



WATHAURONG ABORIGINAL CO-OPERATIVE

Community Newsletter

In This Issue

**Message from the Acting
Chairperson & Acting CEO**
pages 2-5

Staff Updates
page 6

Awards
page 7

Children's Services
page 8

Health Services
pages 9-11

Balert Care Connections
pages 12-13

Wurdi Young Update
pages 14-15

Community Events & Notices
pages 16-23

Assistance Contact Details
page 24

Wathaurong

Aboriginal Co-operative

Lot 62 Morgan Street, North Geelong

PO Box 402, North Geelong, 3215

Phone: 03 5277 0044

Fax: 03 5278 4123

Email: admin@wathaurong.org.au

www.wathaurong.org.au



PICTURED: Wathaurong NAIDOC Community Award Winners 2021. See Page 7
Left to right: Jordan Wellington, Bri Apma-Hayes, Stephi Murphy, Judy Dalton-walsh, Wendy Brabham, Kristi Watts

Calendar of events

JULY 2021

3rd - Wathaurong NAIDOC Ball (see page 16)
4th-11th - NAIDOC Week (see pages 16-18)

AUGUST 2021

4th - Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

SEPTEMBER 2021

1st - Indigenous Literacy Day
5th - Father's Day
8th-9th - Aboriginal Children's Forum
17th - Last day of Term 3
24th - AFL Grand Final Public Holiday (Co-op closed)

OCTOBER 2021

4th - First day of Term 4
20th - Geelong Cup Public Holiday (Co-op closed)



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





Acting Chairperson

on behalf of the Board - Wendy Brabham

We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners, the people of the Wadda-Wurrung, their Elders past, present and future generations.

CEO UPDATE

After three years as the Chief Executive Officer at Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative, Lisa Briggs has made the decision to resign from the position, due to personal reasons. Her last day of employment was the 30th of July. On behalf of the Wathaurong Community, we thank Lisa for all her work and commitment in working alongside the Board and Senior Executives in bringing the organisation to where it is today. We wish Lisa well in her journey ahead.

Over the next few months, we will be conducting a search to find a new CEO for Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative. Simon Flagg was appointed as Acting CEO by the Board, as of Monday 2nd August 2021. Simon has been the Executive Manager of Corporate Services for the past 18 months. Simon has lived in our Community all his life and is well respected by Community members. Simon has numerous Community connections across Victoria through his previous state-wide positions and a passion for Community connection. Simon even started his work career at

Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative as a trainee in 1996.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS & UPDATES

We have seen in recent weeks that COVID-19 is still a serious health issue right across Australia. We have been fortunate in the Wathaurong Community that we have not yet had a positive case, but we must continue to do everything we can to protect our Community.

All Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people over the age of 12 are eligible to receive the vaccine, and the Wathaurong Health Staff are partnering with Barwon Health to make sure our Community have access to the vaccine.

For more information on how to book your vaccination appointment, visit our website

www.wathaurong.org.au/covidvaccine

It's up to all of us, as a Community, to protect each other, and make sure we are keeping our families safe. If you're unsure about the information shared through the media about the COVID-19 vaccinations, be sure to reach out to Wathaurong staff to have a conversation. It seems vaccines are

Acting Chairperson

on behalf of the Board - Wendy Brabham

the most effective way to prevent getting seriously sick or hospitalised from COVID-19.

NAIDOC 2021

We were very fortunate to be able to host our NAIDOC Week events in Geelong this year, in the brief window of relaxed restrictions in regional Victoria. The NAIDOC Ball was a great night shared by all. The Board want to thank the NAIDOC Committee for organising this event that was enjoyed by all.

Read about our events and check out some photos on pages 16-18.

We would also like to congratulate all of the NAIDOC Week award winners.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

It has been some time since we were able to get together in person and have a community meeting.

With uncertainty around ongoing restrictions in regional Victoria and extended lockdowns in greater Melbourne, the Board is exploring options to host community meetings virtually.

While this is not an ideal way for us to yarn together, it will provide an opportunity for our Community members to have their voices heard and allow us to provide more detailed updates on what is happening at the Co-op.

More information about possible virtual community meetings will be sent out to members and posted to our social media accounts.

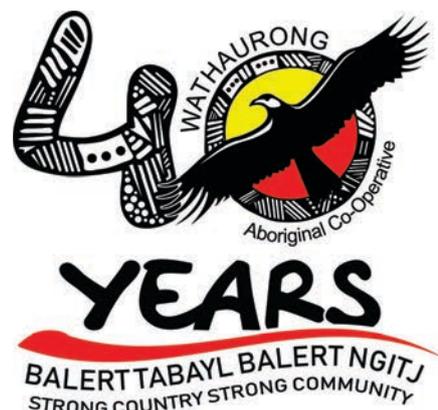
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Board is currently reviewing options to hold the 2021 Annual General Meeting. Our top priority as a Board is to ensure the safety of our Community. Based on COVID-19 restrictions and keeping our community safe, we will advise everyone of the date that this event will be held as soon as possible.

Nyatne.

Wendy Brabham

Acting Chairperson





Acting Chief Executive Officer

Simon Flagg

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

STAFF UPDATES

I would like to echo the Board's words and thank Lisa Briggs for all her hard work as CEO of Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative (Wathaurong) over the past 3 years. I am looking forward to continuing to work closely with our community, staff and stakeholders in the role as Acting CEO while the Board undertakes the recruitment process for the CEO position.

In the meantime, Mark Shaw will be stepping in as the Acting Executive Manager of Corporate Services.

I have great confidence in our staff, and we have shown over the past 18 months how we can support each other through very difficult times. Many of our staff members are also community members, and it is their passion for our community that sees them go above and beyond the call of duty to provide support and services for our mob.

