things familiar to those who were able to attend before.

Going online also meant that those who couldn't attend before, now could.

'Transport was and is one of our biggest barriers for getting families to playgroup,' Kristi said.

'I probably have had about 10 or more families turned away in the past because I don't do transport in a certain area or the bus transport list is full for that particular day.'

The transport problem now 'solved', there were still more obstacles to overcome.

Not all families had a device to watch the livestreams and not everyone was on Facebook. Certain activities required certain resources and not every family had them.

As families signed up with Facebook, the numbers attending increased and the Early Years backpacks were distributed so families could engage in the activities. Activities within the pack included Ochre, paint, paper and resources sheets.

The return to playgroup using online digital platforms yielded very satisfying outcomes. Parents were grateful that their children continued to connect to culture and they shared photos of the children watching the live playgroup sessions.

One parent said "I love what you're doing...every time my child sees your face, she's always engaging with you straight away. She loves the story time and dancing and making good use of everything in the pack...thank you." Kristi said she was surprised by the success of the online program.

'I remember being worried that nobody would watch, that families would not be interested in doing playgroup online,' she said.

'I would get really excited when I saw someone watching and receiving comments from families saying "Hello" or if they hit the like/love button.'

The online playgroup continues and with sessions still not being able to be held at the indoor centre, Kristi has taken it playgroup "Out on Country".

'We have been coming together at parks, reserves and sanctuaries to do playgroup, while still live streaming to those watching online,' Kristi said.

'When the livestream finishes, I get to have a yarn with families that have attended playgroup. I thank them for coming and tell them I will see them next week at the next park.'



HEALTH SERVICES



KMS CORNER

The Covid baby boom has hit Koori Maternity Service, with 2021 looking set to be our biggest year yet!

Welcome back Claire Galbraith from maternity leave.

KMS still running at full capacity - we are just a 3-person team now!

Lauren: Monday To Thursday

Claire: Wednesday & Friday

Kiralee: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Kiralee's workload in KMS has been shortened due to pursuing her studies in Midwifery at Australian Catholic University. We wish her all the best!

We encourage any pregnant women over 24 weeks gestation who may be interested in having Kiralee follow through your pregnancy as a student midwife from the 26 week mark to make contact with us, or email kiralee.hogema@wathaurong.org.au to find out more.

You don't have to be involved with the KMS program if you wish to utilise Kiralee as a student midwife.



Lauren Kittelty
Midwife



Kiralee Hogema
Aboriginal Health Practitioner



Claire Galbraith
Midwife

CALL 0419 530 722

Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm
62 Morgan Street, North Geelong



KMS 300TH BABY!

Millie Mae O'Reilly



RIVER

30/03/2021



MILLIE

23/03/2021



SKYE

05/03/2021



MADDISON

03/03/2021



ARLEE

23/02/2021



ALEXANDER

08/11/2020



ELIJAH

30/11/2020



LENA

06/11/2020



MAX

10/10/2020



LAKORRAH

09/10/2020



REUBAN

21/09/2020

HEALTH SERVICES

HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

DID YOU KNOW?

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

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



WATHAURONG

Aboriginal Co-operative

COUGH/COLD/FEVER CLINIC

The Cough/Cold/Fever Clinic is running every Tuesday and Friday morning at 20A Forster Street, Norlane.

Appointments are essential - to book, please call Wathaurong Health Services on **5277 2038**

Tuesdays & Fridays, 9:30am - 12pm

20/A Forster Street, Norlane

FAMILY SERVICES

BALERT CARE CONNECTIONS - AGED & DISABILITY SERVICES

The Balert Care Connections team has experienced support staff to assist eligible people with everyday needs, including personal care, shopping, domestic assistance, property maintenance, mowing lawns and gardening. My Aged Care is targeted to frail, vulnerable and isolated older people, while Disability Services (NDIS) program is for people with permanent disabilities.

The program provides quality support that assists people to live comfortably in their own homes for as long as they possibly can.

Assessment: Before you can receive services, you must be assessed to see if you are eligible. The Coordinator will arrange to visit you (normally in your own home) and will complete assessment forms with you.

