

Jan-Feb 2026



Newsletter



We are a primary health and wellbeing organisation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people operating on the traditional lands of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk peoples. We strive to provide a holistic model that responds to the physical, social emotional, Cultural and spiritual need of our people.



A message to our community:

This will be the last printed newsletter we produce. To improve access and reduce paper use, all future newsletters will be delivered digitally or via our website. We thank you for your understanding as we move to a more efficient way of keeping everyone informed.

Support is available for anyone who needs help connecting online.



Welcome

Dalk

Welcome back and I hope 2026 has started well.

We have had a very hot summer and thanks to all of our teams who have supported health and wellbeing during these extreme heat and fire danger periods.

I'm sure all of our students have settled back into the school routines and as always, we are here to help in anyway to ensure families have no barriers in getting the young ones to school. Great to see we had some fun summer activities, and I know 2026 will be full of fun community events – particularly at the amazing Dalki Guli Hub. Youth groups and after school programs are all being worked on so feel free to call in and see what's on offer.

We welcome a few new faces in this edition of the newsletter and I have great faith these new faces will be amazing additions to our Goolum family and we continue to recruit new staff to meet our ever growing services.



Ants Craig - CEO

Take care, stay cool and I look forward to seeing as many of the community as possible at the HUB.

Take care, Ants



Board of Directors



**Jake Goodes
Chairperson**



**Kelly Britten
Board Director**



**John Gorton
Board Director**



**Lachlan Marks
Board Director**



**Pamela Branson
Board Director**



**Brandi Olston
Board Director**

Girrin Playgroup

Girrin Playgroup 2026!

Call or text our
Early Years Team
on
0460 431 066
if you would like
some further
information!

Please note:
Info regarding changes
can be found on our
Early Years Facebook
page

Stawell

Dates **to be confirmed** (will still be
a Tuesday) - 10.30am-12.30pm
at the **Stawell Hub**

For Aboriginal
and Torres Strait
Islander children
and their family,
from Birth to
Kinder Age

Horsham

Every THURSDAY of the school term
10.00am-12.00pm
at the **Dalki Guli Hub**
(new Goolum building)



Toy Library

Horsham & Stawell

Open during playgroup sessions!

Toy library offers families the opportunity to borrow toys to take home and play with for 3-4 weeks at a time, then return them and borrow new toys.

Our toy library is for children birth to 12 years and there is no fee to join.

Toy library operates on the same day as playgroup in Stawell and Horsham.

If you are interested in borrowing toys, please speak with the playgroup facilitators.

The toy categories include:

- Art and craft
- Baby and toddler
- Construction
- Imaginative play
- Inclusion and development
- Language and literacy
- Outdoor and active
- Games and puzzles
- STEM



New Staff Profiles



Tania Sansbury

PROGRAM AREA
Family Services

POSITION
ACAC Practice Lead

MOB
Narungga

FAVOURITE FOOD
Pho, Laksa

FAVOURITE QUOTE
The flower that blooms in adversity is the most rare and beautiful of all ~ Chinese proverb

OTHER INTERESTS
Music, Painting, Reading



Lakeisha Newell

PROGRAM AREA
Early Years

POSITION
Playgroup Facilitator

MOB
Wotjobaluk

NICKNAME - Meishy

FAVOURITE FOOD
Pasta

AFL TEAM
Collingwood

OTHER INTERESTS
Music, TV Shows, Walks



Krista Fischer

PROGRAM AREA
Health Clinic

POSITION
Chronic Disease Coordinator
Health Promotions

FAVOURITE FOOD
Anything savoury

MY SPORTS - Rowing

AFL TEAM
Geelong - by default
(Mad keen sons!)

OTHER INTERESTS
Family and Friends
Following my sons with
footy and cricket teams

Elder's Celebrations



New Staff Profiles



Chelsea Millemaci

PROGRAM AREA
Health Clinic

POSITION
Maternal Child Health Nurse

FAVOURITE FOOD
Chocolate, Slices
Biscuits

AFL TEAM
Saints

FAVOURITE QUOTE
"love you more" when someone
says I love you

OTHER INTERESTS
Coffee, wine with friends
hanging out with my kids



Samantha Gray

PROGRAM AREA
Family Services

POSITION
IFS / FPR

BIRTH PLACE
Horsham

NICKNAME - Sam

FAVOURITE FOOD
Pizza and Thai Food

OTHER INTERESTS
Reading and activities with
my children



Tyra King

PROGRAM AREA
Family Services

POSITION
ACAC Admin

MOB
Wotjobaluk

FAVOURITE FOOD
Chinese Food

AFL TEAM
Richmond

OTHER INTERESTS
Reading

Elder's Celebrations



Back-to-School Information Guide

Would you like help to accessing support?
You can begin by having a friendly chat
with your schools Principal, KESO or
wellbeing team to talk about your situation
and what supports they can offer.

