



# WATHAURONG ABORIGINAL CO-OPERATIVE

*Community Newsletter*

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**Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative**

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Phone: 03 5277 0044

Fax: 03 5278 4123

Email: [admin@wathaurong.org.au](mailto:admin@wathaurong.org.au)

[www.wathaurong.org.au](http://www.wathaurong.org.au)



Congratulations to our Wathaurong Goeem Div 2 Football team for taking out the Division 2 Grand Final at the VACSAL Senior Football and Netball Carnival 2023.

## *Calendar of upcoming events*

### **DECEMBER 2023**

- 20th** - Wathaurong Co-op last day before Christmas Closure
- 21st** - Wathaurong Community Christmas Party (see page 23)
- 24th** - Christmas Eve
- 25th** - Christmas Day
- 26th** - Boxing Day
- 31st** - New Year's Eve

### **JANUARY 2024**

- 1st** - New Year's Day
- 4th** - Wathaurong Co-op first day back after closure period
- 9th** - School Holiday Program (see page 24)
- 26th** - Day of Mourning - Co-op closed
- 29th** - First day of school



Join our socials!  
**@wathaurong**



# CEO UPDATE

Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative (Wathaurong) provides supports to our Community living on Wadda Wurrung, Boonwurrung, Gulidjan and Gadabanud Countries. We acknowledge and pay our respects to their Elders and Community past, present and to all Aboriginal people living on Country who have contributed to the diverse Aboriginal Cultural Society we have today.

It's been another huge few months of activity at Wathaurong. I would firstly like to acknowledge that a lot of our mob will be hurting from the results of the Voice to Parliament referendum. We as an organisation and a community put a lot of time, effort, and heart into promoting the Yes campaign. The no result hurts, there's no doubt about that. But one thing we know about our mob is that no matter what we will rise, we will continue to fight for our Community. I encourage you to take time and space to heal, to reach out whenever you need a yarn, and to make sure you are looking after yourself and your family. **Our voice will still be heard, Strong Community, Strong Culture, Strong Country!**



There have been some amazing things happening and some deadly Community events over the past few months. We hosted the VACSAL Senior Football & Netball Carnival in Torquay in October, with more than 4000 mob coming to participate and be involved in the family friendly activities. It was an incredible weekend, and we are thrilled that VACSAL have announced that we will be hosting this event in 2024 as well, so get ready because we plan to make it even bigger and better.

We also hosted the It's a Mob Thing Music and Health Promotions Festival at the Geelong Showgrounds in early November 2023. What a great way to get together, enjoy great music, and promote health activities for our mob. Once again, we are looking to host this again in 2024 so keep an eye out for some more announcements on this next year.

# CEO UPDATE

Our Forster Street Youth Hub is also coming together very quickly, with the new outdoor deck completed and the internal fit out started. It's expected that the construction will be finished before Christmas, and we look forward to hosting a grand opening early next year to welcome our Community back into the space.

Christmas is coming up quickly, and this year our Community Christmas Party will be held at the Geelong Showgrounds, on Thursday 21st December from 11am til 3pm. I look forward to seeing everyone there and celebrating with you all.

Wathaurong offices will be closed for the Christmas break with our last day of operation being Wednesday 20th December, and our first day back being Thursday 4th January 2024. I hope you all have a great Christmas and New Year.

Nyatne (thanks)

Simon Flagg

CEO



# STAFF UPDATES

## WELCOME NEW STAFF

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

- Danae Haynes - Family Services Case Worker
- Georgia Hinkley - Family Violence Support Worker
- Grant Gibson - Manager Social Emotional Wellbeing
- Greg Reardon - Family Services Manager
- Jack Clark - Housing Manager
- Jana Fosita - Kinship Caseworker
- Kaitlyn Stokes - Aboriginal Mental Health & AOD Worker
- Linda Ojuola - Disability Support Worker
- Melissa Attard - Receptionist
- Nyawi Black - Social Emotional Wellbeing Worker
- Samantha Watts - Health Administration Team Leader
- Sharon Linsdell - Alcohol & Other Drugs Worker
- Shayesta Sharma - Support Coordinator

## FAREWELLS

Sending our best wishes to staff who have left Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative in the past few months to take up other opportunities, including:

- Alexandra Stefanovic - Kinship Caseworker
- Allison Olbrich - Cleaner (Colac)
- Alyssa Wilson - Kinship Caseworker
- Cameron Craig - Disability Support Worker
- James McKinnon - Community Engagement Facilitator
- Jordan Edwards - Traditional Owner Cultural Advisor
- Josephine Chester - Receptionist
- Linda Tanner - Support Coordinator
- Matthew Ladner - Alcohol & Other Drugs Worker
- Melissa Johnson - Team Leader Health Administration
- Nicole Asker - Senior Caseworker Kinship
- Peter Surtees - Lawns & Gardens Team Member
- Renee Layton - Manager Wellness & Recovery
- Shannon Secombe - Community Engagement Team Leader
- Sue Riddell - Family Violence Support Worker
- Trent Latta - Family Violence Case Worker

## 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. We offer generous and attractive employment packages, including:

- **Generous leave provisions (five weeks of annual leave)**
- **Gifted Christmas/New Year leave**
- **Not for profit salary packaging, reducing your taxable salary**



Check out our available jobs on our website now by scanning the QR code!



# AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Wathaurong would like to congratulate Vaughan Gray and Ebony Hickey for receiving awards at the Barwon South West Aboriginal Community Justice awards 2023. They are both amazing and passionate people in their area and are well deserving of these awards.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH AWARD - VAUGHAN GRAY



Vaughan has been actively involved in youth leadership camps and mentorship, inspiring young people to connect with one another and their culture. He has also travelled to WA to support a community member who was bailed to another state, going above and beyond to provide support to at risk youth. through circuit breaker work. Vaughan has also spent time reflecting on young people's needs and wants when they come into contact with the justice system. He has initiated suggestions to engage youth in the Barwon Region ahead of the development of Wathaurong's Youth Hub. and has a strong focus on strengthening culture, embedding cultural learning into every interaction, resulting in positive change for young people. Vaughan's ability to connect with the youth has seen the level of engagement with the YJ program go to another level.

## ABORIGINAL JUSTICE CHAMPION AWARD - EBONY HICKEY



Ebony as Community Development Officer for the Colac Gathering Place, goes beyond her 9-5 role by volunteering and serving on various committees and advisory groups. In her capacity as BSW RAJAC Chairperson for the last two years and BSW Dehlk Dja Chairperson for the last three years, Ebony has been pivotal in advocating for the rights and protection of our Aboriginal people and communities across the Barwon South West region. She has been a key advocate for Aboriginal communities in the Barwon South West, holding police, education, and child protection departments accountable at Aboriginal Justice Forums. Ebony has also been involved in developing protocols against family violence (YAN YAN, and Paneeyt Kanditj) and advocating for the Aboriginal Youth Cautioning Program to be embedded across the area.

# AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS



Congratulations to our Wathaurong Goeem Div 2 Football team for taking out the Division 2 Grand Final at the VACSAL Senior Football and Netball Carnival 2023. Such a deadly accomplishment!



Congratulations also go to Jye Walker and Jye Lambley. Jye Walker (left) won Div 2 Player of the Carnival and Jye Lambley (right) won Player of the finals. Deadly work!

## VICTORIAN PUBLIC HEALTH AWARDS

Congratulations to our Wathaurong Health Team, who along with Barwon Health and the City of Greater Geelong Maternal Child Health Team have been nominated for an award at the upcoming Victorian Public Health Awards, in the category of "Excellence in Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing." Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children face a significant issue with middle ear infections known as otitis media, with rates much higher than non-Aboriginal populations. To address this, a collaborative initiative was launched to improve early detection and intervention of ear problems. The project, driven by Aboriginal stakeholders has enhanced referral pathways, provided culturally appropriate services, and reduced chronic ear infections. The final award winners will be announced at the Victorian Public Healthcare Awards Gala Night, to be held Thursday 16 November 2023.



# AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

## VACSAL TEAM OF THE CARNIVAL

Congratulations to all of the players and coaches who were selected for the 2023 Netball Team of the Carnival and 2023 Football Team of the Carnival! The teams were announced at the presentations on Sunday afternoon and players presented with medallions.

These players from A Grade Netball and Division 1 football were selected individually based on positions and performance, along with one coach for each team. To ensure unbiased selection, the panel that selected the teams were neither community representatives or associated with VACSAL, the selectors were impartial and independent.



### 2023 Netball Team of the Carnival

VACSAL Statewide Senior Football Netball Carnival  
7-8 October 2023, Wadda Wurrung Country, Geelong





**GA**  
Holly Stephens  
Gina's Dream Team

**WA**  
Zali Mifsud  
West Vic Eels

**WA**  
Sophie Atkinson  
Desert Roses

**WA**  
Medika Bonney  
Gina's Dream Team

**WB**  
Natarsha Bamblett  
Desert Roses

**GB**  
Jaya Blandthorn  
West Vic Eels

**GK**  
Anna Solomon  
Gina's Dream Team

**Coach:**  
Belinda Hayden  
Gina's Dream Team

**Interchange:**  
Tegan Edwards  
West Vic Eels

Kylie Sterling  
Wanyara TAG

Sarai Roe  
Wanyara TAG



### 2023 Football Team of the Carnival

VACSAL Statewide Senior Football Netball Carnival  
7-8 October 2023, Wadda Wurrung Country, Geelong





