

Caracaranigen House The Colac Aboriginal Sathering Place

Community Yarn Edition Three

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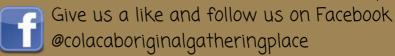








Donate here: https://caracaramigen-house.raisely.com/



and look for our new Instagram page Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place

4 Miller Street, Colac - Gulidjan Country



The Colac Aboriginal Sathering Place Community Yarn Edition Three

We are finally seeing the forest from the trees in regards to Covid and life seems to be getting back to some sort of new normal. Over the last 12 months we spent a lot of time working in health promotion alongside Wathaurong, Barwon Health and Colac Area Health and those in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation sector. We continue to advocate for an increase in timely and in-reach services for Mob to the Colac Otway Region including but not limited to health, family, community, housing, education, justice and family violence.

A few significant achievements of the last year was the completion and launch of the Beginning Steps Project, which will help inform the next steps required to build an Early Years Sector in the Colac Otway Region that is culturally responsive. We acknowledge the significant contributions from the Community and Project Steering Committee, especially Zephlyn Taylor who was co-located at Caracaramigen House for the duration of the project. We were able to see the development of the Yan Yan Protocols with the Community and Victoria Police. Successfully held movie screenings of The Drovers Wife and MABO at Red Rock

During the last year we were unable to obtain a permanent home for the Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place, but we're still trying and have signed on for another 12 months in the temporary location.

As always in Colac, we love an event and partnership and COVID couldn't keep us down. NAIDOC at In the Skies, Reconciliation Week with Colac Otway Shire. A candle collaboration with Surf Coast Candles and Gerard Black. We also managed to cheer on many local legends pursuing creative careers bound in culture at a range of both local and national art events and galleries and hosted the Statewide Dhelk Dja Parternship Forum in our Region and celebrated Eastern Maars Native Title Determination in March.

Our social media is always worth a follow - if you don't already follow us the best way is to follow us on Facebook, Caracaramigen - The Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place or on Instagram - Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place is where you'll find us and keep up to date with what's on and upcoming.

As always, I'm blown away by the kindness, heart and leadership of our community and I know, there's no other community I'd rather be in this with. I'm so proud of the work we've been able to achieved in the year that's passed and can't wait to see you all at community events soon.



Ebony Hickey—Gulidjan Woman Caracaramigen House Co-Ordinator + Community Development Officer for Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op Ebony.Hickey@wathaurong.org.au









I am a proud Kirrae Whurrong Woman, born and raised in the small town of Colac. I've been working alongside Ebony Hickey for a year now, in the role of a Community Development Officer and more recently have completed a Graduate Certificate in Family Violence Prevention (Aboriginal Community Development) that was co-designed by Wathaurong and facilitated by RMIT.

We've got some exciting things happening with the Young Luv program (more info page.15) and a brand-new Instagram page @colacaboriginalgatheringplace. I'm really looking forward to working alongside our community, especially our Young Mob, Wathaurong and the Barwon Southwest Dhelk Dja and to grow my skills and knowledge in grass roots prevention and community strengthening work

Tanisha Clarke
Community Engagement
Internship in Aboriginal Community Development &
Family Violence Prevention at the Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place
Tanisha.Clarke@wathaurong.org.au



RMIT Graduation 2023!

After a full year of studying 13 of our deadly Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative Staff celebrated their achievement of graduating from RMIT with a Graduate Certificate in Family Violence.

This pilot educational program was co-designed to deliver education in a culturally safe way and in a setting that allowed for collaboration, connectedness and provided space for trauma informed practices to be implemented in the learning environment.

Staff from all areas of Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative were involved in completing their Graduate Certificate in Domestic & Family Violence, including team members from Social & Emotional Wellbeing,

The Colac Gathering Place, Family Services and Community Strengthening.

Not only have these staff graduated with a formal qualification, they have also been armed with new tools and knowledge to help them to provide the best possible support for our community.

Wathaurong would like to say a huge thank you to RMIT and Ngarara Willim, in particular Dr Lisa Harris who delivered the educational component of the Graduate Certificate, for their support and understanding of the need to deliver education in a different way.

Funding for the delivery of this Graduate Certificate to our staff was provided through Family Safety Dhelk Dja and we thank them, and in particular the Barwon South West Dhelk Dja, for their support through this process.



Aboriginal Early Years Professional Development Training for Colac

We recently had VAEAI pay the region a visit with a specialised Professinal Development Training session for Early Childhood Educators, working within funded 3- and 4-year-old Kindergarten programs, and Foundation Teachers.

Titled 'Koorie Inclusive Practice Development' - it was a session developed by educators for educators, and directly relates to the VEYLDF, and the Australian Professional Teachers Standards 1.4 and 2.4. The sessions focus on how educators can learn Culturally inclusive activities to incorporate into early childhood programs.

The session was facilitated by, Dr. Esme Bamblett, who has worked within Aboriginal Education in Victoria since 1976. Dr Bamblett has education qualifications including a Diploma of Teaching (Primary), a Post Graduate Certificate of Arts (Aboriginal Studies), Master of Professional Education and Training, a PhD (Koorie Identity), and a Diploma of Ministry. Dr. Bamblett and her team Merle Hall and Leigh Saunders have facilitated the Professional Development sessions for over 6 years!

It was great to see so many of our local kindergarten educators in attendance and thank VAEAI for the trip down the road and all the deadly goodie bags!











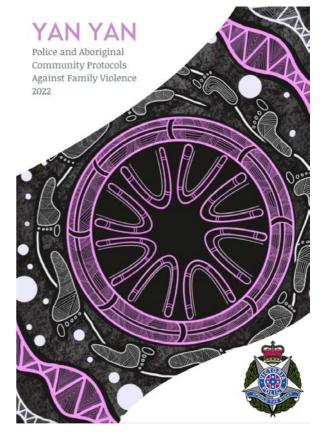
Yan Yan - The Police and Aboriginal Community Protocols Against Family Violence

Representatives from Victoria Police, Barwon Health, Barwon South West Dhelk Dja, Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place, The Orange Door, Barwon South West RAJAC, The Sexual Assault & Family Violence Centre and the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing -Vic launched the official Yan Yan Document at both Geelong and Colac recently.