Alternatively you can reach out to
Renae Podolski at Goolum Goolum on
0474 933 998
to assist with navigating these pathways



State Schools Relief

The Victorian State Schools Relief supports families with purchasing items required for school, such as shoes, uniforms, books and learning devices, for students attending Government Schools.

They offer:

- Classes for Kids Program. Providing glasses for students with visual impairments.
- Graphing Calculator Program. Providing graphic calculators for secondary students doing STEM subjects in terms 1 & 4.
- iPad Program. Providing iPads for non- verbal students.
- Travel Pass Program. 30-Day Travel Pass for any primary, secondary or specialist school students experiencing crisis, such as family violence or sudden financial hardship, to ensure they can continue to travel by public transport.
- Work boots for students enrolled in VET subjects.
- Discount items from direct from their online store, such as:
 - School basics.
 - School shoes
 - Workwear uniforms.
 - Swimwear.

How can I apply?

Requests for assistance are made by the school staff, this could be a principal, wellbeing coordinator, KESO or a teacher.

A request can also be made by a support agency.

Ask your school or support service about applying for assistance through the State Schools Relief program.

For more information.

03 8769 8400

contact@ssr.net.au

<https://stateschoolsrelief.org.au/>

1/8 Johnston Court, Dandenong South

VIC 3175



SCHOOL SAVINGS BONUS

THE SCHOOL SAVINGS BONUS OF 2025 IS UNFORTUNATELY NOT
AVAILABLE FOR 2026

THE GOOD NEWS IS, IF YOU HAVE ANY REMAINING FUNDS
THEY WILL CARRY OVER TO 2026

PROVIDING YOUR CHILD IS STILL ENROLLED IN THE SAME SCHOOL

Back-to-School Information Guide

Les Twentyman Foundation - Back to School Program

The Les Twentyman Back to School Program provides educational resources, textbooks, and stationery for young people in **Government, Catholic & Independent** schools experiencing financial difficulty and unstable living conditions.

How do I apply?

A young person must be referred by their school or a support worker from a 3rd party organization (ie. VACCA, VACSAL, VAEAI, local co-op or health service) and must meet specific criteria to be eligible for the program. First Nations students are eligible for assistance through the program. The worker referring should email the full booklist to the program when applying.

For more information.

03 9689 4800
info@lftfoundation.com.au
<https://lftfoundation.com.au/our-services/back-to-school/>

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

The CSEF provides payments to assist eligible families to cover the costs of camps, sporting activities and excursions.

Payments in 2026 are now \$400 per student, and are made directly to an eligible student's school.

Schools must use a CSEF payment only for the eligible student. The program is set to resume in 2026, although the department has not yet released the application timeline.

For the most current information and updates, please refer to their official website.

This support is available for Government schools.

For more Information

<https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>



Opening the Doors Foundation

Opening the Doors Foundation provides grants to support the extra costs of school, including school uniforms, books, school camps & excursions, IT equipment, stationery and other school associated costs (schools fees and tutoring not included). The fund is open to students of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent currently enrolled in a **Catholic or Independent education institution.**

How do I apply?

Complete the online form below: <https://app.openingthedoors.org.au/>

The form can be completed by the student/family, a school support person, or a support worker from another organisation.

For more information.

0401 487 414

enquiries@openingthedoors.org.au

<https://www.openingthedoors.org.au/>



Call Renae 0474 933 998 if you would like assistance in navigating these pathways



Bus Travel is Free for all students in 2026!!

Please contact Wimmera Roadways if your child will be using the Horsham Bus service as they will require some information from you

If you would like assistance navigating this option please don't hesitate to reach out to Renae at Goolum Goolum on 0474 933 998



GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

Horsham's new **YOUTH MAG** wants to know about it

- original artwork
- photography
- photo essays
- flash fiction (stories under 500 words)
- essays
- reviews - eats, movies, music
- interviews
- original comics & mini graphic stories
- rants
- thoughts & opinions
- reports on local events
- hobbies & interests
- event promotion
- tips & hacks
- recipes

SUBMISSIONS VIA



<https://form.jotform.com/HorshamYouth/2vox-magazine-submission>



Dance Dedication

Keisha and Nakyra Clapham have excelled throughout their dance program in 2025, showing remarkable progress. It has been wonderful to watch their confidence grow as they develop skills across jazz, tap, ballet, acro and aerial. Their aerial work, performed on silks using portable rigs, highlights both their strength and artistry.