FACILITIES UPDATE

As our team has grown over the past few years, we have been looking for another space to house our staff, particularly our Mental Health team. We have secured a lease at 12 Albert Street, Geelong West, and have been busy fitting it out to make it a welcoming environment for our community, and our staff.

Our Mental Health team will be moving into this new space in October and we look forward to having an official opening for our community when restrictions allow.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

It has been great to see so many community members roll their sleeves up and book appointments to receive the COVID-19 vaccine with our Wathaurong Health Staff at the Ford Factory vaccination hub.

Due to the community demand, we have increased Wathaurong's vaccination site to 5 days per week Monday to Friday. We will also look to add additional days and times over the coming months to ensure that our community can receive the vaccine in a safe environment.

Acting Chief Executive Officer

Simon Flagg

I know it's a scary time with lots of conflicting information out there about COVID-19, but if you have more questions, are feeling a bit unsure, or just want to have a yarn about your personal circumstances before getting the vaccine, please call us and make a time to chat with someone from Wathaurong's clinical team to answer all your questions.

I've personally had the COVID-19 vaccine through Wathaurong after I spoke with my Doctor as I wanted to keep my family, friends and myself safe.

To book your COVID-19 vaccination appointment at Wathaurong please call or email us on:

Call: 5277 2038

Email: vac.bookings@wathaurong.org.au

I would also like to remind the community that you are still able to receive the vaccination directly from Barwon Health - so if there are no appointments available at our specific Wathaurong clinics, you can book with Barwon Health at <https://www.barwonhealth.org.au/coronavirus/booking-a-vaccination>

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

COVID-19 restrictions are changing and updating all the time. We are keeping our community informed by sharing information on our social media, and you can also stay updated by visiting our website www.wathaurong.org.au While we would love to be able to get together in person again, our main priority is to keep our mob safe and making sure that we are sticking to the current restrictions.

Ongoing lockdowns and restrictions can create feelings of isolation and anxiety, so I encourage you to reach out to Wathaurong, or other mental health support services (contacts provided on the back page) if you need support.

ABORIGINAL CHILDREN'S FORUM

We were looking forward to hosting the Aboriginal Children's Forum on September 8th and 9th on Wadda Wurrung country, however due to the restrictions on gatherings in place in Victoria this event was moved online. We hope to welcome this event back to Geelong next year.

Nyatne (thanks)

Simon Flagg

Acting CEO

STAFF UPDATES

WELCOME NEW STAFF

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

- Tanisha Clarke - Community Development Support Officer (Colac)
- Jannali Lilbourne - Primary Healthcare Trainee
- Piper Knox - Primary Healthcare Trainee
- Tyler Cole-Frost - Navigator Cultural Worker
- Danielle McLeod - Strategic Grants Officer
- Tahra Hall - Disability Support Officer
- Esther Bahatie - Disability Support Officer
- Cassandra Surman - Disability Support Officer
- Alexandra Stefanovic - Case Worker
- Emma Brown - Business Support Officer
- Jane McInnes - Medical Receptionist
- Mahalia Cubby - Foster Care Recruitment
- Michael Graham - IT Systems Administrator
- Tyson Neal - Works Crew

We also congratulate Mia Clay, who has been working with us as a casual receptionist, on her move into a Primary Healthcare Traineeship.

WATHAURONG GLASS & ARTS

Wathaurong Glass & Arts welcomed Daniel Brown to the team back in March this year. A proud Kamilaroi man and father of 9 kids, Daniel has been living in Geelong for the past 3 years and has become an invaluable part of the Wathaurong Glass team. Having worked across many different businesses, he brings a can do attitude and great problem solving ability.

FAREWELL LISA



Lisa Briggs took on the role of CEO in 2018. In the past three years, Wathaurong has seen extensive growth, both in the number of employment opportunities

for our local Aboriginal community members in the region, and service programs delivered to community.

Lisa and the Executive team led the organisation through the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, while still providing vital support and connection for the Wathaurong community.

Our strong partnerships with Barwon Health, Feed Me Bellarine, Western PHN and other key stakeholders enabled Wathaurong to provide much needed targeted COVID-19 responses and supports directly to our local Aboriginal members through the largest lockdown periods in 2020 and beyond.

On her departure, Lisa said, "I loved my time at Wathaurong and consider the staff and community my extended family".

"The time is right for me to step away, Wathaurong has an exciting future ahead as the organisation has great leadership across all levels and is in a very strong position, and it is time for someone else to come and lead it through the next journey."

We wish Lisa all the best in her next adventure!

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.

AWARDS

WATHAURONG COMMUNITY NAIDOC AWARDS 2021

The winners of the 2021 Wathaurong Community NAIDOC Awards were announced at the Flag Raising & Community Day held at Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative on Monday 5th July, 2021. Congratulations to all of the 2021 Wathaurong Community NAIDOC Award Winners.

Nedok Yoongga (Elder/Respected Person)

Winner – Aunty Judy Dalton-Walsh

AUNTY JUDY DALTON-WALSH was nominated for this award by members of the Wathaurong community for being a respected member of the community. Aunty Judy has been part of the community for many years. It was acknowledged that Aunty Judy is bringing back Wadda Wurrung language and is teaching young and old. Aunty Judy is a long time Wathaurong member and a part of the founding members. She is nominated for her work in being a language teacher and Koorie education and working for our school children.



Ngarrwa Ngitj (Community Person)

Joint Winners – Aunty Wendy Brabham & Kristi Watts

AUNTY WENDY BRABHAM was nominated for this award by members of the Wathaurong community for being a respected community member who has been a part of Wathaurong for more than 30 years. Aunty Wendy puts community first always. Educating our community is always on the forefront for her. Aunty Wendy has such passion for the community that she lives in.