All of these organisations have come together to endorse the Yan Yan document and make a commitment to keeping our Aboriginal community safe from family violence.

Yan Yan is an agreement between Aboriginal communities in the Barwon region and the Victoria Police. The intention of Yan Yan is to improve police responses when responding to reports of family violence in Aboriginal communities.







It recognises the urgent need to reduce the disproportionate impact of family violence on Aboriginal people, particularly women and children, and ensure there is a strengths-based, gender and trauma informed approach for people who experience and use violence.

Yan Yan aims to improve cultural safety for Aboriginal people who come into contact with police at one of the most vulnerable times in their life.

To learn more about Yan Yan, and read the artwork story you can view the entire document on our website here: https://wathaurong.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/YANYAN-Final-Document.pdf

















Families, Fairness and Housing



Wiyi Yani U Thangani National Summit

Summit Day 1: WE ARE THE CHANGE. we are connected, Sensing and seeing a system grounded in our wisdom and knowledges.

Being connected is about grounding and uniting Summit participants in all our diversity. Together, through connection, commonality can be found of belonging to country, kin, spirit and the ecosystems that interconnect across the continent.

Everyone and everything are connected, and together in our connections e can create healthy systems and flourishing societies.

The Summit is about building momentum to progress and achieve First Nations gender justice and equality in Australia, and the opening theme of connection is a reminder that this movement is a millennial one, with origins at the beginning of time. It is our deep and intimate connections, ancestral wisdom and knowledges, which means a movement for First Nations gender justice and equality is distinct from a mainstream understanding of gender equality.

Summit Day 2: VVE ARE THE CHANGE, we are the future, envisioning what we want and calling it into being.

On day two, all summit participants are asked to look to the future and think about the way forward for Wiyi Yani U Thangani and what a movement for First Nations Gender Justice and Equality really looks like. The day will pose questions and considerations about the future, such as,

What do we envision it to be?

What's happening today that's helping us understand what the future has in store?

How do we work together, across diverse spaces, to create a determined pathway toward a future that belongs to us all and realises First Nations Gender Justice and equality?

Summit Day 3: WE ARE THE CHANGE, We Innovate how to make change happen and achieve First Nations Gender Justice.

The last Day of the Summit is all about innovation and transformative change, innovation is inherent to First Nations cultures and knowledges. The day will consider how First Nations people are the first innovators, adapting and responding to changing conditions over tens of thousands of centuries.

Innovation is not an abstract thing that exists only in the spaces of tech or corporate environments. The day will remind all Summit participants that innovation is an active process that can fuse ancestral knowledge with contemporary methods. The discussions of the day will explore the many sides of innovation, and that to innovate is to confront some of the most entrenched problems of our times to make serious and lasting change happen





WIYI YANI U THANGANI YOUTH SUMMIT

In Collaboration with Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good (DIYDG), The Youth Forum will bring together First Nations Women between 18-29 years of age for a series of keynote speakers, panels, breakout sessions and innovation workshops, Youth Forum participants will contribute to forming a Youth Statement to deliver at the broader Summit.





TREATY VOTING DAYS AT THE COLAC ABORIGINAL GATHERING PLACE 2023





JORDAN EDWARDS

Gunditjmara, Waddawurrung, Arrernte

MICHAEL 'MOOKEYE' BELL

Gunditjmara, Boandik

SHEREE LOWE

Gunditjmara



All results as announced are provisional until made final as provided for in the Assembly's Election Rules and Constitution



Recognition of Native Title for the Eastern Maar

The lands and waters of our ancestors are and always have been ours.

On Tuesday 28 March 2023, the Eastern Maar Peoples welcomed the Federal Court of Australia to their Country to recognise in Australian law their native title.

The Court orders recognising native title are made by agreement (consent determination) with the State of Victoria, the Commonwealth of Australia and 156 respondent interest groups to the Court application. The Court orders recognised native title to a part of our Traditional Country with further legal recognition of extended territory to follow during the year.

Our native title claim was first filed in the Federal Court on the 14 December 2012. This determination represents the culmination of more than 10 years of Eastern Maar Traditional Owners working tirelessly to achieve this outcome. Through hard work, an enormous number of meetings and collective decision making between and through our family groupings; supported by historical studies, evidence, anthropological reports family tree submissions and court sessions, we are here today.

Reaching this point has been far from easy and we are extremely proud of our collective Eastern Maar community, and we acknowledge all of our people who have persevered through the complex process of reaching native title. We also pay our respects and acknowledge our Ancestors and our Elders and community members that have passed and who have equally contributed and paved the way to achieving this outcome.

We are Eastern Maar Peoples

We are "Eastern Maar"; a collective of family groups who descend from our ancestors; King of Port Fairy and Eliza; Old Jack (father of John Dawson); Charlie and Alice (parents of Albert Austin); Samuel Robinson and Mary Caramut; Lizzie (mother of Frank Clarke); Robert and Lucy (parents of

Alice Dixon); Barney Minimalk; Nellie Whiturboin; Louisa (mother of William Rawlings) and Richard Sharp.

We identify as belonging to Eastern Maar which encompasses Maar, Gunditjmara, Tjap Wurrung, Peek Whurrong, Keeray Whurrung, Kuurn Kopan Noot and/or Yarro waetch (Tooram Tribe), and Gulidjan and/or Gadubanud among other names. Eastern Maar has also been adopted by our representative body, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC), which represents our collective native title rights and interests.

Maar poondeeyt-an keenanpa (Maar have lived here forever)

Our Culture is strong, alive and continuing

Proving native title is no small feat. The determination of March 2023 is grounded on the basis that the Federal Court recognises that Eastern Maar peoples have continued to abide by our laws and customs, uninterrupted since assumption of sovereignty under British Crown settler colonialism, and that those laws and customs have been acknowledged and observed by each generation since.