Linda from Dynamic Dance Studio, shared that the girls have demonstrated exceptional natural ability.

The program provides a safe and supportive space for each dancer's individual journey. A professional crew travelled from Melbourne to film the students, capturing their work for a special showcase held in December in Stawell. Although the girls were unwell and unable to attend, they still proudly received their Certificate of Participation along with a graded medal, recognising a fantastic year of dedication and achievement.



Logo Design Competition

PATHWAYS TO POSSIBILITIES LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION

**\$150 PRIZE PACK
FOR THE
WINNING DESIGN!**

Requirements:

Must include the words

Pathways to Possibilities

Keep your design clear, original and suitable for print and digital use
Must be able to be adjusted to scale where necessary

You may choose your design to reflect

Imagery that hints at Pathways, Steps, Connections or Branching Choices, as well as shapes or symbols that represent Growth, Strength and Opportunity

Use any artistic medium you desire!

Digital Art
Paint
Coloured Pencils
Anything your choose!

Submit your entries in person to Renae at Dalki Guli Hub
or by email renae.podolski@goolumgoolum.org.au
call or text on 0474 933 998 with any questions!

Goolum Goolum are inviting all
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Creative Artists
- young people, families, artists, storytellers -
To create a logo that represents the spirit of
Pathways to Possibilities

This initiative aims to support Mob in walking strong into

**Education
Training
Wellbeing
Future Opportunities**

Your logo will become the visual identity for
Pathways to Possibilities
across a variety of programs, events and communications at
Goolum Goolum



Mason's Milestone

On the last weekend of December Mason achieved 2 wonderful Parkrun milestones. First he completed his 50th Parkrun, which was a very exciting achievement! Secondly, on the same day, he got a new PB of 21:50 for the 5 KM run. This is an amazing achievement and puts him in the top 72.29% for his age group for all Parkrunners world wide! The percentage represents how his time compares to the fastest-known time (the "world record") for Mason's age and gender.



Basketball Stars

Congratulations to Benjiman Muir, Xavier Skurrie and Georgia Skurrie for representing for Horsham Hornets this basketball season. Congratulations also goes to Jules, Jalen and Jordan Lockwood for representing Stawell Wildcats in the Basketball this season. Basketball tournaments take a great toll on kids and their families with training twice a week, including weekends, as well as the extensive travel. Our kids all show up and give it 100% with most of them playing Amateur League and squad games.



UPCOMING

2026 Warrnambool Koorie Big Day Out

An aspirational event to promote university pathways to young mob in secondary school.



The Koorie Big Day Out brings together the Koorie units of Victorian Universities, showcasing opportunities of future pathways and careers to young mob.

Date: 28th of April

Time: 10:30am-2:30pm

Place: Wannon Function Centre
331 Koroit Street, Warrnambool
Victoria 3280



Rachael Cannon Siemsen

Toorong Marnong Project Coordinator
M: 0499 884 476 E: rachael@vaeai.org.au

Register for our regional bus service

for the 2026 Warrnambool
Koorie Big Day Out (KBDO).

We'll be organising buses to provide transport to and from regional locations to attend the Metro Koorie Big Day Out 2026.

Registrations are essential, as they will help us organise pick-up locations and bus capacity. Koorie students, teachers, KESOs, and parents are welcome to use the bus service.

Pick up locations

- Horsham.
- Portland.
- Ballarat.
- Geelong.
- Haywood.
- Hamilton.



Contact:

Rachael Cannon Siemsen
Rachael@VAEAI.org.au

0499 884 476



Vacant Designated Aboriginal Positions at Parks Victoria

We're hiring! Join our team and help care for Country whilst working in Victoria's great outdoors

Parks Victoria is looking for Community members with skills, knowledge and enthusiasm to help us protect Country within our incredible Cultural landscapes. Our opportunities would allow you to work in some of Victoria's most unique settings, from desert dunes and mountaintops to coastal landscapes and ancient forests. Our jobs are based all over Victoria and are open to all Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander people. You'll be playing a key role in preserving our parks and natural assets for present and future generations - all you need is a passion for people and a love of our amazing outdoors!

