

Goolum Goolum

Early Years

Term 2 2026



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
- Barengi Gadjin Land Council website update
- Goolum Goolum videos available on the website
- Koorie Early Years Best Practice & Protocols UPDATE
- Girrin Playgroup Update
- Indigenous Resource Recommendations
- Gariwerd Seasons

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

- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

Michelle Cameron Early Years Team Manager
michelle.cameron@goolumgoolum.org.au

Tori Power Delkaia Aboriginal Best Start Facilitator
tori.power@goolumgoolum.org.au

Phoebe Tucker wayipungitj & Girrin Playgroup Facilitator
phoebe.tucker@goolumgoolum.org.au

Matt Cockerall wayipungitj & Girrin Playgroup Facilitator
Matthew.Cockerall@goolumgoolum.org.au

Meishy Newell wayipungitj & Girrin Playgroup Facilitator
Lakeisha.newell@goolumgoolum.org.au

Tyson King wayipungitj & Girrin Playgroup Facilitator
tyson.king@goolumgoolum.org.au



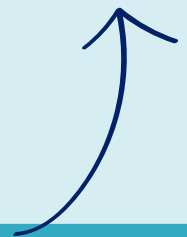


Dates of Significance

- **May-July** Chunnup (Winter) - Season of cockatoos, cool climate and early wildflowers
- **30th June** - Coranderrk (Badger's Creek) Aboriginal Reserve officially gazetted in 1863
- **5th - 12th July** - NAIDOC Week (Also see articles from CELA and SBS)
- **9th July** - Anniversary of the First flying of the Aboriginal Flag in Victoria Square, Adelaide on National Aborigines Day (1971)
- **14th July** - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags proclaimed official flags of Australia (1995)
- **18th July** - Anniversary of the Millewa-Mallee Native Title Determination (2025)
- **24th July** - Anniversary of Framlingham Mission handover (1971)
Anniversary of Lake Tyers, Bung Yarnda handover (1971)
National Schools Tree Day 30th anniversary
- **4th August** - National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day
- **9th August** - International Day of the World's Indigenous People
- **15th - 23rd August** - National Science Week
- **15th August** - Anniversary of William Barak's (Beruk Barak) death in 1903
- **2nd 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



Yarning Circle Project for Bush Kinder

This edition's example of incorporating First Nations Perspectives into the Kindergarten environment comes from Alice Clarke at Green Park Kindergarten - Acacia room. A huge thank you to Alice and her team for sharing their work with everyone. Alice writes:



At the beginning of May some colleagues and I attended a PD for a weekend run by Nurture in Nature (part of SRF menu) which was a weekend of inspiring learning and experiences with a common theme of supporting in-nature learning for children, and how this can support social-emotional learning and development for children (and adults/everyone!). We returned from this professional learning with a lot of motivation and energised to get our Bush Kinder program going for the year.

There were a couple of elements that lead us to reaching out to Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC) and the Yarning Circle project.

Firstly, we had been reflecting on our processes identifying areas where we could improve cultural safety and also how we conducted our Acknowledgement of Country in our program but we felt it was missing an authentic link and appropriate cultural step – this has been to ask permission from Traditional Owners to access Country for excursions and Bush Kinder off-site learning program.

Alongside this we had also had a conversation with a previous grandparent of our kinder community who is part of Wimmera River Improvement Committee who were planning for

Continued over page...



Delkaia Aboriginal Best Start Update cont...



existing projects for Police Paddock Nature Reserve, in conversation I had mentioned that I would love some log seating for a yarning circle at our Bush Kinder site to provide a bit of a base, somewhere to come together for sharing or to base some learning experiences. The next week this grandfather let me know he had been thinking and had also been part of Bush Fire recovery works out at Quantong and a landholder had some logs rounds that could work for the vision. We discussed the importance of connecting with Traditional Owners to share the idea and to seek feedback and permission to proceed.

I initially went to a parent who works for BGLC and asked if she could connect me with someone to discuss our ideas further.