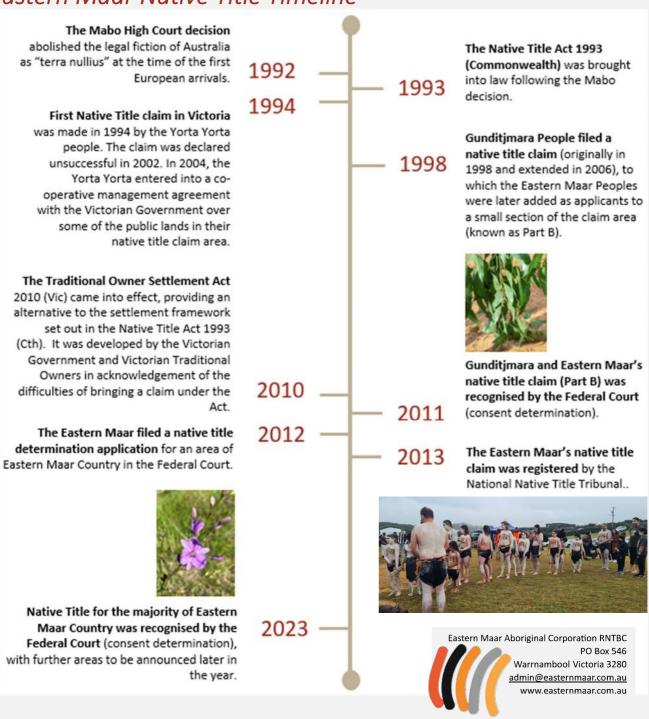
This uninterrupted proof is a very high legal threshold and, in the face of ever present adversity, violence, loss, discrimination and racism, our peoples have fought hard for their Country. We have fought to substantially maintain and practice our traditional laws and customs, and importantly pass on cultural and spiritual knowledge throughout our family groups from generation to generation.

Native title is a communal title, meaning it is held by the members of the native title group together. A determination includes the right to camp, hunt, fish, collect plants, protect sites of cultural significance and conduct ceremony on our Country.



The March 2023 determination is a landmark point in our fight for recognition of our Country and our responsibility to it. Recognition of Eastern Maar connection to Country, through native title, is fundamental to our ability to move forward as a nation. Implicit in this recognition are our legal rights to the lands, waters and resources of our Country; equity in these assets that appropriately reflect our standing as this Country's First People; and respect for our culture and values, and the contribution we can make to the wellbeing of all people who share place with us.

Fastern Maar Native Title Timeline





ENROLLING TO VOTE FOR THE REFERENDUM

In Australia, you must enrol and vote if you're an Australian citizen aged 18 or over. If you are not enrolled, you cannot have your say on who represents you about issues that are important to you and your community.

The electoral roll

When you enrol to vote, your name and address are added to the electoral roll. The electoral roll is a list of people who are eligible to vote in the election. You need to be enrolled before you can vote.

How to enrol

You can use a computer or a smart phone to enrol to vote or update your address online at w w w. ae c . gov. au/Indigenou s

You can also pick up an enrolment form at any Australian Electoral Commission office. You'll need proof of ID – a driver's licence, passport or someone who is already on the electoral roll who can confirm who you are.

The electoral roll closes shortly after the election/referendum is announced so it's important to keep your enrolment details up-to-date.

Why do I have to enrol to vote? Enrolment and voting is compulsory for all Australian citizens aged 18 or over. More importantly, it is your chance to have a say in your future and in the future of your c o mmunity.

Will I be fined if I haven't enrolled in the past?

No. Even if you have not enrolled before, you can do so now and you will not be fined. However, you may be fined if you don't vote at election time. The AEC encourages all eligible Australians to enrol to vote and keep their details up-to-date on the electoral roll.

To enrol to vote, scan the QR code or visit aec.gov.au/enrol







The Colac Aboriginal Sathering Place Community Yarn Edition Three

Australia is having a conversation about the Voice referendum being held later this year.



It's about whether we should change the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing a body called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

What is the Voice?

 The Voice would be an independent and permanent advisory body.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have called for the Voice to be representative of First Nations peoples from across Australia, be gender balanced and involve young people.

Why a Voice?

- Australia has been talking about recognising First Nations peoples in the Constitution for more than a decade.
- In 2017, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across the country came together.
 They considered all the options for recognition.
 They wrote the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which called for a Voice for First Nations peoples to be added to the Constitution.
- In 2022, the Australian Government agreed to have a referendum to let Australians decide whether to establish the Voice in the Constitution.

How would the Voice work?

- The Voice would give advice to the Australian Parliament and Government on matters that affect the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- The intention is for the Voice to work alongside existing groups and organisations.
- It would be accountable and transparent.

Who would be in the Voice?

 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have called for members of the Voice to be chosen by First Nations peoples based on the wishes of local communities.

When will the Voice referendum be held?

The referendum will be held in late 2023.
 Voting is compulsory for all eligible Australian citizens aged 18 years and over.

Get informed.
Voice.gov.au





WRITE YES THIS REFERENDUM COULD BE A POWERFUL STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Power in referendums isn't in the wording of a question or the promises of government, it's in the act of voting and commitment to campaigning for greater change. If millions of people write yes in this referendum, it will create political pressure for governments to move from the status quo.

We believe in the capacity and strength of First Nations leadership. Over the next decade we could see huge changes in First Nations justice – from treaties, representation, land rights, environment, equity and justice.

The majority of the country are with us and ready to show support - with more ambition than Government - because of the hard work of our Elders and communities.

When we turn our demands for change into momentum and a resounding yes, so much more will be possible.

There is no justice without First Nations justice.

Referendums are won by people, and that means we need to be everywhere talking to as many people as we can.