Services: Balert Care Connections provides services for the following activities under My Aged Care and NDIS:

- Domestic Support
- Respite
- Unaccompanied Shopping
- Property Maintenance
- Equipment (My Aged Care)
- Recreational participation (NDIS)
- Assistance out in the community (NDIS)
- By referral: Allied Health Occupational Therapists, Speech and Physiotherapy (NDIS)

Eligibility: To be eligible for My Aged Care or NDIS Balert Care Connection programs you need to be:

- At risk of premature admission to long term residential care
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 50 years or older/PYP 18-50yrs
- NDIS up to 65 yrs
- Permanent disability loss of functional/physical capacity
- Or a younger person with a permanent disability which restricts your ability to complete daily tasks associated with independent living
- People from the My Aged Care and Disability target group are eligible for the services, regardless of gender or disability

If you have any questions regarding eligibility for Balert Care Connections services, please contact Wathaurong Aboriginal Co- operative to discuss with the Support Coordinator.

GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR TEAM

If you would like further information or you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Balert Care Connections Team on 03 5292 9800.

LIZ ABRAHAMS

Team Leader

liz.abrahams@wathaurong.org.au
0409726913

STACIE MURPHY

Support Coordinator

stacie.murphy@wathaurong.org.au
0447790490

ALICE KNIGHT

Support Coordinator

Alice.knight@wathaurong.org.au
0457912636

We ensure that all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their families are treated and supported culturally as part of our commitment to you.

FAMILY SERVICES

BALERT CARE CONNECTIONS - AGED & DISABILITY SERVICES

MY AGED CARE

Referrals: My Aged Care referrals can be provided by contacting My Aged Care intake **1800 200 422** or getting in touch with Wathaurong Support Coordinators – Stacie Murphy, Amanda Carter or Liz Abrahams at **03 5292 9800**. Online self-referral is also available at www.myagedcare.gov.au/make-a-referral. Balert Care Connections can help if you require someone to act on your behalf. An advocacy network can also assist and work on your behalf and at your direction to represent your wishes and helps you interact with the Aged Care system. The Older Persons Advocacy Network provides free, confidential and independent support, empowering older people to make informed decisions about your care. The Older Persons Advocacy Network can be accessed by calling **1800 700 600** or visiting <https://opan.com.au>

Elder abuse: Elder Abuse is unfortunately a reality for many vulnerable people. If you need assistance please do not hesitate to contact myself or the Advocacy for Older Persons Network <https://opan.com.au/>, the Royal commission, the Balert Care Connections program or call police on **000**.

Meals: Balert Care Connections also offer a meals program of good wholesome food of 2-course meals daily through working partnership with Diversitat. This is only Offered to My Aged care clients.

DISABILITY SERVICES

Referrals: Referrals can be made by contacting NDIS directly on **1800 035 544** or online self referral at www.NDIS.com.au. Balert Care Connections can also assist if you require someone to act on your behalf.

NDIS support: Advocacy for people with disabilities is through RIAC (Rights Information and Advocacy Centre). This is a free service and can be accessed online at <https://riac.org.au/> or by calling **03 5222 5499**. RIAC work with diverse communities including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. RIAC can assist with NDIS appeals, complaints and referrals.

NDIS complaints: People have the right to make a complaint about services they receive. If you have any concerns about your current NDIS supports or services, it is important you talk about it. Complaints are important: they can help providers to understand what's important to people with disabilities and improve the quality of services they provide, so your complaint can help other people too.

To make a complaint please contact

- **1800 035 544** free call from landlines or TTY **133677**, interpreters can be arranged
- National relay Service and ask for **1800 035 544**
- Or completing online complaint form www.ndiscommission.gov.au/

EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTIONS (ECIS)

Early Childhood interventions (ECIS) support children with additional needs such as disability or a delay developmental disorder from birth to transitioning to school. Parents might notice different behaviours - how they play, socialise, communicate their needs or just not being understood by others.

If you have a child under the age of 7 who is displaying some of these signs, you may be eligible for support.

NDIS/ECIS can provide:

- special education
- Therapy
- Counselling
- Information and parent education
- Service planning and coordination
- Support to access services such as Kindergartens and child care

ECIS is a support pathway the NDIS. It helps families to understand the role of NDIS, guides families to appropriate supports and offers independent advice on supports that best meets the needs of the child and their family.

