

Goolum Goolum

Early Years

Term 2 2025



Welcome to our Term 2 edition of the Goolum Goolum Early Years Newsletter!
Our Early Years team are committed to supporting services to provide accessible, high quality early childhood services that are culturally inclusive for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. In our everyday work and within this newsletter, we strive to provide you all with information to support you in this important work. Cultural inclusivity benefits everyone and we thank you all for your continued efforts in this space.

This issue's key topics include:

- Dates of Significance
- Delkaia Aboriginal Best Start Update
- April Clarke Resources
- Playgroup & wayipungitj Update
- Kat Clarke – Local Traditional Owner / Writer, Artist and Indigenous Consultant.
- Narragunnawali – First Nation's Voices in Education

And we have also included some important information for upcoming days of significance:

- NAIDOC Week 2025
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day
- Indigenous Literacy Day

GGAC Early years team are also excited to announce that we are working towards developing an Educators resource link on the Goolum Goolum website!

Under the Early Years tab on our main website, we will be having direct links to all of the information we share with you, as well as links to past copies of our newsletter for you to continually refer back to. **WATCH THIS SPACE!**

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Dates of Significance

- **30th June** – Coranderrk (Badger’s Creek) Aboriginal Reserve officially gazetted in 1863.
- **7th-14th July** – NAIDOC Week 2025. “The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy”.
- **9th July** – First Flying of the Aboriginal Flag in Victoria Square, Adelaide 1971 on National Aborigines Day.
- **24th July** – Anniversary of Framlingham Mission handover and Lake Tyre’s Bung Yarnda handover in 1971.
- **26th July** – National Schools Tree Day.
- **4th August** – National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Day.
- **9th August** – International Day of the World’s Indigenous People.
- **10th – 18th August** – National Science Week
- **15th August** – Anniversary of William (Beruk) Barak’s death in 1903.
- **7th September** – Indigenous Literacy Day

Victorian Aboriginal
Education Association –
VAEAI

Is the peak Koorie
community organisation
for education and
training in Victoria.

They work for
community to build
success in education &
training.

To find the latest VAEAI
news, and access to the
link for the Koorie
Education Calendar
head to their website:
www.vaeai.org.au



By following this link, you can download
free resources, access further reading,
and learn ways in how you incorporate
these meaningful conversations within
your Early Years settings.



Delkaia Aboriginal Best Start Update



Dalki Muwill (Hi all),

This edition of the Delkaia update contains two service's examples of completing different types of Cultural audits. Both approaches focused on team building and working towards a shared understanding of how each service already embedded Indigenous perspectives in their services, and what else could be done to build on their efforts. Let's start with Madi's approach with the team of educators at Coinda Kindergarten.

Cultural audit using the Marrung Inclusion Principles guide.

Madi wrote: Last year I had a goal of wanting to feel more confident in explaining to others how we embed Indigenous perspectives in our practice and build confidence in how we document our progress. Tori suggested we do a type of cultural audit using the Marrung Inclusion Practices guide (MIP), to measure our current program.

To make this more achievable for us as a team, we divided the MIP up into its 4 categories to discuss at our next 4 team meetings. We focused on recording our progress towards each category and actions/ideas to improve our practice.

Our predicted outcomes were:

- Educators will become more confident in being able to describe how they embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture into their service.
- Educators will develop a greater understanding of the MIP and be able to link their practices to the MIP.

Results: We used Survey Monkey to measure educators' confidence before and after the audit process using the MIP. Consensus was that there was a lot to learn in the MIP but that educators felt they had a better understanding of the document after implementing the PDSA.



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Delkaia Aboriginal Best Start Update



Key Learnings from this audit –

This audit led us to discussions around our resources and how authentic they were. Taking inspiration from another service and our team of Educators, we discussed adding labels to the back of some of our puzzles for example – to say that we acknowledge that these resources aren't made by local indigenous artists and strive to replace these resources with authentic pieces over time.

Personally, for me this process highlighted all the ways that we do embed Indigenous perspectives into our practice already – this gave me confidence to voice them to outside services! But more importantly how we can do better, brainstorming ideas as a team felt purposeful. These sessions got the ball rolling on some exciting projects such as purchasing locally made art to one day be displayed at the kindergarten!

Taking these thought processes through with me to a new kindergarten and a new environment means I can think more creatively into embedding these practices that suit my new community.

Thank you Madi for sharing your reflections. If you are not familiar with the Marrung Inclusion Principles (MIP) document, reach out to our Early Years team or your local Koorie Education Support Officer (KESO) to request a copy.

The next example of another type of Cultural Audit comes from Stacey and Tracey at Green Leaves ELC.