We are already seeing the racist rhetoric from the 'no' campaign on our teles and news feeds. Can you help communicate what is at stake in this referendum to people across the country and help shift their vote?

Head to https://yes.org.au/



TRUE RECONCILIATION OR JUST HISTORY REPEATING?

As a nation, we cannot have those who keep the oldest living culture alive being exposed to hatred we are currently allowing.

By Ms Renee Owen; Dr Renee Fiolet, University of Melbourne and Deakin University; and Dr Lahiru Russell, Deakin University This time of year is marked by two major events in our Australian calendar, Sorry Day and National Reconciliation Week

Sorry Day 2023 marked the 26th anniversary of saying sorry to the Stolen Generations for more than 70 years of forced removal of children, and six years since the Uluru Statement from the Heart was released.

The introduction of the Constitution Alteration Bill (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice) 2023 in Parliament. Coinciding most years with National Reconciliation VVeek, Sorry Day is meant to recognise the terrible and ongoing harm experienced by the Stolen Generations and a commitment to avoid repeating the history of wrongs caused by colonial policies and government practices.

Yet here we are, in 2023, demonstrating that as a country we are capable of achieving high levels of education, employment and income, but lack the ability to reduce the amount of racism being thrown at the traditional owners of this country who never ceded their lands.

Since the announcement of the referendum on the 30 March 2023, the amount of hatred and vitriol shared publicly amongst Australian citizens has astonished even those who have worked in the field of racism and health for a long time.

The question being posed is simple:

"A Proposed Law: to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Do you approve this proposed alteration?"

But the negative backlash has been unparalleled. The racist ranting taking place (overwhelmingly on social media) shows our country for the racism it is increasingly being recognised for.

This week we saw a strong, proud Wiradjuri man, Stan Grant, rightly prioritise his health and that of his family by taking some time out from his high-profile role. He should not have to do this, but does he have a choice? In his on-air statement on Monday, he admitted his abusers had succeeded in hurting him but he would be OK. Where he seemed most concerned was for his brothers and sisters: "Please send that support and care to those of my people, and all people, who feel abandoned and alone, who are wondering whether they have a place in this country and do not have my privileges."

Stan, by his own admission, is more privileged than the majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our country. He has a support network of family, friends, loyal colleagues and followers. What is happening to the thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have not led such a privileged existence, are not so well supported and have not had the education and opportunities which Stan has had. How are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people dealing with the current racist abuse dominating conversations taking place all over the country? It's beginning to feel like we are repeating history. Not simply by allowing racists to have their say, but by allowing those racists to spread their hate and potentially impact the social and emotional wellbeing of Australia's (already) most marginalised people.



TRUE RECONCILIATION OR JUST HISTORY REPEATING?

Continued:

The same-sex marriage Yes vote provided the LGBTQIA+ community with a feeling of being accepted and supported, protecting against poor mental health. Picture: Wikimedia

Similar behaviour was seen five years ago when the referendum on same-sex marriage had the nation talking about the way they would vote.

At the heart of the debate, we saw individuals' moral values and beliefs questioned and fear-based campaigns fueled by toxic homophobic rhetoric attempted to dissuade Yes voters. It didn't work But the constant prejudice and discrimination experienced by the LGBTQIA+ community had a damaging impact on their mental health and wellbeing. However, the Yes campaigns provided the LGBTQIA+ community with a feeling of being accepted and supported, which protects against poor mental health.

So, can we learn from this recent history? Why tolerate more harmful rhetoric against another marginalised group in our community? This time it's racism.

Racism is a determinant of health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The impact of racism extends beyond poor mental health outcomes to also incorporate physiological issues such as high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes.

According to Badimaya Yamatji woman Jasmine Knox, many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are worried about the mental health of their community at this time.

The social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must be protected. "I'm worried about what supports they have in place. Who can they reach out to when they see and hear these things about their own culture and people?" she says.

As a nation, we cannot afford to have those who keep the oldest living culture alive being exposed to the kind of hatred we are currently allowing. The social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must be protected during these political games that enable hate speech.

The Government has provided extra funding to support mental health during this time, but the current mental health system is still in crisis mode following Covid-19. No matter how much money you throw at a service, it can still fail to be culturally appropriate to the person requiring support. So while we're bracing for the impact of another wave of mental health crises, the educational campaign promoting empathy understanding and social inclusivity needs to be intensified and promoted.

It is every individual's responsibility to act with kindness and respect. Only then can we continue as Stan says "to live with respect in a world worth living in".



This is a publication of The University of Melbourne, first published in Pursuit. You can find it online here: https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/true-reconciliation-or-just-history-repeating?fbclid=lwAR39DLG6aJkBVEQQlBBfw61a7RaxywYzJ4o_dM0iAd-P0eN0PWCWLhVZf7U



Australia is having a conversation about the Voice referendum being held later this year.





It's about whether we should change the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

The Constitution outlines the rules by which Australia is governed, and can only be changed through a referendum.



Why is the Voice referendum happening?

Australia has been talking about recognising
First Nations peoples in the Constitution for more than a
decade.

In 2017, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across the country came together.

They considered all the options for recognition. They wrote the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which called for a Voice for First Nations peoples to be added to the Constitution. In 2022, the Australian Government agreed to have a referendum to let Australians decide whether to establish the Voice in the Constitution.



How would the Voice work?

The Voice would be an independent and permanent advisory body.

It would give advice to the Australian Parliament and Government on matters that affect the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

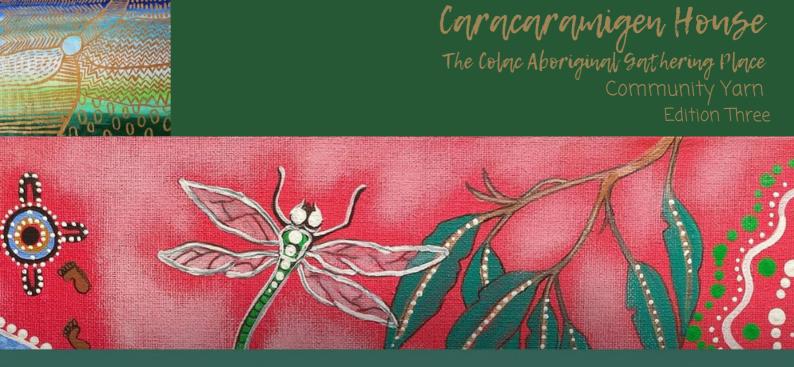
peoples.