Current advertised Designated Aboriginal Positions

- **Grampians Senior Recovery Project Officer (Designated Aboriginal Position)** Location: Grampians Region - Negotiable, applications close 1st of March 2026.
- **X6 Ranger roles (Designated Aboriginal Position)** Multiple Locations: Plenty Gorge, Echuca, Portland, Warrnambool, Halls Gap, Little River. applications close 8th of March 2026.
- **X2 Yorta-Yorta Ranger (Designated Yorta-Yorta Aboriginal Position)** – Location: Nathalia, applications close 8th of March 2026.
- **Yorta-Yorta Women's Ranger (Designated Yorta-Yorta Aboriginal Position)** – Location: Nathalia, applications close 8th of March 2026

Interested?

We welcome you to view all current vacancies at Parks Victoria and apply online by scanning the QR Code or visiting careers.vic.gov.au



Why work for Parks Victoria?

Every day is different - you will be working with a diverse range of individuals, with the work you'll be carrying out providing future generations with green spaces. Parks Victoria develops our talent and creates future leaders by providing training, secondment opportunities into a variety of roles which may enable career progression. Parks Victoria manages areas of isolated natural beauty and sites of outstanding Aboriginal Cultural heritage.

What roles can you apply for with Parks Victoria?

Our organisation is made up of more than 400 on the ground park rangers, conservation scientists, Aboriginal heritage experts, engineers, planners, a corporate team including IT, people and culture, finance and a commercial team who liaise with over 500 licenced tour operators.

Contact us.

If you have any queries or would like more information

Please contact us at recruitment@parks.vic.gov.au. Or Aboriginalemploymentandwellbeing@parks.vic.gov.au

Our teams will be happy to help, you can also visit the Parks Victoria website for news across the organisation

www.parks.vic.gov.au/





Community Celebrations



Christmas Celebrations in Horsham

What a fantastic day on Country! Our Community Christmas Event brought everyone together for a celebration filled with laughter, connection, and cultural pride. Families caught up under the shade, with lots of shared stories, and the kids ran through the water games with huge smiles on their faces. The whole day was a beautiful reminder of the strength, joy, and resilience of our community.



Community Lunch



The Dalki Guli Hub was open Monday 26th Jan, bringing Community together for a light lunch, a yarn, and a wonderful time being creative. A big thank you to Clothing The Gaps (Sarah Sheridan) for coming down and supporting Community to design their own T-shirts, tote bags, and shorts.





Community Celebrations



Christmas Celebrations in Stawell



Surf n Beach Day

Goolum Goolum joined Community for an unforgettable surf day @ Warrnambool in January. The families had the chance to experience the thrill of surfing guided by Surfing Victoria. We had some awesome giveaway beach towels thanks to Nicole from Dhelk Dja. The day was well supported with over 100 Community attending. Bring on 2027!!





Back to School

With over 150 School students, Kinder & Playgroup kids registered for Back To School this year it was an action-packed day. The students had an opportunity to make their own school lunch with the beautifully designed lunch boxes we had this year. Along with a back pack, pencil case, sun hat the kids were well equipped ready to return to school.



Deadly Bellies & Babies



New Mums | Pregnant Women | Bubs

Join the Maternal Child Health Nurses and other Mums & Bubs in a friendly space to connect, share stories and build friendships.

Support ● Connect ● Share

Ngelbakutya Room (Playgroup Room)
10am - 12pm

Tuesday 24th February

Wednesday 11th March

Tuesday 24th March

MCH Mobile - 0488 138 482





Medical Clinic News

Welcome

We have welcomed Caitlin Devereaux to our clinic team. Caitlin is our new speech therapist working on Wednesdays alternating between Horsham and Stawell, please call the clinic on 53816 301 for an appointment.



Dr Emily is on leave until 12th of March, it is important to please ensure you have checked all your scripts are up to date as our doctors' appointments are going very quickly and sometimes, we cannot accommodate same day or week appointments.