KRISTI WATTS was nominated for this award by members of the Wathaurong community for her total commitment to the young ones. Her culture and her passion to community is outstanding. Kristi is always out there volunteering whenever there is an event, she is there with the family. Kristi is an inspiration - just to see her commitment to the Wathaurong community on both a personal and professional level, which includes hosting online playgroup, engaging families with activity packs and most of all keeping everybody culturally connected through storytelling and songs. Kristi's commitment to this community shines in everything she does. Kristi is not only our playgroup facilitator but she has kept our community engaged during COVID through transition to online learning.



Koolay Goopma (Young Male Achiever)

Winner – Jordan Wellington

JORDAN WELLINGTON was nominated for this award by members of the Wathaurong community for putting his hand up this year to attend the Koorie Youth Camp as a Youth mentor, his first time at the camp in a leadership role. Jordan is a young person who wants to support Wathaurong Koorie youth as a mentor and has achieved a lot of growth.



Moordeemoondeek Goopma (Young Female achiever)

Joint winners – Stephi Murphy & Bri Apma-Hayes

STEPHI MURPHY was nominated for this award by members of the Wathaurong community for getting more involved in the community in a more leadership role. Stephi attended the Koorie Youth Camp as a youth mentor and is helping and showing others how to dance. Stephi is also a youth sports achiever, she has previously visited New Zealand as a representative for Wathaurong youth. Language is important to her also.



BRI APMA-HAYES was nominated for this award by members of the Wathaurong community for completing year 12 throughout much adversity and continuing on to gain employment in a Koorie support role at a primary school, as well as casual employment at Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative. Bri is also undertaking Certificate IV in youth work at TAFE. She's also this year found time to bring her small art business to the next level, aiming to have a website up and running and market stalls later in the year to enable her to share Aboriginal art with the wider community. Bri is always the first person to put her hand up when someone needs help and will never complain.



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

EARLY YEARS TEAM

Our early years team have been finding creative ways to engage our kids online all through the pandemic.

There are plenty of fun activities planned for the month of October, check out the calendar below and scan the QR code to register and receive the links to join in!

Don't forget to join our private Facebook group to access our online videos and all the latest updates on what's happening in the early years team - search "Milla Milla Playgroup At Home" on Facebook and send a request to join.



What are the Wathaurong Early Years Team doing in

October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Scan QR code FILL IN THE FORM to get the links sent to you for the ZOOM sessions				1st Family FUN night Koorioke with Shan-BC 6.00pm till 7.00pm
4th Parents and Carers Virtual Yarning Circle 1:30pm - 2:00pm	5th Story Time with Aunty Tahlia Video Upload	6th Milla Milla Playgroup ZOOM Session 11:30am - 12:00pm	7th Milla Milla Playgroup ZOOM Session 11:30am - 12:00pm	8th Family FUN night Family Trivia Night Starts at 6.00pm
11th Milla Milla Playgroup Sunshine Circle Zoom Session 11:30am - 12:00pm	12th Early Years Team Yarning Up Video Upload	13th Story Time with Aunty Kristi Video Upload	14th Milla Milla Playgroup ZOOM Session 11:30am - 12:00pm	15th Cultural Education session with Uncle Norm Stanley 1.30pm via ZOOM
18th Story Time with Aunty Kristi Video Upload	19th Milla Milla Playgroup Afternoon ZOOM Session 1.30pm - 2:00pm	20th PUBLIC HOLIDAY	21st Milla Milla Playgroup ZOOM Session 11:30am - 12:00pm	22nd Parents and Carers Virtual Yarning Circle 1:30pm - 2:00pm
25th Early Years Team Yarning Up Video Upload	26th What's up in Jackie's Kitchen? 11:30am-12:00pm via ZOOM	27th Milla Milla Playgroup ZOOM Session 11:30am - 12:00pm	28th Milla Milla Playgroup ZOOM Session 11:30am - 12:00pm	29th Wathaurong Children's Week Event More information TBC on how to register

Event Information:

Parents and Carers Virtual Yarning Circle

An opportunity for community and caregivers to come together for a wellbeing check in. Don't worry about the kids! They can jump in too! A virtual check in for anyone and everyone who feels they need it!

Family FUN Night

Who's up for some community family time. Let's come Together to have FUN playing games, sing and interact virtual.

What's up in Jackie's Kitchen

Jackie shows us what's up in her kitchen! From snacks for the kids, to yummy meal ideas - Jackie knows how to put an interesting twist on anything!





HEALTH SERVICES



Australian Government

WE ARE A COVID-19 VACCINATION SITE

Talk to us today to make a booking
for your free COVID-19 vaccine.

Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative is partnering with Barwon Health to provide free COVID-19 vaccines for our mob.

Did you know that ALL Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people aged 12+ are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

Our Health team are giving vaccines at the Barwon Health Ford Factory Vaccination site, from Monday to Friday.

For more information, check our website:

<https://www.wathaurong.org.au/covidvaccine>

To book your appointment,
call Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative
on (03) 5277 0044 or email
vac.bookings@wathaurong.org.au

COVID-19
VACCINATION

Keep up to date at
health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines.



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!



BREAST SCREEN VAN VISITS WATHAURONG

The Breast Screen Victoria van visited Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative in September with a total of 34 women screened over three days. Each woman received a privacy shawl, with the design created by Jasmine-Skye Marinos.



Did you see Todd Fry and Sandra Manning in the Geelong Advertiser on Saturday 25th September?