**Ruck**  
Dylan Burns  
West Vic Eels

**Ruck Rover**  
Joziah Nannup  
Bunurong

**Rover**  
Ethan Liddle  
West Vic Eels

**Coach:**  
Nathan Yates  
Mallee Tigers

**Interchange:**  
Hamish Hosking  
Warma Turtles

Jyah Chatfield  
West Vic Eels

Travis Varcoe  
Yakupna

Eddie Betts  
Fitzroy Stars

## EARLY YEARS TEAM

Wathaurong's Early Years Team recently travelled to Darwin on beautiful Larrakia Country to attend the National SNAICC conference.

The team attended the conference to showcase the work that's being done within the Early Years sector at Wathaurong.

They shared two presentations with delegates during the week.

One presentation was on how the Early Years Team work collaboratively to provide supports to community, and the other presentation was about the deadly Playgroups that are facilitated at Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative.

The team did such an amazing job and received excellent feedback – They were inspired by all the presentations by other organisations at the conference and are feeling extremely motivated to bring some fresh and new ideas into the space at Wathaurong. Well done Early Years Team!



# CHILDREN'S SERVICES

## Wathaurong Playgroups



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

### Kitjarra Booboop Baby Playgroup

for babies 0 - 12 months

Every Tuesday 10.30am till 12pm



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



Lunch provided and transport available for Milla Milla Playgroup

#### Why come to a Parent Support Playgroup:



Children learn and develop through  
play and social interaction.

Playgroup also provide an opportunity for  
children to interact with other  
children and families in the community.



Playgroup provides a culturally safe space where  
children have the opportunity to strengthen their  
identity through play and other  
cultural activities.



Playgroup is a great way for adults to  
meet other families in the community.



For more information on our Playgroup Sessions

please call or e-mail **Kristi Watts**

52770372 - 0419698264

[Kristi.Watts@wathaurong.org.au](mailto:Kristi.Watts@wathaurong.org.au)





# CHILDREN'S SERVICES



## Bupup balak wayipungang (helping/supporting the young kids)

2024 is fast approaching, if you haven't already, this is the time to start enrolling for 3 year old kindergarten.

If you need any kindergarten suggestions or any questions about the enrolment process, please contact Hayley!

### Save the Date Ready for Learning Day 2024

Date: 23/01/2024

Time: 11am - 2pm

Location: TBC



Wayipungitj (KPSA):

Hayley Boehm

Mob: Yorta Yorta

Phone: 0427820750

Email: [hayley.boehm@wathaurong.org.au](mailto:hayley.boehm@wathaurong.org.au)



### Reminders

- Every child can access 2 years of 15 hours of funded kinder a week.
- You can start enrolment at age 2
- Wayipungitj can work with your kinders in providing culturally safe and inclusive spaces, as well as providing fun activities. Just call and ask!



# SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

## LIFEBLOOD TEAMS

Wathaurong Community are a proud part of Lifeblood Teams, the group blood donation program from Australian Red Cross Lifeblood.

Lifeblood Teams is a way for friends, colleagues, teammates and communities to band together and give blood.

Donated blood can be used to help people in all sorts of life-giving ways. The need is constant and the person receiving it could be fighting cancer or going through a difficult pregnancy, or they could be someone who relies on regular transfusions to stay healthy — or even, stay alive. Now that's something worth uniting for!

**YOU CAN JOIN OUR WATHAURONG COMMUNITY LIFEBLOOD TEAM, EITHER;**

- On your online Lifeblood donor account by following the link at the top right-hand corner once you've signed in.
- On the Donate Blood app, under 'preferences'
- Or just let the Lifeblood staff know at the time of your donation when you are in the donor centre

**TO BOOK A BLOOD OR PLASMA DONATION:**

- Call 13 14 95
- Visit [www.lifeblood.com.au](http://www.lifeblood.com.au)
- Or, download the free 'Donate Blood' app.

The Geelong Blood Donor Centre is located at 237 Ryrie Street, and it is open 7 days a week. For more information on eligibility and or other donor centre locations, visit [www.lifeblood.com.au](http://www.lifeblood.com.au).

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the Wathaurong Community Lifeblood Champion, Emily McDonald – [Emily.mcdonald@wathaurong.org.au](mailto:Emily.mcdonald@wathaurong.org.au)



Current year donations		
Donation type	Donations	Lives saved (up to)
Whole Blood	7	21
Plasma	2	6
Platelets	0	0
Total	9	27



## R U OK DAY

On September 14th, staff across Morgan, Mackey and Albert st came together for R U OK Day.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples share a special connection to this country and to each other, through culture, community, and shared experience.