Specsavers are visiting Goolum on the 29th of April
Audiologist visiting on the 14th of April
please call to make an appointment 5381 6301



SEWB

GOOLUM GOOLUM SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH & BRIEF INTERVENTIONS

- For young mob 12 - 25 years
- Advocacy
- Brief Intervention / Lifestyle support
- Care & Recovery Coordination
- Cultural and social connection
- Ongoing assistance in day-to-day challenges
- Referrals and assistance accessing mental health services

BRINGING THEM HOME

- Available to all Community
- Support to complete Confirmation of Aboriginality (COA) applications and obtain COA Certificate
- Support to access Link-Up
- Help to research and understand family history

ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS PROGRAM

- For all mob over 16 years
- Advocacy
- Brief Intervention / Outreach
- Care & Recovery Coordination
- Comprehensive Assessments
- Harm Minimisation / Treatment Plans
- Therapeutic Counselling
- Referrals and assistance accessing other AOD services

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL & WELLBEING (SEWB)

- Advocacy
- Assistance in day-to-day challenges
- Cultural connection
- Education and Employment pathway support
- Housing and Homelessness advocacy
- Improve emotional wellbeing
- Social interaction
- Supported referrals to other services
- Support in addressing food insecurity
- Support to access financial aid

YOUTH BUDDIES

- One-on-one support for those aged 12 - 18 years
- Weekly or fortnightly catch ups
- Help to set achievable goals
- A safe space to talk about what's going on in your life
- Cultural and social connection
- Referrals and assistance to access ongoing and/or intensive support services

For more information and/or referral to any of our SEWB & Therapeutic Programs, please contact us on (03) 5381 6333 and ask to speak to a SEWB worker.





Medical Clinic



Measles is on the rise in Victoria

Protect yourself and your family from measles with the MMR vaccine

Have you had 2 doses of vaccine (measles, mumps and rubella?)

If you are born between 1966-1992 you may have not had 2 doses and you are at risk.

Measles can make you very sick with complications.

Check your records or visit your Doctor or pharmacy

for a FREE catch up MMR vaccine



CERVICAL SCREENING TEST



Talk to your doctor or nurse today -for yourself, your family and your community



Cervical screening is free, quick and can help prevent cervical cancer.



You can **choose** to screen by:
* Collecting your own sample (self collection) or
* having a Doctor or Nurse collect your sample.

Both ways test for a virus that can lead to cervical cancer.

Book an appointment with Selina at Hamilton street Medical Clinic. PH: 5381 6330



Cervical Screening

NATIONAL
CERVICAL SCREENING
PROGRAM
A joint Australian, State and Territory Government Program



Health Directory

If you or someone you know is not doing well, there are contacts and resources to access for help. Nothing is more powerful than giving each other a HAND UP, reaching out to each other and connecting with each other through this time.

 <p>VIC EMERGENCY Download VicEmergency www.emv.vic.gov.au</p>	 <p>Triple Zero Victoria in an emergency always call 000</p>	 
 <p>YARN – 24/7 13 92 76</p>	 <p>Lifeline – 24/7 13 11 14</p>	 <p>DirectLine (AOD) – 24/7 1800 888 236</p>
 <p>Horsham Psychiatry 5362 1300 (Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm) 3 Robinson St, Horsham 1300 24447 647 (after hours)</p>		 <p>Uniting Wimmera 5362 4000 (Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm) 185 Baillie St, Horsham</p>
 <p>Emergency Housing (after hours & public holidays) 1800 825 955</p>	 <p>Christian Emergency Food Centre 5381 2311 (Monday – Friday, 1:00pm – 3:30pm) 28 Firebrace St, Horsham</p>	 <p>Grampians Community Health 5358 7400 Monday to Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm</p>
 <p>The Orange Door – Wimmera 1800 271 042 Family Services/Family Violence (Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm) 3 – 7 Madden St, Horsham</p>	 <p>1800RESPECT NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE 1800RESPECT – 24/7 1800 737 732</p>	 <p>Horsham Police Station (03) 5382 9200 20 Roberts Ave, Horsham</p>
 <p>Wimmera Base Hospital (03) 5381 9111 83 Baillie St, Horsham</p>	 <p>Stawell Police Station (03) 5358 8222 9 Patrick St, Stawell</p>	 <p>Stawell Regional Hospital (03) 5358 8500 Unit 27 – 2 Sloane St, Stawell</p>



**CLOSE
THE GAP**



**BUILDING
OUR FUTURE**



**FOCUS
ON FAMILIES**



**STRONG
VOICES**

**Goolum Goolum, more than just a health service.
We strive to provide a holistic model that
supports the physical, social, emotional, cultural,
and spiritual needs of our people.**



Feel free to contact us if you would like to contribute
to the next Newsletter or have feedback.
See our contact details below.

reception@goolumgoolum.org.au
43 Hamilton Street, Horsham Victoria 3400
Ph: (03) 5381 6333



goolumgoolumaboriginalco.op



www.goolumgoolum.org.au