Do I need to vote?

Voting in the referendum is compulsory for all eligible Australian citizens aged 18 years and over.

Voice.gov.au



Stolen Generations Reparations Package

Applications are now open.

Designed by and for Aboriginal people, the Package aims to help address the lasting trauma and suffering caused by the forced removal of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children from their families, culture, and Country.

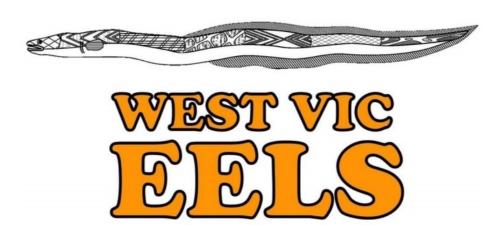
The Package is available to community members who:

- are an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person
- have been removed by a government or non-government agency in Victoria prior to 31 December 1976, while under the age of 18 years
- have been first removed in Victoria
- have been separated from their family for a period of time that resulted in the experience of loss of family, community, culture, identity, and language.

Visit https://www.vic.gov.au/stolen-generations-reparations-package for more information









Expression of Interest

Do you have a child aged between 9 and 17 (born the year's from 2006 - 2014)
who would be interested in playing in the Upcoming VACSASL Junior Netball Football Carnival.

September 26th - 27th 2023
Darebin Community Sports Stadium
Plenty Road, Reservoir



Clink the link to register your child



Reconciliation Week



Thank you to everyone who joined the Colac Otway Shire Council at our shire's arts and cultural hub COPACC for Reconciliation Week activities.

Gunditjmara Kirrae Whurrong musician Lee Morgan started the event off on a fantastic note with an original song that he wrote to Welcome people to Country. We all joined in for some crowd participation. Lee followed with a smoking ceremony which included taking the cleansing smoke through the COPACC venue.

We then moved into the Civic Hall to officially unveil a colouring competition featuring the work of Worimi artist Gerard Black. Hundreds of local children entered the colouring competition, with the winning entries being from Leah Kirkman, Ela Masangcay, Rubi Turner, Ollie Hickey and Hank Meade. Each winning entrant received a prize plus the honour of having their artwork printed on flags displayed in Murray Street, and stickers displayed throughout Council buildings. Congratulation to everyone who participated and a big thanks to our valued friends Ebony Hickey and Gerard Black for their support and guidance on our Reconciliation activities. Acknowledgement also to the COPACC team for their leadership of this event.

Regards, Tamzin McLennan , Manager Connected Communities









Australia is having a conversation about the Voice referendum.

Get informed at Voice.gov.au











Mural Inclusion Project



Great Ocean Road Health was honoured to have a Smoking Ceremony with our staff and residents during National Reconciliation Week. The Ceremony was to acknowledge the land we sit on for the staff, residents & community and to acknowledge the history related to this country, the family connections and collective story of this country's song.

GORH was proud to unveil a mural at the Lorne site which was designed by Gerard Black. Gerard is an Aboriginal Contemporary Artist who was born on Worimi Country in NSW but grew up from the age of 3 on Wadawurrung Country in Torquay and currently lives in Colac on Gulidjan County.





Gerard was provided with the brief to deliver a reflection of our commitment to inclusivity, our values and vision and he worked closely with the staff and local community.

The representation of the artwork itself shows the spirit in the forest and in the ocean and these run either side of the centre pathway. It also depicts the story human, community, land, water, spiritual, ancestral and healing connections and the depictions of people without bias of age, gender or race are all represented within the central pathway with the use of ancient patterns and symbols used throughout the design.'

In other news we are happy to announce that Karlijn Sas is the new Coordinator at Marrar Woorn Neighbourhood House in Apollo Bay. Karlijn is well connected in the community and has recently been working in community development roles at the Conservation Ecology Centre and Wildlife Wonders. Karlijn is an incredibly talented artist and you may have seen some of her work around town and in exhibitions in the region.



Caracaramigen House The Colac Aboriginal Sathering Place



Self-Determination in Education Reform

Campfire Conversations

Following on from the Campfire Conversations that have taken place in schools, recently. The Department of Education and Training Barwon Area Office held an additional workshop to bring students from different schools in the Colac-Otway region together. The aim for this day to be an opportunity for students to connect and discuss what matters to them. The purpose of the workshops was to understand the aspirations and current experiences of Koorie young people in Colac, as well as identifying opportunities for changes in schools.

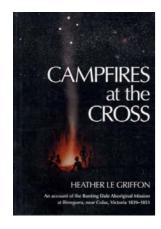
These workshops will ensure that the voices of Koorie students and young people will be included in the codesign of reforms that will strengthen Aboriginal selfdetermination in schools in the region. This is what our deadly young ones came up with - well done!







The Reading Corner



Campfires at the Cross by Heather Le Griffon

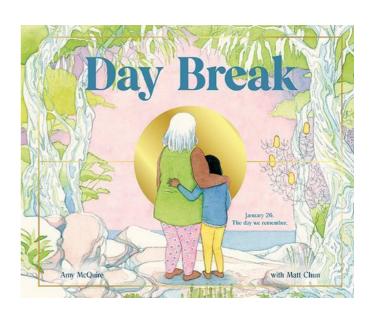
Campfires at the Cross is a comprehensive and perceptive study of Aboriginal -Settler relationships in the 19th century. Based in Birregurra, Victoria. Author Heather Le Griffon has lived and worked in the vicinity of the Buntingdale Mission for a number of years. The lack of an accessible, relaible account of the Mission prompted her to write one.