Regardless of where we live, or who our Mob is, we can all go through tough times, times when we don't feel great about our lives or ourselves.

That's why it's important to always be looking out for each other, and ask R U OK?

By taking the time for an R U OK conversation and genuinely listening with an open mind, we can all help the people in our world feel supported and connected.

Support numbers

13 Yarn - 13 9276

Yarning Safe'n'Strong – 1800 959 563

Lifeline – 13 11 14

Kids helpline – 1800 55 1800





# HEALTH SERVICES



## COLAC OTWAY YOUR HEALTH IS IN YOUR HANDS

KEEP YOUR MIND AND BODY HEALTHY AND STRONG WITH A  
VISIT TO WATHAURONG ABORIGINAL CO-OP'S  
MONDAY COLAC OUTREACH CLINIC

### BULK BILLING GP & FREE ANNUAL 715 HEALTH CHECK!

All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are eligible for an annual health check. It's a good way to look after your health and wellbeing to keep your mind and body healthy and strong. 715 health checks are free at Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-op's Colac Outreach Clinic at Headspace Colac (the old Youth Health Hub).

CALL 52770044 TO MAKE A BOOKING FOR THE MONDAY CLINICS IN COLAC.

Find out more:

Visit [www.health.gov.au/715-health-check](http://www.health.gov.au/715-health-check)



Australian Government  
Department of Health



# COLAC UPDATE

Colac Aboriginal Children & Family



## GATHERING

Friday the 8th of December  
4pm - 5.30

Colac Aboriginal Gathering Place  
4 Miller Street, Colac.

Children MUST be registered by November 28th  
to receive a present: please register your  
child's Name & Age (parents contact) to  
[Tanisha.Clarke.wathaurong.org.au](mailto:Tanisha.Clarke.wathaurong.org.au)  
This is a drug & alcohol free event



# COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING UPDATE

The Community Strengthening Team are excited to announce the launch of their new Aboriginal Access Points Program.

The Aboriginal Access Points program is part of the 2019-20 funding commitment of \$2.6 million for the operation of three Aboriginal-designed and led family violence services as a complementary service model to The Orange Door Network.

## **What will the Aboriginal Access Points do?**

Our Community Strengthening Facilitators will walk alongside community members experiencing or at risk of family violence by;

- Being a known and trusted entry point to the family violence service system for community members;
- Encouraging community members to navigate services by breaking down barriers and demystifying the processes;
- Advocating for community members and empowering them to engage safely and meaningfully with services;
- Identify the unique needs of community members, refer them to additional services and provide brokerage as needed; and
- Providing culturally safe and grounding services and supporting community members to connect with culture and community.

## **Eligibility**

To access the program, an individual must be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who is;

- Impacted by family violence; and
- Living on or from the Wathaurong community

Along with one of the below factors present:

- Be navigating a number of support services and requiring advocacy and support.
- Community member is disengaged with services, at risk of disengagement or reluctant to engage.
- Deemed to be at lower risk
- A young person impacted by family violence (with parental consent in line with Wathaurong's existing policies if aged under 16)

Non-Aboriginal family members or carers of an Aboriginal person will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

If you need support in navigating and accessing services you can visit the team at 62 Morgan Street, North Geelong, call 5577 0044 or email [cs@wathaurong.org.au](mailto:cs@wathaurong.org.au). Our business hours are Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm. If you need emergency support outside these hours, please contact Safe Steps 24/7 hotline on 1800 015 188, or call Victoria Police on 000 in an emergency.

## **FOOD BANK UPDATE**

Wathaurong is now receiving a weekly supply of fruit, veggies, bread and other pantry supplies to our Morgan Street admin building.

Deliveries are coming in every Wednesday morning, so Wathaurong community are welcome to pop in on a Wednesday afternoon to get some fresh fruit and vegetables. Please bring your own grocery bags!



# BALERT CARE CONNECTIONS

"NDIS helps me  
achieve living  
independently  
with ease."

- Jenny

*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](mailto:bcc@wathaurong.org.au)**

**Wathaurong Balert Care Connections: 52929800**

**NDIS Quality and Safeguard Commission: 1800 035 544**

**NDIS: 1800 800 110**

**Rights, Information & Advocacy Centre: 5222 5499**

**Complaints and feedback: 1800 800 110**





# BALERT CARE CONNECTIONS



Help at home for older people



"My Aged Care is  
culturally appropriate."  
-Aunty Lyn

*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](mailto: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](http://www.opan.org.au)**





# ONLINE STORE

Looking for some deadly merch to rock? We have a range of exclusive items for sale at our online store.

The artwork on our coffee mugs, drink bottles and keep ups was designed by the deadly Bri Apma-Hayes from Ntulye Art . You can read the story of the artwork on the product pages.