Green Leaves Early Learning Centre – Embedding First Nations Perspectives in Our Practice

At Green Leaves Early Learning Centre, we are committed to deepening our understanding and connection with First Nations perspectives across our service. During a recent staff meeting, we took the opportunity to reflect on our collective engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and how this can be meaningfully and respectfully embedded in our everyday practice.

The discussion created a safe space for our team to break down barriers and explore our feelings, including the discomfort some educators experience when navigating this space. Many expressed a fear of "getting it wrong" or unintentionally being disrespectful, which at times has led to hesitation or inaction—a concept we acknowledged as tokenistic practice.

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Delkaia Aboriginal Best Start Update



To support our growth, we viewed a short, impactful video that offered practical examples of how authentic cultural inclusion can be woven into daily routines. This prompted thoughtful reflection and dialogue, and the team began identifying ways to move beyond tokenism by building confidence and understanding.

We are proud to share that our educators are becoming more confident and proactive in their efforts to authentically embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture into our curriculum. This is an ongoing journey, and we are committed to continuing this conversation in future team meetings.

We deeply value the guidance and support from the Goolum Goolum Early Years Team and look forward to further collaboration as we strengthen our cultural connections and shared learning

Thank you Stacey and Tracey for sharing your services journey.

Want to know more about the video and reflection questions used by the Educators at Green Leaves Early Learning? Please click on the link below for access:

<https://www.viac.com.au/resource/meaningful-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-perspectives-video>





April Clarke Resources

"What do you see, hear, taste, feel and smell?"

"VAEI's Early Childhood Specialist Representative, April Clarke, is a Gunditjmara Kirrae-Whurrong woman who has written a series of books for children about connecting with Country. The first two in the Walking on Country series are What do you hear? and What do you see? 'How often are we in a hurry and ignore everything around us?' April asks. April encourages her grandchildren to connect with Country through their senses by taking them out foraging, looking at birds and plants, and developing their awareness of the environment through mindful interaction. Nowadays, her grandkids are so familiar with the practice they command her to stop, look and listen! Once children start to build this awareness of the natural environment, they are ready to start acknowledging Country".

Taken from: Embrace Summer 2024 – viac.com.au

April has been busy developing a new suite of resources. You can contact April directly via her email to request her resources at AprilclarkeMC@hotmail.com.

Alternatively, you can order her books and crayons from **The Early Years Treasury**.

Did you know?

The term "Gariwerd" itself is derived from the Jardwadjali language, with "gar" meaning "pointed mountain", "i" meaning "the", and "werd" meaning "shoulder". In a sentence it would mean 'the mountain range'

The Jardwadjali language group is one of the Aboriginal groups connected to the Grampians.



Playgroup & wayipungitj update



There will be a few changes happening in our Early Years team after this term.

We are happy for Renae who has moved on to a new role within Goolum Goolum. You will still see her around at GGAC events.

Matt will be stepping in to the role of Playgroup Facilitator and wayipungitj, alongside Phoebe.

Matt is a Wotjobaluk man who also has his Certificate 3 in Early Childhood Education and experience working in Childcare settings.

Matt looks forward to visiting your services and meeting you all :)

It is also not long now until we move into our new Goolum Goolum building where we will be holding our Girrin Playgroup (which is currently being run at The Station).

We are so excited to have our own new space for all of our staff and families to enjoy!

This also means that we will be able to open our Goolum Toy Library for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community.

We have been running Toy Library in Stawell for a little while now, but have been patiently waiting for our new building to finish so that we have the space to run Toy Library in Horsham.



Kat Clarke

-Writer, Artist and Indigenous Consultant



Writer, Artist & Indigenous Consultant

Kat Clarke is a Wotjobaluk woman who is a multi-creative that breaks down mainstream barriers through her art, writing, consultations, and workshops tailored to empower communities with knowledge of culture. Her past works have included ACMI Redevelopment in Melbourne and the Cleverman Exhibition.

She has been published in multiple magazines and writing journals.

With a passion for her community, culture and family, Kat thrives on sharing and teaching what she has been taught by Elders both on country, and around Victoria.

Kat has experience working within early education and care services and currently facilitates the Koorie Supported Playgroup in Ballarat. She is available to work with services here in our region. Kat has a wealth of Cultural knowledge, and shares this through story telling, art, dance, bush tucker, bush medicine and so much more.

Please contact her via email:
katclarke88@gmail.com





NAIDOC Week 2025

"The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy"

National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held in the first week of July each year (Sunday to Sunday) in Australia.

NAIDOC Week is a great opportunity for all Australians to learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living culture on earth.

This year's theme is **"The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy"**. It celebrates the achievements of the past and also the bright future ahead, empowered by the strength of their young leaders, the vision of their communities and the legacy of their ancestors.