I reached out to Colin Gorton from BGLC and we arranged to meet at the Bush Kinder site to yarn. Meeting on Country is the best place as we could admire the beauty of nature, listening to all the nature noises and tangibly share. We shared what our Bush Kinder program looks like, entails and the areas we base ourselves and explore. I felt it was important to make this connection as Colin, prior to our meeting, had checked maps for areas and sites of cultural significance. Colin said



that he wasn't aware of Bush Kindergarten programs until we initially spoke, so he asked Mum's in community about it and he told me the responses were positive and supportive, sharing the value families have. We shared our vision of a log seating yarning circle and how we wish to promote connection to Country with minimal impact to the environment. Colin showed us a project he had been working on that was similar at another site. We had a great yarn and built respectful connections and shared ideas and concepts for possible future projects we could collaborate on which all shared common threads of building strong

Continued over page...



Delkaia Aboriginal Best Start Update cont...



connection to Country. From this experience our Team have reflected on improving our Risk Minimisation Plans to include 'cultural safety' which should be for all excursions, we will be exploring ways we can seek permission to access Country appropriately whilst also modelling the practice of asking for permission with Traditional Owners as a teaching opportunity – but we also want to work with Traditional Owners to find a way to do this best and not to create burden. We thought this is something that our organisation should also reflect on our practices and see if we can create some positive change going forward as a whole organisation, that is work that we are happy to take forward to advocate with.

And then, before some impending rain our yarning circle logs were placed on site before our first Bush Kinder session for the year. This project, with some respectful conversations, felt like it happened very efficiently.



Continued over page...



Delkaia Aboriginal Best Start Update cont...



We have just had our second Bush Kinder session and the yarning circle has provided a lot already: It's a visual meeting place to come with others, gather, share, reflect. Children step up, jump down or across. Children are balancing on them. They make tables for experiences. Children have been lying on them and observing the clouds and observing the trees from a lying perspective.

We are happy to share our learnings and experiences and wish to improve our practices and processes going forward.

Photo descriptions:

Children finding leaves and displaying them on the logs. Noticing colours, patterns, similarities and differences. We did a 'nature colour matching search' providing the children with colour palette swatches (thanks Bunnings – paint section!) and sent the children to search for nature items that matched the colours. This was interesting as it invited children to look closely at the finer details in the natural environment. It was amazing the things they found! The logs were the perfect place to come together and create a collaborative display of the findings and learnings.

Adults and children gathering on logs for a yarn.

This week we have made some gratitude cards to post to the supplier of the logs as well as the team who did the delivery and install.

The children added their words to these cards and had this to say about the Bush Kinder log yarning circle:

- “I was jumping on the logs running from the dinosaurs” – Edi (4 years old)
- “I like the logs were cut” – Ollie (4 years old)
- “When I need a sit place, I sit on them” – Lucian (5 years old)



A huge thank you to the team in the Acacia room at Green Park Kindergarten for sharing thier story with us. Have you got something to share? Contact our team via email. Addresses on the front page of newsletter



Beyond the Welcome: Building Genuine Partnerships



Last term we shared links to the [Narragunnawali](#) website as one professional development resource to help build your confidence in embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives within your services. This term we are sharing the [Koori Curriculum](#) website. Here is an introduction taken from the Koori Curriculum website:

“The Koori Curriculum is a multiple award winning Aboriginal early childhood consultancy based on the Central Coast, NSW. Consultants at the Koori Curriculum facilitate a range of professional development programs and workshops for educators that help guide the inclusion of Aboriginal perspectives in early childhood curriculums.

The Koori Curriculum is operated by Jessica Staines a Wiradjuri woman, early childhood teacher and passionate educational community member, with ties to many advocacy groups on both national and international platforms.

Jessica and the team at Koori Curriculum continue to innovate and create new and diverse ways to reach educators across Australia and the world, adding to the ever-expanding suite of products and services including podcasts, educational resources, exclusive publications, webinars, online summits, conferences, in-services and planning days.

To learn more about how the Koori Curriculum can support you and your team email info@kooricurriculum.com “

Taken from:
[Koori Curriculum](#) | [About us](#) |
[Koori Curriculum](#)



Continued over page...