All items for sale in our store are mob and ally friendly, and all profits from sales of our merchandise go directly back into providing programs, events, activities and cultural connections for our Community.

Check it out today, let us know what you think, and thank you in advance for supporting Wathaurong!

[www.wathaurong.org.au/shop](http://www.wathaurong.org.au/shop)



## FORSTER STREET UPDATES

Our Youth Hub project at Forster Street is coming along in leaps and bounds! The outdoor deck and landscaping is all completed now and we can't wait to have some yarns around the firepits. The internal fit out is starting to take shape, and we have some new rendering on the old brickwork. We can't wait to welcome our community to this new Youth space early next year!





# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## ECHUCA CAMP 2023

In the September school holidays, some of our Wathaurong community kids got to experience an incredible few days up on Yorta Yorta Country with Ballarat Aboriginal Co-operative. The kids were able to get involved with so many activities, we had paddle boating, camel riding, obstacle courses, animal feeding, roping, orienteering and volleyball. Overall the best experience was the connections these kids made. It was a deadly few days, and a massive thankyou to Ballarat for inviting us!



## SEPTEMBER SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Over the school holidays our Community Strengthening team had a deadly time hanging out with our community kids, they did arts and crafts, had a silent disco, went to outdoor laser tag, skate boarding and went to Ballarat Wildlife park!



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## 2023 VACSAL SENIOR FOOTBALL AND NETBALL CARNIVAL

The 2023 VACSAL Senior Football and Netball Carnival was so DEADLY!

Held on Wadda Wurrung Country this year, in Torquay, it was an amazing weekend seeing mob from all over Victoria coming together. We had 2 Football and 2 netball community teams get involved in the carnival.

Our Wathaurong Goeem Football team made it the Division 2 Grand Final and took out the title!

Our Wathaurong Yellow netball team made it to the Semi- finals but were unable to finish it off.

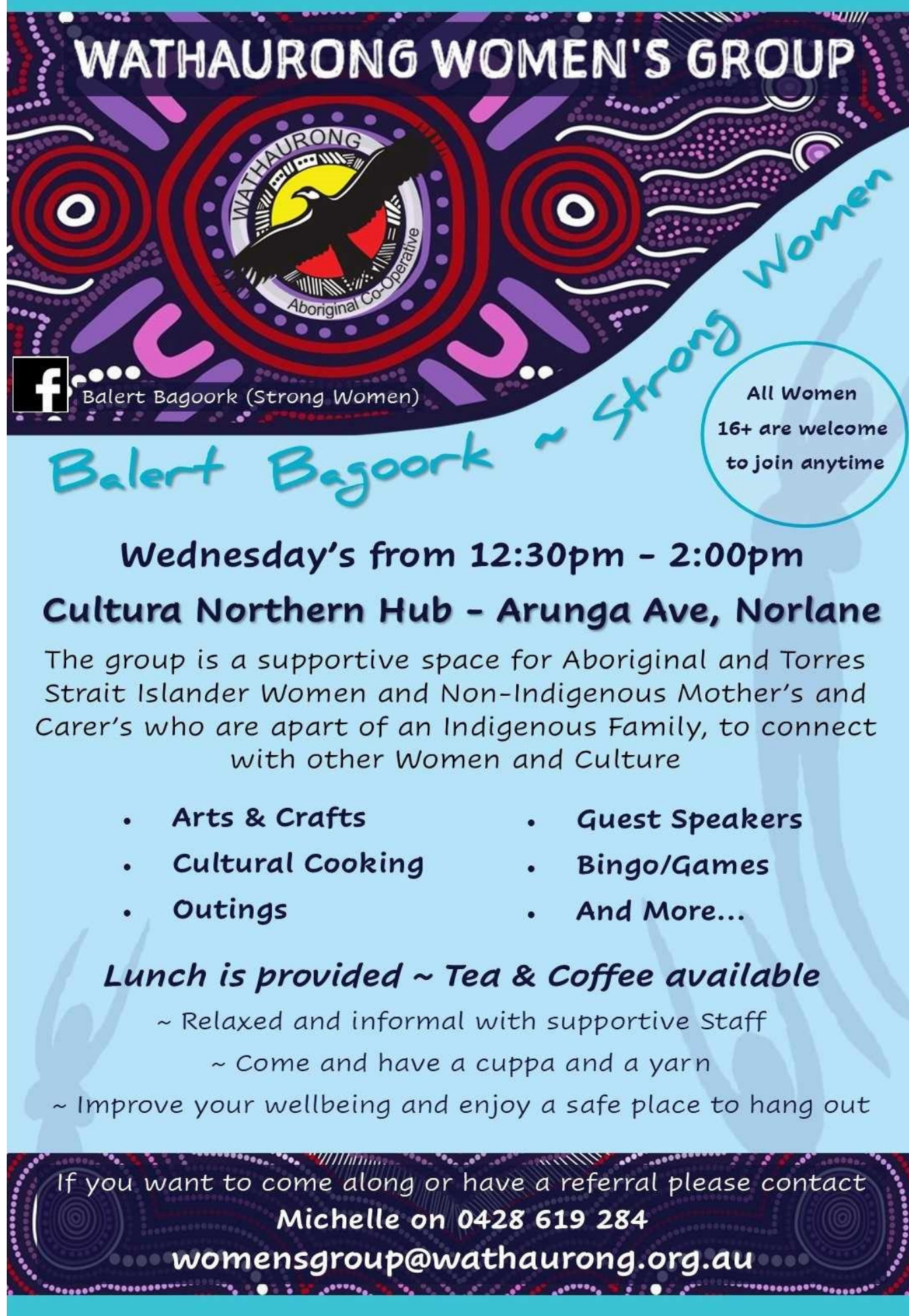
Congratulations to all players who got involved in the carnival, and a massive NYATNE to all our staff and volunteers who made this Carnival what it was.