Self-referrals can be made from parents or teachers online - your GP & healthcare professional can also assist with referral process, or you can contact your nearest NDIS provider. Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative are a provider in this area and work collaboratively with NDIS and BCYF. If you would like more information on this program, please contact Liz Abrahams at liz.abrahams@wathaurong.org.au

WURDI YOUANG

WURDI YOUANG UPDATE

Though the sunny days of summer are behind us, Wurdi Youang is still keeping its team busy. Site manager Reg Abrahams returned from long service leave in March and has hit the ground running with two new landcare officers: Matthew Barnes who was previously on the Wurdi ranger team; and Jamie Butcher who's enthusiasm for the role is already an asset. The team now comes under Executive Manager and community member Simon Flagg and includes a project officer, being Megan Frazer who some of you know from other roles at the Co-op.

The team has just successfully completed some cultural burns, a traditional practice that keeps the land healthy and harmonious. Wurdi is home to several critically endangered plant and animal species, so the burns are an important part of maintaining and improving the biodiversity of the site. We would like to thank ecologist Peter Wlodarczyk and friend of Wurdi, Troy Griggs, who both provided valuable assistance for the burns.

Wurdi also hosted the Co-op's Annual General Meeting in March. Everyone agreed that it was great for people to get out on country and enjoy the connection and serenity of the space. Moving out of Covid restrictions we hope to host many more events at Wurdi Youang so we expect to see you all out there soon.



WURDI YOUNG ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Seeking expressions of interest for a community representative

Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative owns and manages Wurdi Youang, a site of enormous spiritual and historical significance, and we are seeking expressions of interest for a community member to join the Wurdi Youang Advisory Committee in a voluntary capacity. Meeting at least quarterly, the Committee works for the Co-op's Board of Directors to oversee and make recommendations on the cultural heritage and activity plans of the site, in particular for the ancient stone arrangement on the property. So if you are interested or would like further information, please contact the Wurdi Youang Project Officer at megan.frazer@wathaurong.org.au or call Megan on 0418 971 270.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

2020 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

We were lucky enough to be able to celebrate Christmas as a community in mid-December before the lockdown restrictions tightened up again. It was great to see families enjoying themselves at Adventure Park, and a big thank you to Santa and his elves for giving out gifts at our Community Christmas Day!



KOORI SURFING TITLES

The Woorangalook Victorian Koori Surfing Titles were hosted by Victorian Indigenous Surfing and held on Wadda-wurrung country at Urquhart Bluff on the 6th and 7th February, with 130 participants representing communities across the whole state of Victoria. Well done to everyone who participated, from first time beginners to advanced competitors!



PAKO FESTA

The 2021 Pako Festa was "reimagined", with each community hosting their own pop-up dining experience at different locations on Saturday 27th February. At Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op, we served up our Bush Tucker BBQ, with kangaroo burgers, sausages and skewers; wattle seed slice; lemon myrtle truffle balls and lemon myrtle ice tea. Kristi Watts welcomed our visitors to country and organised the dance performances throughout the day.

A big thank you to Jasmine-Skye Marinos, Linda Tanner, Adam Lampton-Nicholls, Mark Thompson, Kristi Watts and Beth Davis for organising the event and cooking on the day!



COMMUNITY EVENTS

YOUTH CAMP

In January 2021 we hosted our first Youth Camp for the year at YMCA Anglesea. Over the week long camp, the kids were able to participate in a range of outdoor activities like skate boarding, canoeing, mountain bike riding, high ropes, campfire yarns and more. The lucky campers were even gifted with their very own skateboard to take home!

In the April school holidays, for the first time in years we brought together kids from Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op, Ballarat & District Aboriginal Co-op, Gunditjmara Aboriginal Co-op, Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-operative and Windamara Aboriginal Corporation. It was great to see youth from all over the Western District region come together for team building activities and make friends that will hopefully last a lifetime!

Thanks to a funding grant from RAJAC, we were able to provide all of our April campers with a Koorie Youth Camp hoodie, t-shirt, backpack and hat.