Sandra Manning, a member of the Wathaurong community, receives her vaccine from nurse Todd Fry. Picture: Mark Wilson

SAFE SPACE FOR INDIGENOUS JOBS

TAMARA MCDONALD

WATHAURONG Aboriginal Co-operative is ramping up delivery of the Covid-19 jab to Geelong's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community amid lagging vaccination rates.

"The Indigenous population in Geelong is around 3500. We have only vaccinated about 465 people," Wathaurong acting executive manager of health services Duane Luki said.

"We know there are many more who want to get the jab so we are making sure that they can do that in a culturally safe environment."

Partnering with Barwon Health since May, the Wathaurong health team has been at the community vaccination hub in Norlane two days a week, but demand for appointments saw the clinic booked out each week.

With funding from the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, Wathaurong has increased the number of days on site to five, with clinical staff now available Monday to Friday. While vaccination rates in Greater Geelong have been high, data this week showed only 14.2 per cent of local people identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander had received at least one dose and 9.9 per cent were fully vaccinated.

The Wathaurong vaccine clinic includes transport to and from the Ford hub and staff escorts to a dedicated clinic room, all by trusted community members.

"There is some hesitancy in the community, so our job ... is to make sure that our mob have the right information and get that information from trusted people, and they are reassured when they arrive that we are with them every step of the way," acting chief executive Simon Flagg said.

The co-operative has also partnered with Colac Area Health to ensure the local Aboriginal community has priority access to vaccines. Indigenous community members can book a vaccination appointment by calling 5277 0044 or emailing vac.bookings@wathaurong.org.au



Information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Closing the Gap Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Co-payment Program Changes

The Closing the Gap (CTG) Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Co-payment program was established in July 2010 to improve access to affordable PBS medicines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with, or at risk of, chronic disease.

From 1 July 2021, it will be easier for eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to access medicines through the CTG PBS Co-payment program.

The following will change:

- If you are eligible for the program any PBS prescriber or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner will be able to register you.
- If you are an eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person you can be registered for the program no matter where you live within Australia, and regardless of your chronic disease status.
- This registration will cover you even if you move to a different health clinic within Australia.
- If you are unsure if you are registered for the program, your PBS prescriber, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner or Pharmacist will be able to check online for you.
- PBS prescriptions for medicines covered under the program will no longer need to be annotated with CTG by the prescriber to be eligible for a reduced co-payment.

Please note:

- A new centralised patient registration database for the program, managed by Services Australia, will go live on 1 July 2021. Your current registration details will be transferred to the new database.
- Your CTG scripts will need to be taken to a community pharmacy or approved private hospital pharmacy to be dispensed under the program. Your CTG scripts are not able to be dispensed by a public hospital pharmacy.
- To find out more about the CTG program, please talk to your PBS prescriber or your Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner.



BALERT CARE CONNECTIONS



"NDIS has helped my development grow, now I can do more!"

- Amelia

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

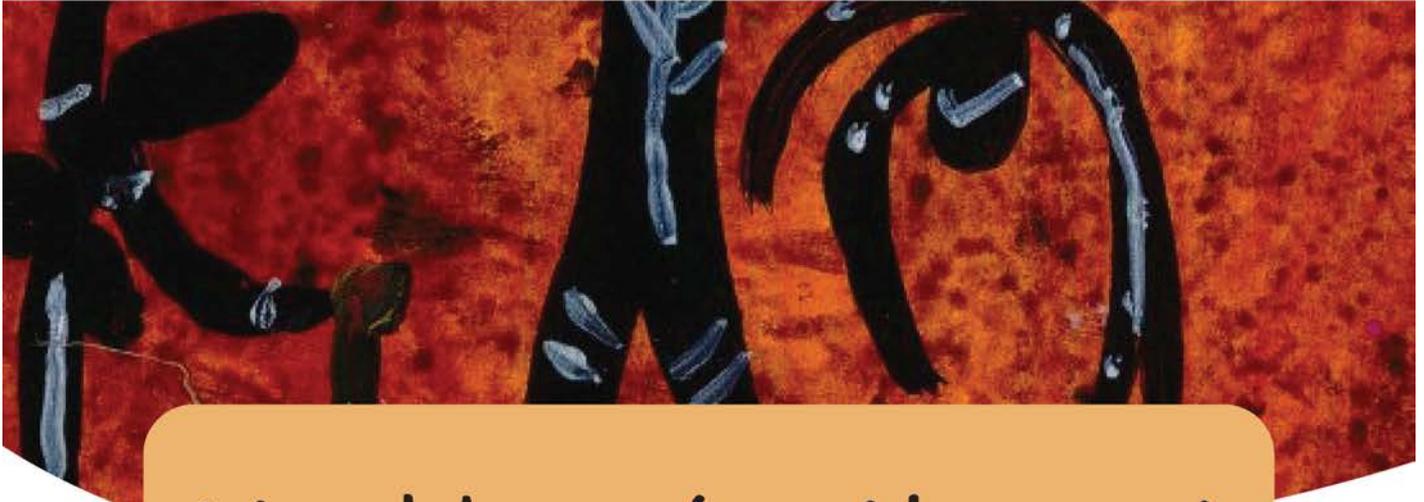


YEARS

BALERTTABAYL BALERT NGITJ
STRONG COUNTRY STRONG COMMUNITY



BALERT CARE CONNECTIONS



Help at home for older people



"My Aged Care helps with me living independently."

-Gavin

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



WURDI YOUANG

CONSERVATION WORK WITH TRUST FOR NATURE

Trust for Nature is one of Australia's oldest conservation organisations, working to protect biodiversity on private land across Victoria. Wurdi Youang staff regularly partner with Trust for Nature on conservation projects, most recently by successfully revegetating 3000 grassland and grassy woodland plants onsite.