Bring on next year!





# COMMUNITY EVENTS



**WATHAURONG WOMEN'S GROUP**

**Balert Bagoork (Strong Women)**

**Balert Bagoork ~ Strong Women**

**All Women  
16+ are welcome  
to join anytime**

**Wednesday's from 12:30pm - 2:00pm**

**Cultura Northern Hub - Arunga Ave, Norlane**

The group is a supportive space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women and Non-Indigenous Mother's and Carer's who are apart of an Indigenous Family, to connect with other Women and Culture

- Arts & Crafts
- Cultural Cooking
- Outings
- Guest Speakers
- Bingo/Games
- And More...

**Lunch is provided ~ Tea & Coffee available**

- ~ Relaxed and informal with supportive Staff
- ~ Come and have a cuppa and a yarn
- ~ Improve your wellbeing and enjoy a safe place to hang out

If you want to come along or have a referral please contact  
**Michelle on 0428 619 284**  
**womensgroup@wathaurong.org.au**



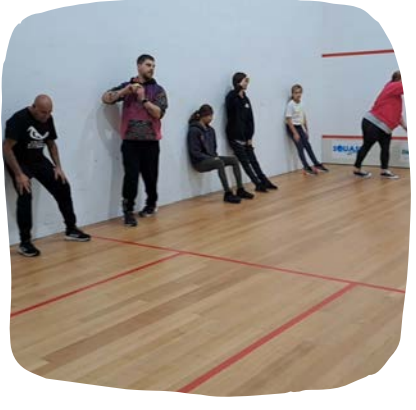
# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## WOONGGOORRWEEL WATHAURONG DEADLY GAMES 2023

The Wathaurong Deadly games were a big hit in 2023, and we're excited to announce that we are bringing them back in 2024! Want to add a bit of fun and fitness to your week? Join us for the next round of Woonggoorrweel Wathaurong Deadly Games, starting Feb 12th!

Running each Monday and Wednesday from 5:30pm til 6:30pm, you can participate in traditional games, fun activities and the best part is it's open to all fitness levels and all ages, so the whole family can get involved.

If you'd like to join us in February, scan the QR code to register, or email Benjamin.silva@wathaurong.org.au for more information.



## AUSKICK

During September we ran an AusKick program with AFL Victoria. The program was a deadly opportunity for our community kids to get involved, learn some skills and make some new friends! Nyatne (thankyou) to all who came down and participated, helped out and ran the program!





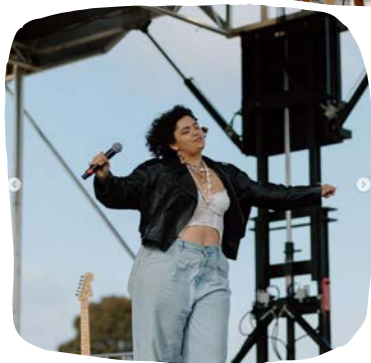
# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## ITS A MOB THING

On Saturday 4th November, we welcome mob from all over to Wathaurong country, for a celebration of First nations music and health. Not only did we have incredible artists like Ridzy Ray, THE MERINDAS performing, but we also got to see our deadly community women Renee Howell, Ngara McEwen and Kiarah Judd up on stage performing as well.

As well as the huge lineup of music acts, we had promotional stalls from lots of different health organisations, like VACCHO, Diabetes Victoria, Ambulance Victoria, Barwon Health and more. Plus our Blak Market with mob selling their handmade items - what an incredible day!

We hope to make this an annual event so look out for more info, we hope to see you at the next one!