We have more Youth camps scheduled for later in the year, if you're keen to get involved contact Beth at Beth.davis@wathaurong.org.au



Campers in January participated in skateboarding, mountain bike riding, beach volleyball and painting activities



The April Koorie Youth Camp brought together kids from five different Western District ACCOs

COMMUNITY EVENTS

NATIONAL APOLOGY DAY

On 13 February 2008, then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd publicly apologised, 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 communities by successive colonial and Australian governments.

This year we celebrated the 13th anniversary of that apology – the first step in a long journey to healing. These yarns and acknowledgements must happen all year round as we commit to truth telling and working for change for our mob.

We recognise and reflect on the strength and resilience that mob have shown over many, many years.

On the Friday February 12th, we welcomed people to gather and walk with us to commemorate National Apology Day.

A special thank you to Auntie Colleen Howell for sharing her story with us and reading her beautiful poems about her experiences being taken from her family.

The Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony was performed by Wadda-wurrung woman Kristi Watts and her children, Sarah and David, and it was deadly to see some young ones there from local primary schools to reflect on what this day means. The beautiful morning tea spread was catered by Yam Daisy. Thank you to Bringing Them Home worker, Judy Rosson, for putting the whole event together.

On this day and everyday, we remember, reflect, support, and wrap our arms around all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have been and continue to be affected by the Stolen Generation policies.



Auntie Colleen Howell reads her poetry



Walking around the lake



Smoking bowl



Kristi Watts & Sarah Murphy welcomed everyone to Wadda-wurrung country

COMMUNITY EVENTS

WOMEN'S GROUP

Women's group has returned to face to face meetings! Every Wednesday between 12pm and 2pm at Cloverdale Community Centre, located at 167 – 169 Purnell Road Corio.

Come and join us for some fun, with some craft sessions, a feed, and a yarn. We also have guest speakers that come in for chats with regards to women's business.

Registration is required and can be done by contacting:

Gemma Evans on mobile 0408 785 551
or via email: gemma.evans@wathaurong.org.au

Michelle Gray on mobile 0438 619 284
or via email: michelle.gray@wathaurong.org.au



MEN'S GROUP



The Mens Group is also back to meeting up in person, with regular BBQs, personal training sessions and activities hosted each week. If you're interested in joining up with the Men's Group, contact Adam Lampton-Nicholls on mobile 0437 071 786 or email adam.lamptonnicholls@wathaurong.org.au.

Darren Martini has recently painted this deadly artwork for the Men's Group.

"This painting is about different totems (us men) coming together to our meeting place to have a yarn."

SAVE THE DATE

Now that we're able to get back together again as mob, we've got a lot of celebrating to catch up on this year! We are planning to host our annual Wathaurong NAIDOC Ball on Saturday 3rd July, and plans are underway for a 40 Year Anniversary Cabaret Dinner later in the year. Keep an on our socials for more details on these events, but save the date for our NAIDOC Ball now!

Saturday
July 3rd
2021

Wathaurong's
NAIDOC Ball

Venue TBC
Stay tuned to
our Facebook
page for more
updates!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

NATIONAL SORRY DAY

Wednesday 26th May, 2021

12pm-2pm

Community are invited to join us for National Sorry Day at Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative (62 Morgan Street, North Geelong) to mark the 24th anniversary of the Bringing Them Home report. Hear from Indigenous storyteller Glenn Shea plus a music performance by the Wathaurong "Bringing The Home" group. A BBQ lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP your attendance for catering purposes by emailing comms@wathaurong.org.au

Reconciliation in the Park



FREE family friendly event for everyone

Johnstone Park
10am to 3pm
Sunday 30th May 2021

The National Reconciliation Week theme this year is
More than a word. Reconciliation takes Action

See: <https://www.facebook.com/recinthepark/> www.geelongonefire.org.au

COMMUNITY NOTICES

NAIDOC COMMUNITY AWARD NOMINATIONS

Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative is calling for nominations for the 2021 NAIDOC Community Awards. Who do you think should get the awards in 2021? If you have someone you wish to nominate, you can complete the online nomination form now - visit www.wathaurong.org.au/NAIDOC2021 to submit your nominations. Printed nomination forms can also be downloaded from the website to be completed and returned to Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative.