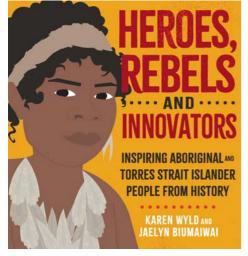
We are thankful she did - and highly recomend the read!

Day Break by Amy McQuire and Matt Chun

Day Break is the story of a family making their way back to Country on January 26. We see the strength they draw from being together, and from sharing stories as they move through a shifting landscape.

The story refocuses the narratives around 'Australia Day on Indigenous survival and resistance, and in doing so honors the past while looking to the future. Confronting yet truthful, painful yet full of hope, Day Break is a crucial story that will open up a conversation on truth-telling for the next generation.





Heroes, Rebels and Innovators by Karen Wyld and Jaelyn Biumaiwai

Karen Wyld, a writer of Martu descent, and Jaelyn Biumaiwai, an illustrator of Mununjali and Fijian descent, combine their interests and skills to bring you these real-life stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who readers of all ages should know about. British invasion and settlement caused upheaval for Aboriginal the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, but the heroes, rebels and innovators featured in this book still held on to their dreams. What dream will you turn into reality?



Caracaramigen House The Colac Aboriginal Sathering Place

Our deadly Aunty Denise

My name is Denise Charles and I am a Koorie Engagement Support Officer - KESO, employed by the Department of Education and Training and based in the Geelong DET Office - 75 High Street Belmont. I have lived in Geelong since 1988 when I moved there to study education at Deakin University. I am originally from Mooroopna in the Goulburn Valley. My father is Yorta Yorta from Cummeragunga (Reserve) near Barmah on the Murray River, and my mother is Gunai/Kurnai from Gippsland, with ties back to Wotjobaluk country in the Wimmera.

We have 6 KESO's in the Barwon Office and we are all attached to primary and secondary schools. I cover the schools to the west of Geelong including Colac, the Otways and down the coast to Apollo Bay and Lavers Hill. I am also available to support Early Years Centre's in those areas.

KESOs play an integral role in working with families, communities, education and service providers to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners to participate fully in education. We are area based professionals who are members of the local Aboriginal community, and have an understanding of Aboriginal culture and the history of our community.

We provide advice to schools and Early Years Centers about culturally inclusive learning environments for Koorie students. We also support schools and Early Years Centers with the co-ordination of services to support the engagement and improved outcomes for Koorie children and young people. We support students and families through transitions across all learning stages where appropriate - into early years, primary, secondary and further education.

I strongly believe that an education is one of the most important things we can give our children - with education come choice, with choice comes empowerment. One of my favorite quotes is from Nelson Mandela -'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world'. Please contact me if you would like to discuss anything to do with your child's education, I would love to catch up for a chat and a coffee.



Denise Charles

My contact details are: Tel: 52155172 Mobile: 0457 522 637 Email: charles.denise.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

Aunty Denise has been helping facilitate 'Chip Chats' for Aboriginal children attending state schools in the Colac region. If you have an Aboriginal child that would like to participate please contact Aunty Denise on the details above



Australia is having a conversation about the Voice referendum.

Get informed at Voice.gov.au







The Colac Aboriginal Sathering Place Community Yarn Edition Three

ENROL YOUR CHILD TODAY, IT'S FREE!

At kindergarten, your child will make new friends, enjoy fun activities and get ready for school.

Your child will:

learn through play, art, music and dance learn to express themselves in a safe, inclusive and caring environment build the skills and confidence to prepare them for school

Kindergarten programs have a qualified teacher and run for 15 hours per week.

All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who turn 3 or 4 years old by 30 April, can attend kindergarten for 15 hours per week for free through the Early Start Kindergarten grant.

Wayipungitj (supports) is my new program name, but I am the Koorie Preschool Advisor at Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative.

My role is to support kindergarten staff with embedding Aboriginal perspectives, and well as providing culturally safe and inclusive spaces for our community. Also here to support any families with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with enrolling and engaging in kindergartens. I can be contacted by kindergartens who would like support with embedding culture, or families who would like any questions answered around the kindergarten space, or would like me to contact their kindergarten and support them with cultural inclusion.

I am new to the Colac space so sing out and say hello if you think I can help.

Hayley Boehm

Yorta Yorta



Mobile: 0327820750

Email:

Hayley.Boehm@wathaurong.org.au







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.

AM I ELIGIBLE?

You are eligible for a WDP if you:



- 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



For more information on the WDP Program please contact Blake Natoli via email Blake.Natoli@wathaurong.org.au or by phone on 0429 137 912



The Voice referendum is being held later this year, Get informed at Voice.gov.au



Get informed.
Voice.gov.au



Currently recruiting Aboriginal volunteers to be part of the local ACJP panel in the Surf Coast and Colac Otway area.

What is ACJP? Aboriginal Community Justice Panels is a 24/7 face to face welfare service offered to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples that have been taken into custody throughout Victoria to ensure their welfare and safety. ACJP was established in 1988 in response to the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

We are currently looking for local community members in the Surfcoast and Colac Otway region to be part of the on-call volunteers for the local ACJP Program.

Volunteer requirements

- Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander
- Current Victorian Drivers License
- Hold a current working with childrens check
- are Covid 19 vaccinated.

For more information or to express your interest please contact Chris Harrison the ACJP Statewide Chairperson via email charrison@vals.org.au or Wathaurong Co-op via email ACJP@wathaurong.org.au







VVDAC formalises the long-standing solidarity and partnership of our Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), coming together to advocate for the self-determination of our rural and regional western Victoria Communities.

Our membership includes Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative, Budja Budja Aboriginal Co-operative, Dhauwurd Wurrung Elderly & Community Health Service, Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-operative, Gunditjmara Aboriginal Co-operative, Kirrae Health Service, Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative, and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Co-operative.