Many of the species planted were rare or threatened, making a significant environmental contribution to the security of rare species in the region.

Together we also planted hundreds of native trees along the grassy gully lines and the Little River. This improves the health of the river water, banks and gullies by, among other benefits, reducing erosion and encouraging clean water.

Once established, trees also help to keep rivers cool, which becomes increasingly important as the effects of climate change grow.

This aspect of our Caring for Country is a modern take on our traditional practices, as we as Aboriginal people and ongoing Custodians of the Land work to reverse the negative environmental impacts of European settlement.



WURDI YOUANG

Our Landcare Officers Matthew Barnes and Jamie Butcher also did some work with Trust for Nature at Henriksen Sanctuary at Apollo Bay, which is great for Wurdi Youang because it gives our staff new experience and skills for our own conservation work.

We thank Trust for Nature staff and volunteers for their always beneficial and culturally respectful support, especially as they found Covid-safe ways of working throughout this project.



BARWON HEALTH CULTURAL DAY

On 14 July 2021, some Aboriginal staff from Barwon Health visited Wurdi Youang for a Cultural Day and to Connect with Country. Early that morning the rain bucketed down and we thought everyone would need waders and snorkels, but just in time the clouds parted and we had a perfect winter's day.

Our site manager Reg Abrahams and Traditional Owner/Cultural Advisor Jordan Edwards teamed up to welcome Barwon Health to the property and to talk about the cultural significance this land has for Aboriginal people. It was a wonderful opportunity to take some time out from busy lives to Connect with Country, and to share that special experience with each other, including a good feed and a great yarn.

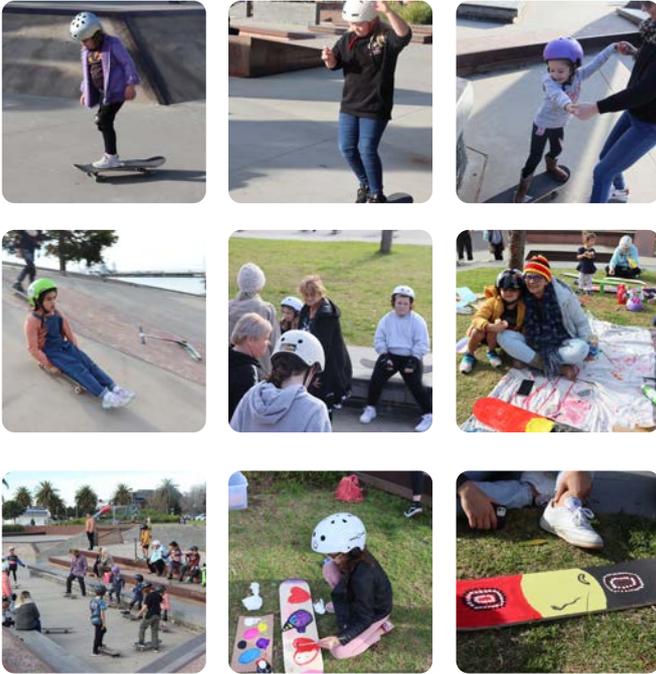


COMMUNITY EVENTS

NAIDOC WEEK 2021

SKATE & PAINT DAY

On Wednesday 7th July, our kids came together for a skateboarding activity with YMCA Action Sports, where they learned to skate plus got to paint some deadly skate decks to take home.