Closing date for nominations will be **Friday 11th June 2021**. There are four categories of awards for nomination.

Ngarrwa Ngitj

Community Person

Nominees for this award should be community people. They should be active in community life and be a positive representation of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Community.

Nedok Yoongga

Elder/Respected person

Nominees in this category will be considered a respected elder in the community. They will be the type of community member who is connected to the early years, youth and elderly and is a positive role model for the Wathaurong Community.

Koolay Goopma

Young Male Achiever

Nominees for this award can be up to 25 years old. The nominee should have shown growth or development in any area, i.e. Sport, Education and Leadership. They are a positive role model for young Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people to aspire to and a positive representation of youth.

Moordeemoondeek Goopma

Young Female Achiever

Nominees for this award can be up to 25 years old. The nominee should have shown growth or development in any area, i.e. Sport, Education and Leadership. They are a positive role model for young Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people to aspire to and a positive representation of youth.



This year's NAIDOC Week theme is "**Heal Country**".

Country is inherent to our identity. It sustains our lives in every aspect - spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially, and culturally. It is more than a place. When we talk about Country it is spoken of like a person. Country is family, kin, law, lore, ceremony, traditions, and language. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples it has been this way since the dawn of time.

Through our languages and songs, we speak to Country; through our ceremonies and traditions we sing to - and celebrate Country - and Country speak to us. Healing Country means embracing First Nation's cultural knowledge and understanding of Country as part of Australia's national heritage. That the culture and values of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders are respected equally to and the cultures and values of all Australians. The right to protect Country and culture is fundamental.

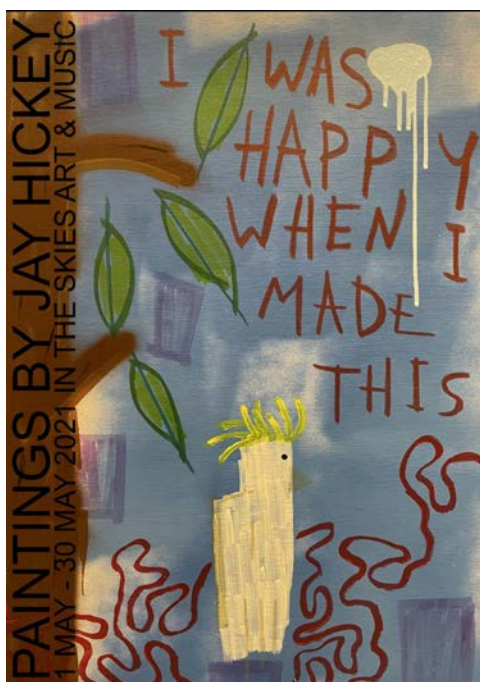
Heal Country, heal our nation.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

JAYDEN HICKEY - ART SHOW



Hello! Just wanted to let everybody in community know I have an art show coming up at In The Skies art and music (8 Mountjoy Parade, Lorne) and would be stoked to see some faces around. For those who haven't met me, my name is Jay Hickey and I'm a Gulidjan man who's living on Wathaurong country. I've been a Wathaurong community member for my whole adult life and also work for the Co-op in the kinship care/family services space. I'm super excited for the opening of my show "I was happy when I made this" and we'll be opening the show officially from 3pm to 6pm on May 1st. Please come along to that if it's something you're interested in or please come check out the show at any time through the month of May. Cheers, Jay.



BELMONT LIONS - JUNIOR FOOTY

Belmont Lions and Wathaurong Aboriginal co-op have a community partnership where members of Wathaurong do not have to pay junior membership fees as they are covered through this partnership.

The Lions are currently looking for footy players for AusKick, Under 9s and Under 11s.

AusKick fees are \$91, with a \$70 reimbursement.

Contact Lily Graham if you are interested in AusKick - Lilyg96@hotmail.com or 0417 065 929

For Under 9 and Under 11 players, contact:
Lowell Hunter – 0473 476 728
Brian Coughlan – 0421 761 071



Or email belmontlionssportsclub@gmail.com and mention that you are a Wathaurong community member.