WDAC represents the largest regional Victorian Aboriginal population of 28% of Victoria's Aboriginal people, who live on 38% of Victoria's beautiful Country.

ACCOs are critical for Community and cultural strengthening. Our ACCOs all run specialist wraparound health and wellbeing support services for our families and Communities from pregnancy through to the Dreaming. Our services are run by Community, for Community. Our services include cultural and Community engagement, primary and allied health, social and emotional wellbeing and recovery, maternity services, early childhood, youth programs, family services, homelessness and housing, NDIS, and aged care services.

WDAC will be accountable to the self-determined needs and aspirations of our western districts' families, Communities and ACCOs, with the backing of and funding from our government and regional partners. WDAC will

- Be a powerful voice advocating at regional, state, and national forums for our families, Communities and ACCOs.
- Use Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and doing to lead, design and facilitate the solutions to achieve equity and beyond for our Communities.
- Hold government and partners to account at local and regional levels, to ensure that all Aboriginal funding is self-determined and led by Aboriginal families, Communities and ACCO's.
- Support whole of Community approaches to address the ongoing harm of systemic racism that disproportionately impacts Aboriginal Communities.
- Achieve ongoing, equitable and significant funding for our ACCOs' infrastructure, workforce, Community strengthening, and services that we deliver 'our way'.

To contact the WDAC, please reach out to our current WDAC Chair, Simon Flagg, CEO Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative CEO (Simon:Flagg@wathaurong.org.au)





Wathaurong's SEVVB Team

Wathaurong's Social Emotional Wellbeing team (previously known as the Wellness and Recovery team) provides culturally appropriate support and services to Community members within the Wathaurong, Gulidjan, & Gadubanud Communities located in the Barwon Region.

Our team is made up of programs and services including:

- Intake & Assessment
- Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) support workers
- Alcohol and other drugs (AOD) workers
- Bring them home (BTH) workers
- Women's group
- Men's Group
- Psychology
- STÉPMI (Services and Treatment for Enduring and Persistent Mental Illness)
- Towards Home Plus

We can assist Community members by working together to develop an individual treatment plan, where goals, needs or support requirements are identified, and working towards the steps and processes to support Community to meet their desired goals and outcomes. Our Social Emotional Wellbeing team requires referrals to be completed for our offered services, so please speak to your Wathaurong GP or caseworker if you would like to be referred.

We have Alcohol and Other Drugs worker, Phil Drummond, onsite at Colac Headspace of a Thursday from 9am - 5pm. Phil offers Community support for both alcohol and other drugs as well as social emotional wellbeing support, and can provide outreach to those who feel more comfortable in the Community setting if you're not wanting to drop into Headspace.

Referrals and appointments to have a yarn with Phil can be facilitated by speaking with one of our Wathaurong GP's or a Wathaurong case worker. Call 52 77 00 44 to make an appointment with a Wathaurong GP.







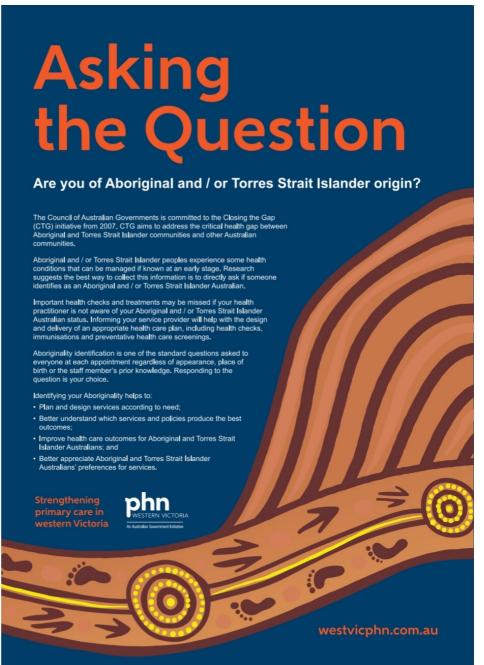
At Colac Area Health we support our community who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander by waiving the gap payments and wait lists for our services in Community Health and Dental Services.

Patients will not be wait listed for Home Nursing services either if they have identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.

As both staff at Colac Area Health and Community accessing it's services, It is very important to both ask and answer the question about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity to ensure Colac Area Health are supporting our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to receive the best possible care on offer.

To find our more about the work CAH are doing with Mob go to our website: https://cah.vic.gov.au/services/aboriginal-health













Caracaramigen House
The Colac Aboriginal Sathering Place

Community Yarn

HOW TO USE TELEHEALTH AT WATHAURONG

Call (03) 5277 2038



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



A doctor will call you at the scheduled time for your Telehealth appointment



Telehealth appointments are available for most non-urgent queries or conditions for Wathaurong community members in Colac and Geelong



CALL (03) 5277 2038 TO BOOK YOUR TELEHEALTH APPOINTMENT

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!









Did you know not all medications work the same in everyone and what works in someone else may not work in you and in fact can sometimes make you feel worse?

Do you want to know more about your medication?

WHAT ARE THEY FOR?

DO THEY GO TOGETHER?

DO YOU THINK YOU TAKE TOO MANY MEDICINES?

DO YOUR MEDICINES MAKE YOU FEEL SICK?

COULD YOU BE HAVING SIDE EFFECTS?

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T TAKE YOUR MEDICATIONS?

ARE THE BRANDS ALL THE SAME?

Come and have a yarn with our pharmacist Pene to make sure your medications are working right for you. She can then work with your doctor to ensure you are getting the best results.