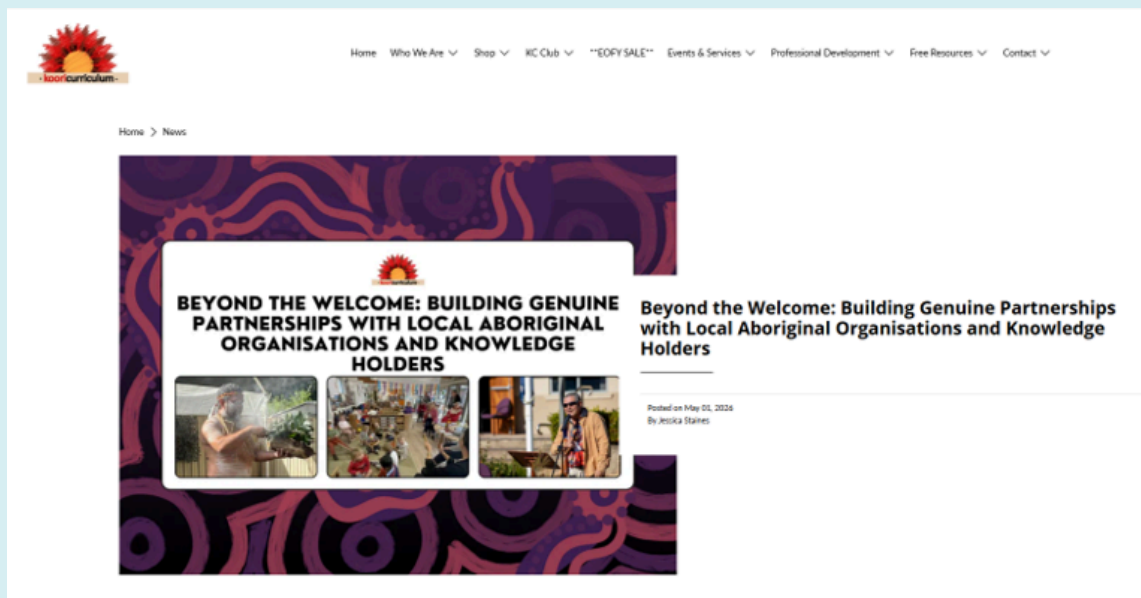


Beyond the Welcome: Building Genuine Partnerships cont...



When we visit services, our Early Years team are regularly asked about how best to approach developing relationships with local First Nations Peoples. One of Jessica Staines's most recent blog entries has done a wonderful job of summarising the complexities of this topic and explores how to build relationships that last all year — not just during the “cultural calendar”: Click on the link below to be taken directly to the blog entry:

[Beyond the Welcome: Building Genuine Partnerships](#)



The Koori Curriculum website is a treasure trove of information and provocations. Many resources, like the blog entry above, are FREE! There are also paid services and products such as online webinars, leadership camps, books, podcasts, resources and so much more! Become a paid member of the site for further benefits. Please make time to explore the site in more detail and we highly recommend signing up to receive the blog entries as weekly emails directly into your inbox. Keep records of your reading to count towards your VIT registration expectations. We hope you enjoy exploring the site further.



Website updates!