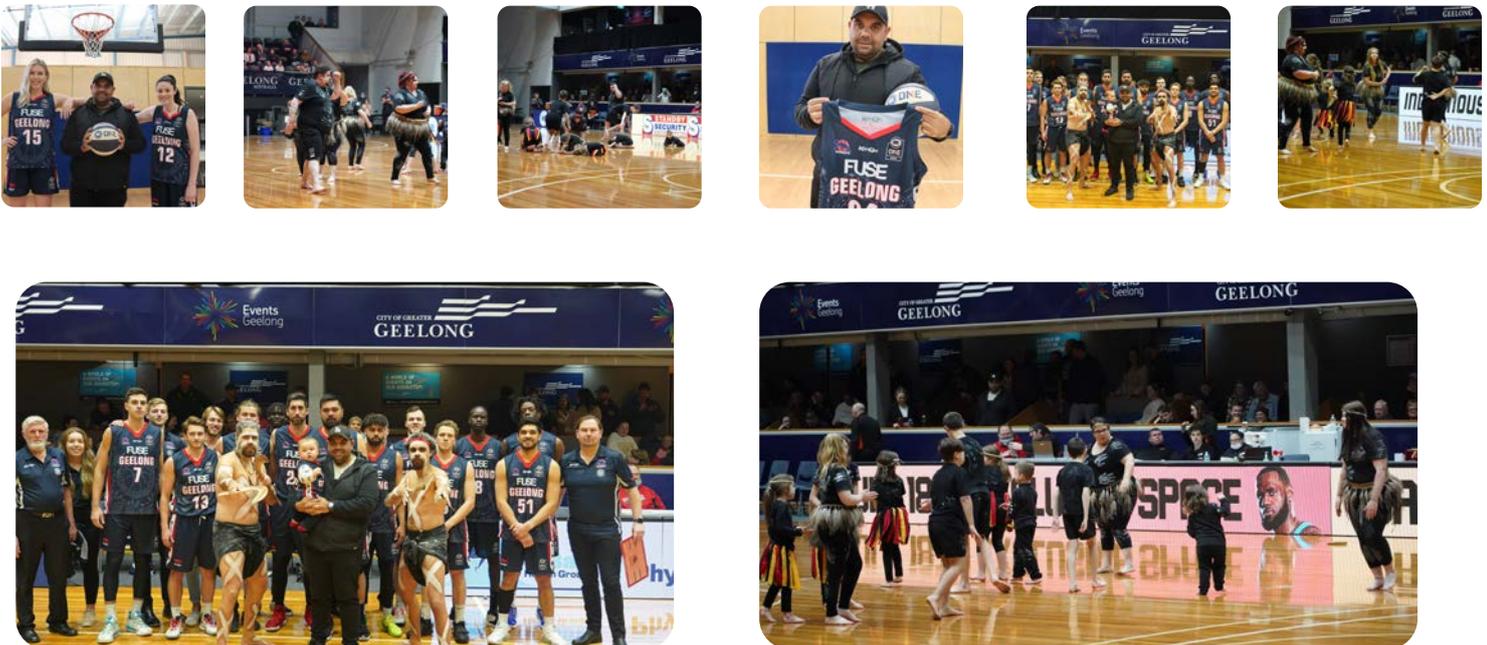
KIDS DISCO

Thursday 8th July provided all the disco vibes at Forster Street, with DJ Troy spinning the tunes and the kids getting their very own photo booth!



SUPERCATS INDIGENOUS ROUND

Friday 9th July saw the Geelong Supercats host their NBL1 Indigenous Round, with the teams wearing uniforms designed by David Flagg. A Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony was performed by Jordan and Lachlan Edwards, and our community kids were part of the dance performance on court at halftime.

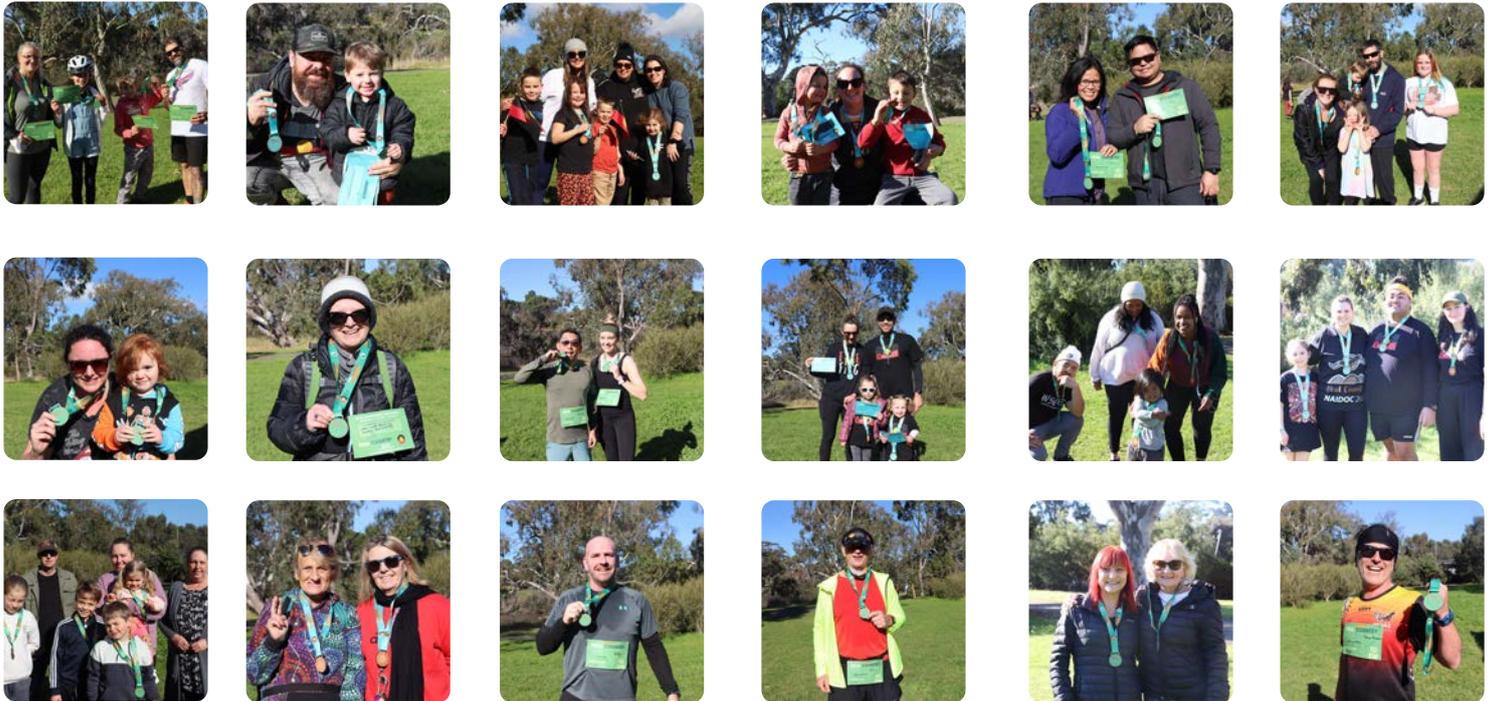


COMMUNITY EVENTS

NAIDOC WEEK 2021

HEAL COUNTRY WALK/RUN

On Saturday 10th July the weather turned it on as everyone gathered together at Balyang Sanctuary to participate in the Clothing the Gaps Foundation "Heal Country" walk/run. With participants choosing to do 5km, 10km, 21.1km or some brave souls who did 42.2km, it was great to get active and smash those fitness goals!