KIRRA CAN

Kirra was recently featured in Leisure Networks "This Girl Can" campaign as a local woman playing football with the Geelong Dragons Football team.

The 22nd - 28th March was "This Girl Can" week - an initiative of VicHealth to get more women and girls participating in physical activity.

"Keeping fit it's a good work out, it's a good way to meet new friends. I also do home workouts and go on walks. Footy training is great every Monday night with footy games on Sundays."



COMMUNITY NOTICES

FEED ME BELLARINE

Lana Purcell and Anthony Woodbury created Feed Me Bellarine after working in the hospitality industry and seeing how much food was wasted and thrown away at the end of each day.

They wanted to rescue leftover food and turn it into nutritious meals that could be delivered to people in need across the region. The “No questions, no agendas” motto means that absolutely everyone is welcome to take advantage of the program with no judgements.

The program has grown significantly since it first started and the team now has a number of warehouses that are open for people to “shop” produce as well as the delivery service. The original Ocean Grove location also has a café that encourages people to pay whatever they can afford for their meals – or pay nothing.

In July 2020, Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative formed a partnership with Feed Me Bellarine to address the growing need for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander community members to have access to grocery items and meal programs. With many programs closed or only able to offer reduced services due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Feed Me partnership allowed Wathaurong community members to register for deliveries of groceries and meals at no cost.

As the second wave of the pandemic hit Victoria, many of our community members were affected through job loss and food insecurity.



Feed Me rescues food and receives donations that are packaged up for deliveries to the community



Pictured from left to right: Wathaurong Executive Manager of Family Services, Shellee Strickland; Feed Me founder, Lana Purcell; Wathaurong Manager of Mental Health Services, Duane Luki

The Feed Me Bellarine partnership brought welcome relief to more than 220 Wathaurong families, with up to 2000 meals per week now being delivered to community across the Geelong, Bellarine and Surfcoast region, as well as further out to Little River and Colac.

The partnership also allowed Wathaurong to provide employment to community members, with casual delivery drivers employed through Wathaurong to assist with packing, preparing and delivery groceries and meals to the community. Many of these employees are part of our youth community, with the feedback from them that they feel a sense of pride and connection when delivering food to those in need.

The program assisted those most vulnerable in our community, including people experiencing homelessness, elders more at risk if they were to be diagnosed with COVID-19, as well as community members who were just doing it tough in a challenging year.

The partnership continues today, with any Wathaurong community member able to register to receive deliveries if they are not already on our list.

If you are interested in signing up to receive weekly deliveries, send us an email at feedme@wathaurong.org.au

COMMUNITY NOTICES

ALLIRA POTTER RISING UP WITH SELF LOVE

If you've been anywhere near The Body Shop recently, no doubt you've seen this deadly woman as part of the new 'Rise Up with Self Love' campaign! This campaign is appearing in stores, on billboards (check out the digital billboard above Young and Jackson in Melbourne!), online and on TV screens. Spreading an important message! Here is what Allira has to say about self-love on The Body Shop website.

What does self-love mean to you?

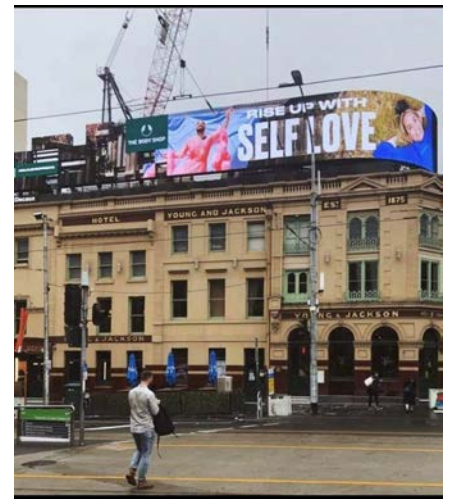
Self-love means loving me for me and accepting that I am who I am, without having to change anything to fit in with anybody else. I realised I needed to love myself more when I hit rock bottom with negative self talk and wasn't looking after myself holistically.

How do you help others self-love?