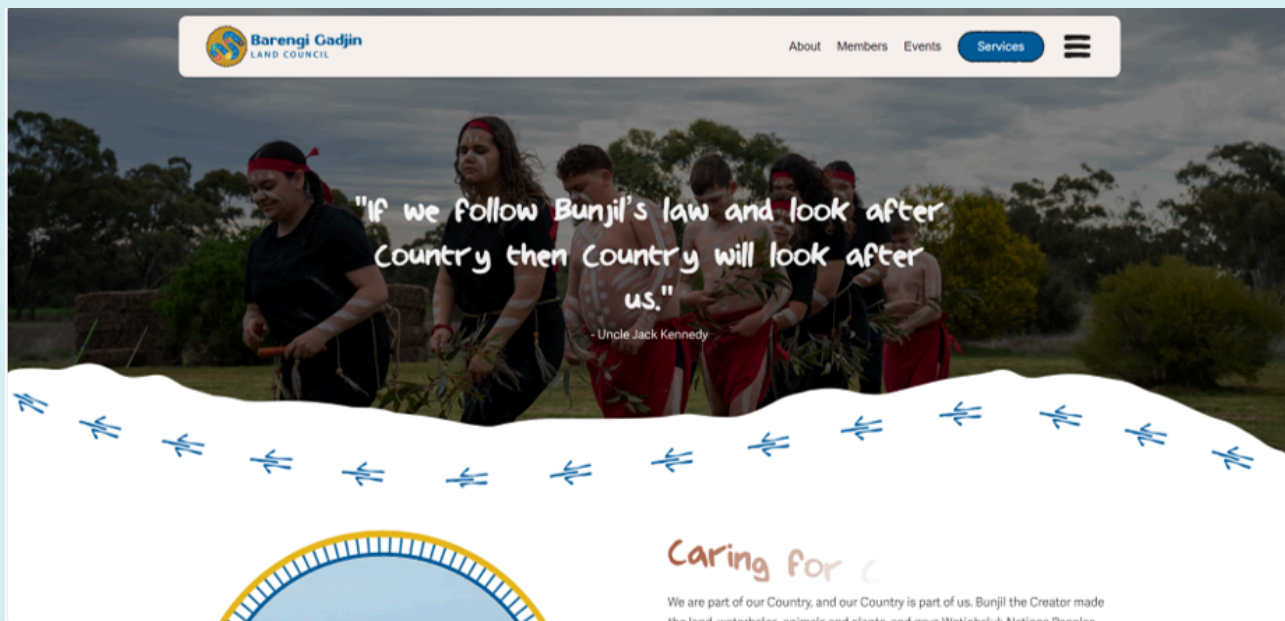


Barengi Gadgin Land Council (BGLC)

Have you visited the BGLC website recently? They have updated their website with fresh new links and information. Features on the new website include:

- [Engagement Protocols FAQs](#)
- An email address specific to [language requests](#)
- Guidance on writing an [Acknowledgement of Country](#).
- Phonetic pronunciation of TO groups names in the FAQ and Acknowledgement sections
- [Growing What is Good – Country Plan](#) (Includes some history for Wotjobaluk peoples and Tchingal creation story)
- [Key Moments in Wotjobaluk Nations' Journey](#)
- Working with First Nations Artists – [Guidance for EOLs](#)
- [Dalki Garringa Native Nursery](#).

And so much more! Be sure to make some time to explore the links further by clicking on the title or the image below :-)



Website updates!