RECONCILIATION IN THE PARK

Reconciliation in the Park is an annual event hosted by One Fire Geelong. Usually held in May during Reconciliation Week, this year the event was postponed because of COVID restrictions, but was able to go ahead during NAIDOC week. Check out some of the photos taken by Akasha Dingley.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

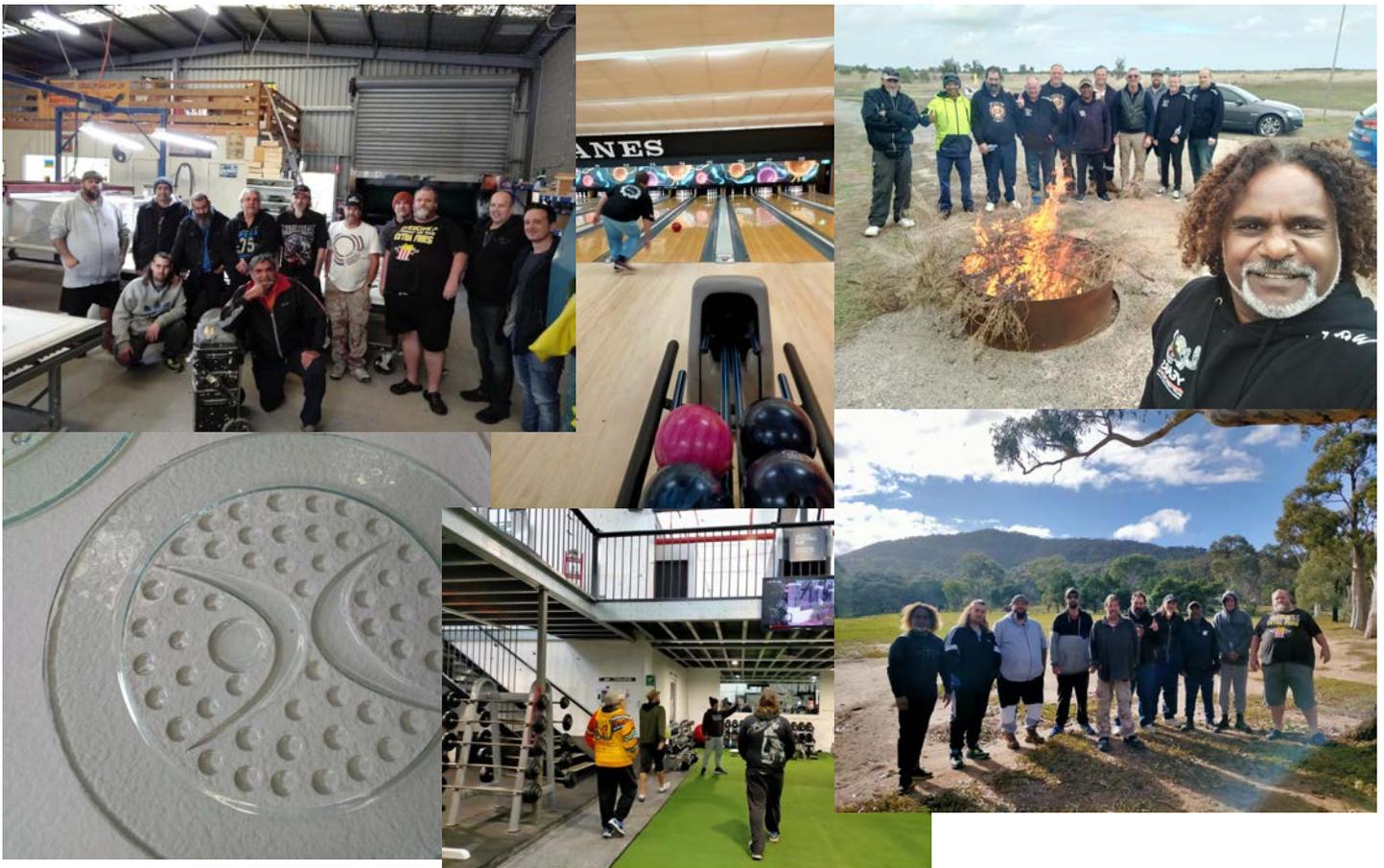
MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group has been catching up on a regular basis over the past few months (when restrictions have allowed). A regular activity that has worked well during some restricted times has been getting together outdoors at Rippleside Park, having a yarn, a BBQ and going for a walk. These are great opportunities to yarn about diet, health and wellbeing. Thanks to Ben Silva who has been helping our men's group out with exercise workouts and nutrition tips.

Other activities over the past months have included 10-pin bowling, a trip to the You Yangs, a tour of Elite Gym in Newtown, a tour of Wathaurong Glass where Uncle Alfie explained how the factory operates, and activities through RECLINK like cricket and fishing.

During lockdown and restricted times, the Men's Group have also been catching up with a yarning circle over Zoom, doing different activities together like learning how to play the didgeridoo, learning to paint, and hearing from guest speakers like Jida Gulpill, Dale Kickett, Anthony Hume and Benno Muir.

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.



Photos provided by Adam Lampton-Nicholls

COMMUNITY NOTICES

TELSTRA PAYPHONES NOW FREE TO USE



Australia's 15,076 public payphones are now free to use as part of Telstra's payphone overhaul. This includes calls to local and national phone numbers, as well as calls to Australian mobile phone numbers (you will still have to pay to call overseas).

There are no restrictions other than a 6-hour limit on calls.

This is important as payphones provide a lifeline for vulnerable Australians – the homeless, the isolated, those escaping domestic violence – and often provide their only link to critical support services and those that care about them.

WATHAURONG Aboriginal Co-operative

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR VOICE

Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative is looking at what happens when Wathaurong Community members experience family violence and what happens when they try to access services to get help.

This review is called the **"Yarning Up Our Services Our Way"** Project. This Project is being run by Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative for the Wathaurong Community. Joining in is voluntary and we will try to make it easy for you to take part.