You can chat to her at the Youth Health Hub on Mondays, The Gathering Place, or she can come to your house. To make an appointment, contact Ebony Hickey on 0449 948 475 or Wathaurong Health Service 5277 2038







In 1967, we were counted. In 2023, we want our Voice to be heard.
Vote YES in the upcoming referendum.



https://wathaurong.org.au/wathaurong-supports-indigenous-voice-to-parliament/







winterwild.com.au





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Sathering Place x
In The Skies Art & Music
2023 NAIDOC EXIBMON





HAND MADE CROCHET ITEMS



HOOKED BY JORDI



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Contemporary Aboritinal Art

Bo Gerard Black









Caracaramigen House - The Colac Aboriginal

Gathering Place x

In The Skies Art & Music

2023 NAIDOC EXIBITION



MARK FERRARI

Who's your Mob and where are you from? Gunditjmara

What sort of things do you make? Handmade wooden Aboriginal Artefacts

Where did you learn your skills?

I learnt alot of my skills from Uncle Muscles and other family members, lots of my woodworking skills are self taught through modes of trial and error.

What makes your work unique?

Most of my works are made without power tools, I like to take the time to walk Country and collect my woods taking time and consideration about each piece. I find it important to know what I'm collecting and where it comes from.

















Marks handmade Aboriginal Artefacts are available for purchase at the NAIDOC Exhibition





Caracaramigen House - The Colac Aboriginal
Sathering Place X
In The Skies Art & Music
2023 NAIDOC EXIBITION



NIKKI WHITFEILD

What inspired you to make your fabulous roo bags? I was looking for a practical and durable bag that carried all the things I like to carry safely and notihing existed. I started lookign at different mediums and thought I'd give a roo pelt a go, it works a treat and is not only durable but beautiful too

What motivates you to create? I'm always inspired by the places I visit, I love being able to create bags that bring people joy and provide an insight into travel and the things you need to carry with you.

Nikki's Roo Bags will be on display and for sale at the NAIDOC Exhibition.



ANGE JEFFERY

Who Ange is no stranger to these parts of the world and is growing a national name for herself. With her jewelry even showcased in Marie Claire this year. Ange will have jewelry kits available for purchase at the NAIDOC Exhibition.







Caracaramigen House - The Colac Aboriginal

Sathering Place x

In The Skies Art & Music

2023 NAIDOC EXIBITION

FRIDAYS SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY



GERARD BLACK



Gerard Black (1984, Newcastle, Australia) is an artist who works in a variety of media. By exploring being an First nation's artist in a nostalgic way, Black tries to increase the dynamic between audience and author by objectifying emotions and connecting the viewer to the duality of this countries history, he develops this through different interpretations. His artworks focus on a direct link to his Aboriginal heritage and telling the stories of his ancestors and the landscapes of this country. In short, the clear references are key elements in the work By investigating language, land and culture on a meta-level, he creates work in which a fascination with the clarity of content and an uncompromising attitude towards pride and connection to country and culture can be found. The work is simplistic and neutral, the use of white is a direct connection to the spiritual realm of his culture. The artist can easily imagine his own interpretation of ancient stories without being hindered and projecting viewer's to see his vision of the Dreamtime. He investigates the dynamics of his cultural stories, landscapes and language, including the manipulation of its effects and the limits of spectacle based on our assumptions of what aboriginal art means to us in a modern society. Rather than presenting a factual reality, a representation of the Dreamtime stories are created to conjure the realms of our imagination. His practice resonate with images culled from the cultural dreamtime realm of imagination. With a subtle minimalistic approach, he tries to grasp the language and stories of his culture. Transformed into art, language and stories becomes an ornament. His works establish a link between the landscape's reality and existence and our link to the land and the dreamtime. Gerard Black currently lives and works in Colac.



Gez will have a variety of prints and originals for sale at the NAIDOC Exhibition.











Follow Baiyamiart on instagram & Gerard Black on Facebook





Caracaramigen House - The Colac Aboriginal

Gathering Place X

In The Skies Art & Music

2023 NAIDOC EXIBITION

JAY HICKEY

Who's your Mob and where are you from? Proud Gulidjan man living on Wadawurrung country

How has your creativity changed over the last years? My creativity has changed a lot over the years. I used to make the art I thought I was "supposed" to make. Lots of traditional tattoo designs

and traditional Aboriginal works. As I've gotten older and more comfortable in my skin, I give myself a lot more creative license and freedom to make whatever I feel like. Lots of abstract and modern contemporary influences. Aboriginal art can take many different forms and I'm proud to make my stuff exactly how I like it nowadays.

Who are your biggest artistic influences? My biggest artistic influences are Keith Haring, Jean-michel Basquiat, Henri Mattise and Jackson Pollock

My top 3 most played songs right now would be:

We don't know what tomorrow brings - the smile

Milkumana - King stingray

Ghost - Josiah and the Bonnevilles





Jay will have these works and others available for purchase at the NAIDOC Exhibition





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In The Skies Art & Music
2023 NAIDOC EXIBITION
RIDAYS SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY



AMANDA STANLEY

Who's your Mob and where are you from?
My dads from wa and my Mums from Lake Tyres

Why are the colours black yellow and red so important to you? it represents my culture

Whats your favourite time of day to create? around lunchtime, it helps relax me from the stresses of the day.



Amanda's Ropes are available to purchase at the NAIDOC Exhibition. Price range \$10 - \$15





THE COLAC ABORIGINAL GATHERING PLACE CREWS \$70



THE COLAC ABORIGINAL GATHERING PLACE CANDLES \$45



HOOKED BY JORDI TEDDIES \$50





DRINK

NAIDOC TEES \$35



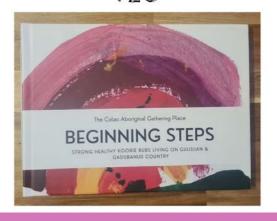
COOLAMONS \$40 - \$110



2022 HOODIES \$50



BABY BOOKS \$20





NAIDOC Week

2-9 JULY 2023

#NAIDOC2023 #ForOurElders





Where there is knowledge there are our Elders. Our Elders paved the pathways for us, taught us our knowledge, our history, they passed down their art, stories and wisdom. Our Elders are the foundation of our communities and role models for our children. With this poster I wanted to showcase how important our Elders are in passing down traditions and culture to our children and future.