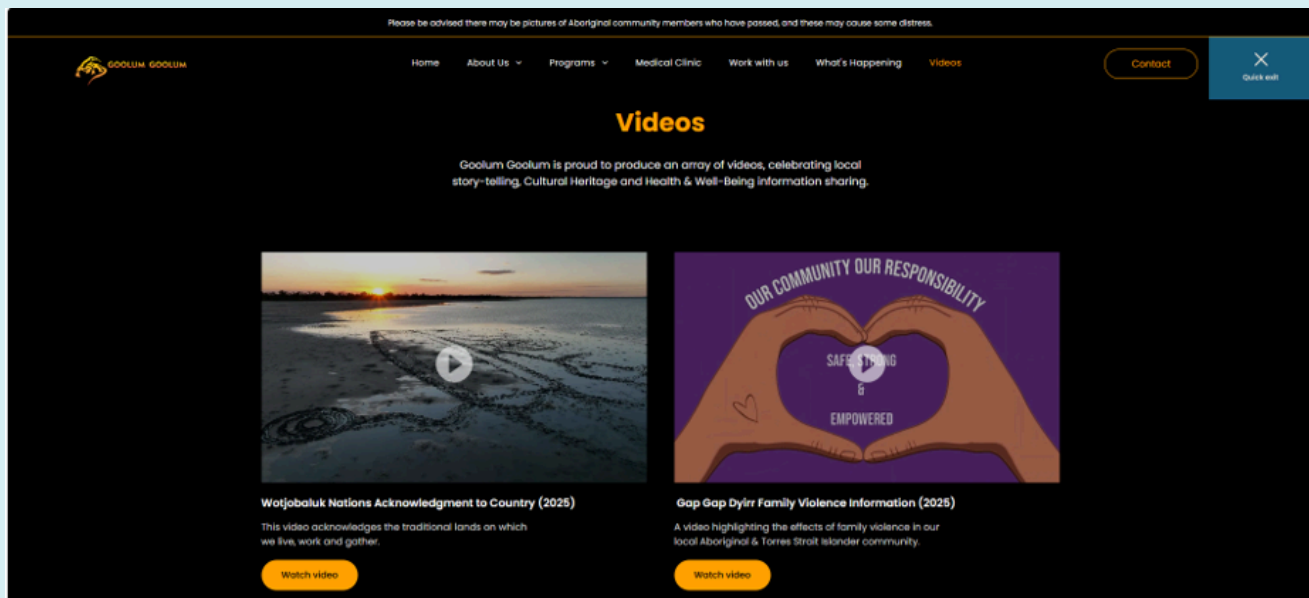


Goolum Goolum

Have you visited the Goolum Goolum website recently? If anyone from our Early Years team has recently visited your service, we may have mentioned that there is now a “Videos” section on our website where you can explore our suite of videos. From the Goolum home page, click on the link titled “Videos” to learn more. Of particular interest might be:

- **Wotjobaluk Nations Acknowledgment to Country (2025)**
- **Bunjil's View Part 1 - A Place to Be (2024)**
- **Bunjil's View Part 2 - Origin of Fire (2025)**
- **Dalki Guil Hub Construction (2023 - 2025)**

More will be added over time. The videos can be shared at team meetings and with the children to start conversations. Remember, we don't need to know all the answers: We can research what we don't know with the children. Be sure to make some time to explore the videos by clicking on the title or the image below :-)



Resource update



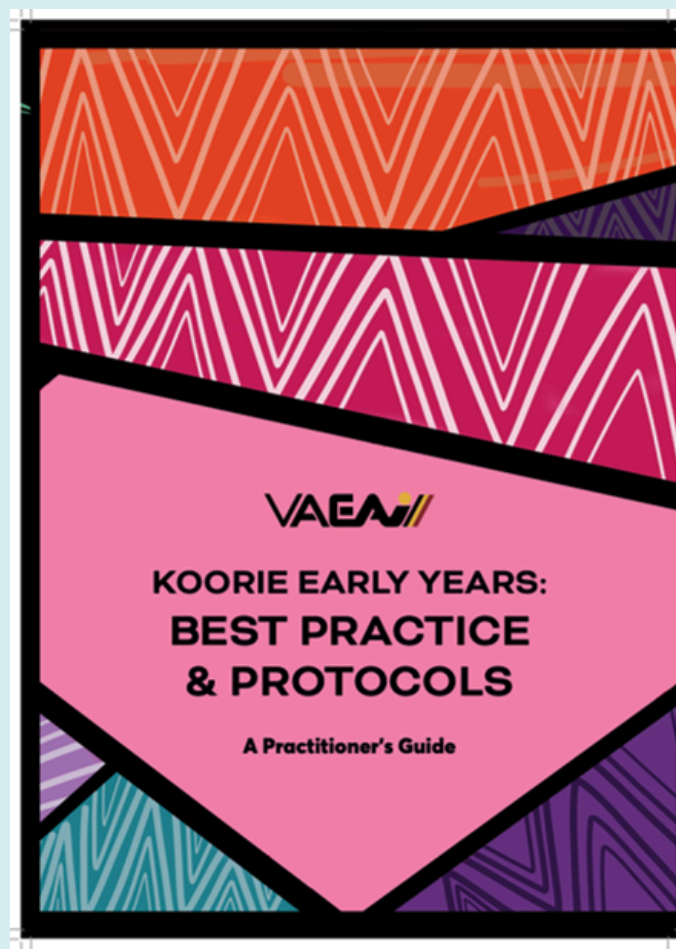
VAEAI

Kim Powell, Senior Project Officer - Aboriginal Early Years, and Proud Gunditjmara Woman recently wrote to us to inform us that the "Koorie Early Years: Best Practice and Protocols – A Practitioners Guide", has been updated.