This year marks an amazing milestone, 50 years of honouring and elevating Indigenous voices, Culture and resilience.

Barengi Gadjin Land Council and Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Cooperative have worked in partnership with the Horsham Art Gallery to create the NAIDOC Art Exhibition. Many talented members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community showcase their amazing artwork. The exhibition will be at the Horsham Regional Art Gallery from 5th July to 6th October running for 13 weeks.

Have you made time to check out the many NAIDOC week resources provided for educators. Why not visit **NAIDOC Week 2025: The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy – Education Resources – ABC Education** and check out the ideas provided on pages 12 to 16. The activities could easily be adapted to suit the early years space. Includes a Dreaming Story and ideas for using nature walks to collect photos for a mural. Enjoy!

On the next page, you will find the 2025 NAIDOC Week poster and click [here](#) for the link for the [National NAIDOC week 2025](#) site. Be sure to check out the [Supporting NAIDOC Toolkit](#) on the resources tab. :)





Ancestral Lines by Jeremy Morgan Worrall

This artwork is a visual representation of the generational lines that carry through my mob. When I think of the next generation, I think towards my ancestors—Lucy Wright, Enoch Wright, Nonie Wright—through to my Nanna Audrie and my Mother Vanessa. Looking back gives me the strength and vision to look forward. Each figure in the painting is tied to family lines, like songlines, reflecting what they knew and what they passed on. The first represents lore, hunting, and tracking. The second reflects care, weaving, and love. The third shows the two combined, while the final two carry unfinished elements—symbols of knowledge and care in motion. Above them sits the essence of Country—swirling skies and a giant moon over Emmaville. It is by the fire, under these cool skies, where the next generation finds their strength, vision, and legacy.



**THE NEXT
GENERATION:
STRENGTH,
VISION &
LEGACY**
6-13 JULY 2025

#NAIDOC2025

#BLAKLOUDPROUD

@naidocweek

@naidocweek

facebook.com/NAIDOC

Aboriginal Flag designed by Mr Harold Thomas. Torres Strait Islander Flag reproduced by kind permission of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, designed by the late Mr Bernard Namok.

National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day



National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Day falls on the 4th August each year. This day is an opportunity for all Australians to show their support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and learn about the impact that culture, family and community play in the everyday life of their children.

For more information, events and resources, please visit the website by clicking here:

https://www.snaicc.org.au/resources/childrens-day-2025-poster/?mc_cid=efb3bd143c&mc_eid=8ec1af9301

Please feel free to share with us any celebrations, activities and photos from your services . We would love to see them :)



Indigenous Literacy Day



This year, Indigenous Literacy Day will be held on Wednesday 3rd September.
The theme for 2025 is Strength in Our Stories: For Now & Future Generations.

On **the Indigenous Literacy Foundation website** you can find their Free / Livestream Event, where they take you to explore three different Indigenous Communities across the country :)
Here you can learn about the way Indigenous families connect with Country and the significance Country brings to the Community.

You can celebrate First Nations stories, cultures and languages every day. However, Indigenous Literacy Day is another great opportunity to incorporate Indigenous perspectives and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Stories, Cultures, and Languages.



"Our Communities are vibrant, strong, and highly intelligent. We have this literacy around culture, Land and Community, but how Communities engage with a highly Western concept of literacy is different. I want to engage Communities in those conversations around literacy so they can redefine that space themselves. My vision for the ILF is for the organisation to support remote Communities to engage in literacy in the way they wish."

- Ben Bowen, ILF Chief Executive Officer





Narragunnawali - First Nation's Voices in Education

Have you come across the new resource from Narragunnawali? It's designed for Educators and counts towards your PD hours if you have VIT registration. The overview reads:

"This professional learning resource aims to empower teachers and educators to do the work of reconciliation and develop an awareness of the histories of the systems in which they teach and learn. It also reminds teachers of the policies, frameworks and standards to which they have committed and supports understanding and implementation of including First Nations voices and perspectives in their teaching and learning". Taken from:

Narragunnawali - First Nations Voices in Education

This resource is designed to be used in small groups. For example, you could use this at staff meetings throughout the year. It is broken up into 6 sessions so you could complete a section at each meeting. The resource is still valuable to explore on your own. However, reflection and discussion with peers will add to the value of the experience and bring your educators together on the Reconciliation journey.

Click on the image above and sign up to access the free resource.

Perhaps your team is new and you're not ready for a PD project this large just yet? Please check out the Delkaia Aboriginal Best Start update on pages 3-5 of this newsletter for details of similar projects completed by Green Leaves ELC in Horsham, and Cooida Kindergarten in Stawell.

NAKRA GUNNA WALI

FIRST NATIONS VOICES IN EDUCATION