I found that sharing my self-love journey on social media had a huge impact for women. The more I shared, the more it seemed others were also putting themselves first. I think having a large platform on social media helps others understand what self love is, and also helps them set intentions when wanting to bring more self-love for themselves. Self-love doesn't have to be this verbal cycle of affirmations and positive self talk, it can be as simple as putting your needs before others and owning your boundaries like you have never owned them before.

"Don't be afraid to be the 'angry Blak woman'. Say what you have to say."

- Allira Potter



LOUD N DEADLY AT THE BIG TOP

Mick Ryan and Renee Howell's music rang out under the Big Top at Rippleside Park as part of the Geelong Arts Centre Summer Sessions earlier this year. The duo, who perform as Loud N Deadly, took the stage ahead of One Fell Swoop Circus and were featured in the Geelong Advertiser's GT Magazine. Below is an excerpt from the GT article that appeared on February 13th, 2021.

The duo hope their prominence on stages across the region will encourage other Indigenous musicians to pursue their talent and receive the recognition they deserve.

"Be proud of your culture and be proud to share this culture through music," Mick, who hails from Adelaide, advises. "I've written a song (Kill Party) about the massacres that happened to the Aboriginal people, which I wrote with Mark Holden. "That was one of the most important songs I think I've ever written."

Meanwhile, Renee's song Arrernte Woman, echoes the name of her mother's mob in Alice Springs. Arrernte Woman is based on a poem her mother wrote about journeying back to her family after being taken as part of the Stolen Generation.

"We always told mum 'you need to share your story, you could write a book about your life.' We didn't find mum's family until she was 47, so the song is a story about Alice Springs and what she feels when she goes back there," Renee explains.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

YAL YARRA'S, GADUBANUD



The Yal Yarra's, Gadubanud is a children's story book authored by Gulidjan woman and Wathaurong's Community Development worker Ebony Hickey, illustrated by local artist Michelle Stewart with significant contributions from various student works from Forrest Primary School.

The resource was developed with the support of Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative and the Barwon South West Dhelk Dja and aims to be a resource that promotes an active and healthy relationship with the rich and abundant cultural landscapes of Colac and the Otways. A reminder to all to walk gently and take only what we need from country.

Launched on the weekend of International Womens Day at Lake Elizabeth on Gadubanud Country in the presence of community, friends and some of country's youngest custodians it was a beautiful way to honour the women in our community, the strength and narrative of these women and a gentle way ease back into life post pandemic lockdowns ☐



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

With NAIDOC Week approaching, we are calling for community expressions of interest for:

- Hosting a market stall as part of Wathaurong Community Day (Monday 5th July)
- Artists interested in exhibiting their work across the week
- Community keen to volunteer and assist with Community Day activities

If this is you, get in touch with us! Send us an email at comms@wathaurong.org.au or call Beth on 5277 0044

COMMUNITY NOTICES



NYARRN-GAKGO MANGKIE PROGRAM

Connections, yarnz, insights, experiences and opportunities to nurture the aspirations and back the journeys of First Nations Womxn into health careers

Program Leader: Kylie Clarke, Gunditjmara, Wotjobaluk & Ngarrindjeri kylie@weenthunga.com.au & Program Collaborator: Kylie Fox

Weenthunga means 'hear / understand' and Nyarrn-gakgo mangkie means 'hear within', in the Woiwurrung, language of the Wurundjeri Peoples of the Kulin Nation

A Nyarrn-gakgo mangkie program experience:



'Connections & Lunchtime Yarnz'

with Aunty May, Yorta Yorta & Taungurung
Aunty Athalie, Yorta Yorta
& Aunty Steff, Gamilaraay

An afternoon of connections, yarnz, insights & positive vibes
at Narana Aboriginal Cultural Centre



First Nations young womxn & voices:

Zoe, Wemba Wemba & Taungurung. Yalanda, Wathaurong, Gunditjmara & Arremte. Olivia, Wergaia & Wemba Wemba.
Kyara, Wotjobaluk. Josephine, Wergaia & Wemba Wemba. Bri, Mutti Mutti & Wamba Wamba.