WE INVITE YOU TO...

Get in touch with us to be part of our yarning circles, either one on one or in small group sessions. Due to ongoing COVID restrictions, these gatherings will be small and may be held online. Email us at familyviolence@wathaurong.org.au to be part of this important project.

WE WANT TO LEARN...

- What are the most important things services can help Community with when they experience family violence?
- How can staff and the Community look at new ways to understand, help and heal from family violence?
- How can we help other agencies (such as Police, Justice/Corrections, Child Protection) improve how they support Community when they experience family violence?



For enquiries please contact
familyviolence@wathaurong.org.au

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Connected like-minded sistagirls, with Elders, Aunties & First Nations womxn in Geelong's Aboriginal community

Connected with health & education programs & guided through work experience, pathways & scholarship opportunities



Experienced cultural activities, workshops & camps. & Felt strengthened by connections to Country, culture & community



Celebrating... Geelong's Nyarrn-gakgo Mangkie Program



Visited & had a taste of Health & Uni spaces & shared yarnz with health & education professionals



'Backing First Nations young womxn aspiring for health careers: A journey through senior school and beyond...'

**Weenthunga
Health Network**



Discovered career possibilities, empowered to explore interests & realize strengths & aspirations



Artwork: Shawana Andrews Connecting Through Conversation



Program Team; led by Kylie Clarke, working 2-way with Kylie Fox; would like to let community know our journey with Geelong's Nyarrn-gakgo mangkie Program has sadly come to an end.

We hope that a new Program team can come on board and pick up again in 2022. It's been an amazing ride walking alongside such deadly young womxn, backed by wonderful families, community and a local support network. We're so grateful for the connections, yarnz laughs and wins along the way.



Nyarrn-gakgo mangkie means 'hear within' in the Woi Wurrung language of the Wurundjeri Peoples of the Kulin Nation.

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 (WDP).

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 & services with Wathaurong, you could reduce or clear your fine debt.

Contact Local Justice Worker Sandra Manning on 0429 137 912 to find out more or sign up.

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



WORK OFF RATES

Activities that you can undertake as part of a WDP and the rates that you can pay off fines include:

**\$49.57
per hour**

- unpaid work
- courses - including educational, vocational or life skills courses
- counselling, including financial counselling
- mentoring (if you are under 25 years of age)

**\$1,090.45
per month**

- treatment by a doctor, nurse or psychologist
- drug or alcohol counselling

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

COMMUNITY NOTICES

CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS

BA-GURRK MURRUP (WOMEN'S SPIRIT, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE)

23 OCT, 3:30 PM

STUDIO 4: GEELONG ARTS CENTRE & LIVESTREAM



Spend your afternoon yarning with exceptional local First Nations women, as they share stories of connection to Country, place and self through their personal and creative journeys.

OUR GUESTS



DEANNE GILSON



KIRI WICKS



JENNY MURRAY-JONES



ALLIRA POTTER

Proudly supported by:



NIKERI
INSTITUTE



Proudly supported by the National Indigenous Australians Agency.
NIKERI Institute and Deakin University are committed to Knowledge sharing and are proud to support Geelong Arts Centre and their Cultural Conversations.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

IN PERSON TICKETS: \$15
LIVESTREAM: FREE

Register online to watch this free livestream
or buy one of the few ticket remaining tickets at:

geelongartscentre.org.au

GET ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHER PROGRAM



Apply for up to \$200 to support your child in sport and active recreation activities.

To be eligible your child must be:

- aged 0 to 18 years
- a resident in Victoria
- named on a valid Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card and Medicare Card.

Visit getactive.vic.gov.au



COMMUNITY NOTICES

THE COUNTY COURT



KOORI COURT

RECRUITING ABORIGINAL ELDERS AND RESPECTED PERSONS TO SIT ON THE COUNTY KOORI COURT

The County Court of Victoria is seeking Aboriginal Elders and Respected Persons to participate in County Koori Court in Melbourne, Geelong, Latrobe Valley, Mildura, Shepparton and Warrnambool.

As a Koori Court Elder and or Respected Person you will:

- play a significant role in fostering better justice outcomes for community members through active participation in the court process as an officer of the court
- uphold cultural values and support an accused person to uncover underlying issues that are impacting their offending behaviour
- promote and strengthen culture within the justice system, Koori community and broader community
- build on strong partnerships between the Koori community and the courts
- receive ongoing professional development training.

The County Koori Court team will be holding an online information session on Wednesday 13 October 2021 from 4–5pm to provide more information regarding the recruitment process and to answer any questions you may have. To register for the session, send an email with your name and contact number to countykooricourt@courts.vic.gov.au by close of business Tuesday 12 October 2021.

If you would like to receive an application kit, please contact Terrie Stewart, County Koori Court Coordinator on 0407 358 059 or email terrie.stewart@courts.vic.gov.au. Applications for 2021 recruitment close on Friday 12 November 2021.



The Koori Court logo was created by Mildura-based artist Lance Atkinson, a Gemilaraay man

www.countycourt.vic.gov.au/koori



9TH KOORIE ART SHOW 2021

A celebration of First Nation artists living in Victoria.
This annual Award and exhibition program is calling
out for artists. Entries are now open.

ENTRIES CLOSE MONDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2021
[APPLY NOW AT KOORIEHERITAGETRUST.COM.AU](http://KOORIEHERITAGETRUST.COM.AU)

Artwork: Thelma Beeton (Palawa), Galivanting Around (2020), acrylic on canvas. Entrant 8th Koorie Art Show. Collection of the artist. This artwork was created through The Torch, a not for profit organisation providing art, cultural and arts industry support to Indigenous offenders and ex-offenders in Victoria.

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