# WATHAURONG CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

WATHAURONG ABORIGINAL CO-OPERATIVE WILL BE CLOSING FROM THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER, REOPENING ON THURSDAY 4TH JANUARY 2024.

## PHONE SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS

**FAMILY VIOLENCE**

1800RESPECT - 1800 737 732

SAFE STEPS - 1800 015 188

THE SEXUAL ASSAULT & FAMILY VIOLENCE CENTRE -  
1800 806 292

SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS LINE VICTORIA (SACL) -  
1800 806 292

**MENS SUPPORT SERVICES:**

DARDI MUNWURRO ABORIGINAL MEN'S  
CRISIS/SUPPORT LINE - 1800 435 799

MENSLINE - 1300 789 978

MEN'S REFERRAL SERVICE - 1300 766 491

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES:**

13 YARN - 13 92 76

LIFELINE - 13 11 14

BEYOND BLUE - 1300 224 636

KIDS HELPLINE - 1800 551 800

**ALCOHOL & DRUG SERVICES:**

SALVATION ARMY - 13 72 58

DIRECTLINE - 1800 888 236

**GAMBLING SERVICES:**

GAMBLER'S HELPLINE - 1800 858 858

**LEGAL SERVICES:**

VALS - 1800 064 865

VICTORIA LEGAL AID - 1300 792 387

**TRAUMA:**

BLUE KNOT - 1300 657 380

**DISABILITY SUPPORT:**

NDIS: 1800 800 110

**HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS:**

TOWARDS HOME PLUS - 1300 275 811

**PSYCHIATRIST:**

THE GEELONG CLINIC - 03 5240 0700

BARWON HEALTH MENTAL HEALTH (ACUTE)  
PUBLIC SECTOR - 1300 094 187

**INDIGENOUS ORGANISATIONS:**

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY SERVICES -  
03 9416 4266

STRONG BROTHER STRONG SISTER - 03 5202 4878

**ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICES:**

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY  
CONTROLLED HEALTH ORGANISATION -  
03 9419 3350

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE -  
03 9419 3000



# UPCOMING EVENTS



**WATHAURONG ABORIGINAL CO-OPERATIVE**

# COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

**THURS 21 DECEMBER | 11AM - 3PM**  
**GEELONG SHOWGROUNDS, BREAKWATER**  
**SANTA | KIDS ACTIVITIES | BBQ**

**\*\* CHILDREN MUST  
BE REGISTERED  
ONLINE TO RECEIVE  
A CHRISTMAS GIFT  
BY MONDAY 11TH  
DECEMBER\*\***

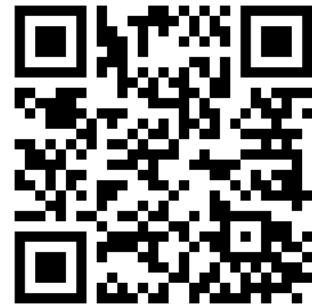




# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

During the month of January we are planning on running some activities for our community to get involved with and keep the kids entertained - calendar of events is still being finalised, so keep an eye out on our website and social media for more details on what's on offer in January and how to sign up for your kids to get involved! Numbers will be limited.  
[www.wathaurong.org.au/events/](http://www.wathaurong.org.au/events/)



SCAN FOR WATHAURONG EVENTS





# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## Geelong Indigenous Women's Hub



Managed by proud Palawa woman  
Kylie from The Killara Foundation, it  
is a one stop Hub to assist Indigenous  
women of Djilang/Geelong.

**Contact Kylie for more info**  
**0499 286 221**

A safe space to have a  
cuppa, a yarn and put  
yourself first!



Level 1, Suite 14  
Corio Village Shopping  
Centre

## Monthly Yarning Circle & Cultural Workshops!

- Service Linking
- Wellbeing Focussed
- Computer Access
- Interview Skills
- Employment Pathways
- Resume Writing
- Career Planning
- Education Pathways
- Document Support
- Quiet Study Space
- Printing Facilities
- & MUCH MORE!!!!

# CHILD SAFE POLICY

Over the past eight years there have been a number of enquiries into the historical abuse of children whilst in the care of institutions. What these enquiries found was that the abuse of children was widespread throughout different types of institutions and all across the country. This abuse was particularly the case for vulnerable children, including Aboriginal children - who may have been separated from family and kin.

In order to stop abuse occurring, it is now an obligation for most agency's across Victoria to become Child SAFE, including Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative. This means having a more diligent approach in recruitment and management practices, reporting and investigating incidences of child abuse perpetrated by the agency's staff or volunteers, listening to clients and community more if they have a concern about their safety when receiving a service, and having a strong culture of zero tolerance of abuse of children and young people. Each and every Wathaurong staff member or volunteer, including Foster Carers, is expected to manage themselves in a way that is consistent with keeping children safe from harm. See below Wathaurong's formal Statement of Commitment and how community members or clients can express concerns for children's safety.

Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative is committed to providing a safe and friendly environment for children and young people, and Wathaurong has zero tolerance for any form of abuse of children and young people, including sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, cultural abuse, and neglect.

Wathaurong is committed to ensuring all children engaged with its services are culturally safe, including children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and children with disabilities. Wathaurong believes in the right of a child to safety in their physical and online environments.

Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative understands its obligations under the Commission for Children and Young People's Child Safe and Reportable Conduct schemes, as well as Victorian laws such as the Failure to Disclose offence and mandatory reporting obligations under the Children Youth and Families Act. Wathaurong will uphold these obligations in the best interest of Aboriginal children.

Wathaurong will make sure we include children and families in the decisions that affect them, and we understand how children's active participation in their care arrangements helps to prevent abuse – we will listen to children and young people and take their concerns seriously.

For more information about Wathaurong's obligations to keep children safe:

- <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safety/being-a-child-safe-organisation/the-child-safe-standards/>
- <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/reportable-conduct-scheme/>
- <https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/safer-communities/protecting-children-and-families/failure-to-disclose-offence>
- Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 ([legislation.vic.gov.au](http://legislation.vic.gov.au))

All Wathaurong staff, office holders, contractors and volunteers are required to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with a Child Safe organisation, and failure to uphold these obligations may result in disciplinary action.

To make a confidential complaint, please contact Wathaurong's Complaints Officer at 52770044 or [feedback@wathaurong.org.au](mailto:feedback@wathaurong.org.au).



# CHILD SAFE POLICY



*We are a safe organisation for  
children and young people.  
All children and young people  
have a right to be safe and feel  
safe all of the time.*

*If you don't feel safe, speak up, by  
talking to someone you trust, or  
making a complaint to us at  
[feedback@wathaurong.org.au](mailto:feedback@wathaurong.org.au)*



**Wathaurong  
Aboriginal  
Co-operative is  
committed to  
providing a**

**CHILD  
SAFE  
environment.**

We have zero tolerance of any abuse or maltreatment of children. We are committed to ensuring children and young people are able to actively participate in decisions that affect their lives.

We understand our legal and moral obligations to treat any child safety concerns seriously. We report any allegations and wellbeing concerns to authorities.

Visit [www.wathaurong.org.au/child-safety-commitment/](http://www.wathaurong.org.au/child-safety-commitment/) to learn more, or lodge a complaint by emailing [feedback@wathaurong.org.au](mailto:feedback@wathaurong.org.au)

# ASSISTANCE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

SERVICE	CONTACT
Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative is open from Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm for support with a range of services.	(03) 5277 0044
If you need help in an emergency, contact <b>Ambulance, Police, Fire Brigade</b>	000
The <b>After Hours National Home Doctor Service</b> provides non-emergency medical assistance.	13 SICK (13 7425)
If you need legal advice or support, get in touch with the <b>Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service</b> .	1800 064 865
<b>The Orange Door</b> can provide family violence support from 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. Outside these hours, contact <b>Safe Steps</b> for support, referrals and refuge 24/7.	1800 312 820 1800 015 188
For Drug & Alcohol advice, call the <b>DirectLine</b> 24 Hour referral service.	1800 888 236
For situations requiring police support or advice, call <b>Geelong Police</b> .	(03) 5225 3100
Are you seeking emergency accommodation? Call <b>Salvo Connect</b> (Homeless support provider for over 25s) for advice on housing and welfare support.	(03) 5223 9220
<b>Barwon Youth</b> (Homeless support provider for 24 and under) can help young people with accommodation and welfare support	(03) 5246 7500
<b>Feed Me Geelong/Bellarine</b> can provide support with free essential grocery deliveries.	0422 798 791
<b>Uniting Care</b> and <b>Salvo Connect</b> can help with providing food vouchers.	(03) 4210 1110 (03) 5223 5400
<b>Yarning Safe N Strong</b> is a culturally safe 24/7 confidential crisis line managed by VAHS.	1800 959 563
<b>Brother to Brother</b> is a 24/7 confidential support service specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men run by <b>Dardi Munwarro</b> .	1800 435 799
<b>Lifeline</b> 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 <b>Suicide Call Back Line</b> 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
<b>Beyond Blue</b> offers a 24/7 service providing mental health advice and support via phone,web chat or email.	1300 094 187
<b>Kids Helpline</b> offers 24/7 mental health support for young people aged 5-25.	1800 55 1800
<b>Barwon Health Mental Health Triage</b> offers 24/7 support for phone advice, referrals and intake.	1300 094 187