'it was empowering to talk to Elders
that had many years of knowledge
and guidance'

'it made me feel like
it's all achievable'

'strengthened me as an
Aboriginal woman'



Weenthunga
Health Network

ComeTogetherPride
FutureGenerations
Heard
Thankful
Community
Insightful
Stories
Strengthened
Listen
Inclusion
Comfort
Contribution
Empowering
Learn
Representation
Opportunity
Achievable
Safe
Connection
Humbled
Guidance
Amazing
Acceptance
Leadership

'good to listen to other
young womens' experiences'

'just comfort/acceptance
unlike what you experience
on a daily basis'

'I felt safe and like I
was being heard'

'culturally safe place for everyone'

'made me thankful to women like [the
Aunties] who have helped pave the way
for future generations like me and my
sisters'

COMMUNITY NOTICES



Indigenous Voice

Have your say **Indigenous Voice**

Indigenous Australians and the government have been working to make sure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a strong voice on key decisions. Like laws, programs and services.

An Indigenous Voice would make sure Aboriginal and Torres Strait voices are heard.

Now is the time to have your say on the Indigenous Voice proposals.



Local and Regional Voice



National Voice



Indigenous Australians

Head to voice.niaa.gov.au to learn more and start a discussion in your local community with family, friends and colleagues.

#IndigenousVoice



COMMUNITY NOTICES



DESIGN GEELONG SUPERCATS INDIGENOUS JERSEY

Geelong Supercats will be hosting an Indigenous Round on Friday 9th July at the Geelong Arena!

MOB ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT A DESIGN FOR
THE SUPERCATS INDIGENOUS BASKETBALL
JERSEY FOR 2021



The winning design will be worn by the Supercats in the Indigenous Round.

The artist will receive:

- Personalised Indigenous Round jersey
- 2 x courtside tickets to the Supercats game on Friday 9th July, including food & drinks

Designs should be submitted to comms@wathaurong.org.au by 5pm Monday 24th May.

Designs should incorporate the Supercats colours:



PMS 186c



PMS 296c



The 2019 Indigenous jersey designed by Nathan Patterson

COMMUNITY NOTICES



Susan Moylan- Coombs

Susan Moylan-Coombs' wealth of experience via roles as Executive Producer of the ABC's Indigenous Programs Unit, Head of Production, NITV, and her work consulting with First Australian communities has created a fount of knowledge in communication, empowerment and storytelling that brings individuals and communities together. Founder and current Co-Chair of the Guringai Festival Committee, Susan's ancestry is Woolwonga and Gurindji from the Northern Territory.

Book your FREE tickets at www.trybooking.com/BQFCZ



The Original Storytellers

Sunday 30 May

6pm - 7pm

Point Lonsdale Primary School Hall

FREE - bookings essential



COMMUNITY NOTICES



WATHAURONG ABORIGINAL CO-OPERATIVE

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS - ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROGRAM



Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative is currently seeking community volunteers as well as a volunteer co-ordinator to support our Community Justice Program across the service area of Wathaurong, including Colac Otway region.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED?
CALL US ON (03) 5277 0044 OR EMAIL
ACJP@WATHAURONG.ORG.AU TO SIGN UP**

This initiative provides cultural support to individuals in justice matters. Volunteers will be on a call-out roster to attend when individuals are brought into custody and request cultural support. The volunteer co-ordinator will assist with setting up rosters and providing information to volunteers.

No formal experience is required. Volunteers should have a willingness and passion to achieve positive outcomes for community and engage collaboratively with police and other stakeholders.

Training support and expenses payments are provided. Own vehicle transport is required.

COMMUNITY NOTICES



GOT UNPAID FINES?

You might be eligible for the Work and Development permit scheme.

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

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

THE WDP IS AN INITIATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY.

Contact us on 03 5277 0044 or email familyviolence@wathaurong.org.au to learn more

AM I ELIGIBLE?

You are eligible for a WDP if you:

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

SERVICES

Activities that you can undertake as part of a WDP include:

- unpaid work
- treatment by a doctor, nurse or psychologist
- courses - including educational, vocational or life skills courses
- counselling, including financial counselling
- drug or alcohol counselling
- mentoring (if you are under 25 years of age)

COMMUNITY NOTICES

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Sometimes we all need to have a yarn. If you need support with mental health, contact any of the services below.

Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative - (03) 5277 0044

Reception phones staffed Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm

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.