Kim writes: This updated version has been strengthened to align with current Child Safety Reforms and Child Safe Standards, ensuring the resource remains contemporary and responsive to legislative and sector requirements.

The Guide is designed to support early childhood services to embed culturally safe, respectful and inclusive practice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. It provides practical guidance on engaging appropriately with local Koorie communities, embedding Aboriginal perspectives into everyday practice, and building strong, respectful relationships with community.

Developed in response to ongoing sector feedback, the updated Guide continues to address educators' need for clear direction on "where to start," offering practical strategies, protocols and examples that support confidence and continuous improvement in culturally responsive early years environments.



Girrin Playgroup



Dalk (hi) everyone!
We hope you are all well.

Girrin Playgroup in Horsham has still been very popular with high attendance. And we're seeing a lot of involvement from Dads at playgroup too, which is so deadly!

Unfortunately due to significantly low numbers, we have put Stawell playgroup on hold for now. We will reassess next year.

So far, our focuses for playgroup have included Anzac Day, International Dance Day (Cultural dance books, clap sticks and other instruments and Aboriginal music playlist), Mother's Day activities such as card making, arts and crafts and painting for Mum or that special person, Reconciliation Week, National Sorry Day and World Oceans Day with lots of 'under the sea' craft activities put together by Matt.

We are also very excited to welcome our new Early Years team member, Tyson King (Tazo). Tazo is a proud Wotjobaluk man and will be joining us as a Playgroup Facilitator and wayipungitj. He is also studying his Certificate 3 in Early Childhood Education 😊

We hope term 2 has been good to you & we look forward to sharing more with you soon.



Indigenous Resources



Often when we come to visit Early Years services, we are asked for recommendations on where we get our Indigenous resources.

Here are some ideas - Where to buy resources that we trust and love

- Songlines
 - Includes editable displays
 - Pretend play
- Riley Callie
 - Includes a Bush Food collection
 - Artefact collection kit
- Yarn Strong Sista
 - Includes inset puzzles
 - Books for babies and toddlers
- Connecting the dots
 - Includes puppets
 - Small world play
- Awe and Wonder
 - Baskets and displays
- Koori Curriculum
- Indigenous Resources Online



A great Indigenous resource for sleep time music for the children:

Dreamy | Mindful stories from First Nations Storytellers

(Also be sure to look at their playlists on Spotify and / or Apple Music)

Podcasts well worth a listen:

- Educator yarns with Jessica Staines
- Koorie learners: investing in our kids' dreams
- Word Up
- Blak N White with Tammy and Nathan Baart
- Yarning Up With Caroline Kell

Please let us know if there are any other resources you have used in your service & would recommend - we would love to share them in our newsletter :)



Gariwerd Seasons - Chunnup



We are feeling the cold now! - **Chunnup** (Winter)! May - July

Chunnup is one of the six seasons from Gariwerd.
It is known as "Winter" - The season of the cockatoos

This month, we can expect:

- Freezing cold winds
- The coldest days of the year
- 'Bleak mists'
- Rainy Days

There are six different seasons in Gariwerd, recognised by the Djab Wurrung and Jardwadjali Peoples - This is due to the changing patterns of the environments (such as the behaviour of animals, weather, plant growth etc).

The Six Seasons, as written on the Deadly Story website:

Kooyang (Late Summer) - Season of eels and parched landscape
Gwangal Moronn (Autumn) - Season of honey bees, sunrises and flocking birds
Chinnup (Winter) - Season of cockatoos, cool climate and early wildflowers
Larneuk (Early Spring) - Season of nesting birds and changeable weather
Petyan (Late Spring) - Season of wildlife and wildflowers
Ballambar (Early Summer) - Season of butterflies, warm weather and wetland plants

To read more about the Six Seasons, please click the following links to these websites:

https://deadlystory.com/page/aboriginal-country-map/Community_Spaces/Gariwerd

<https://www.bom.gov.au/resources/indigenous-weather-knowledge/indigenous-seasonal-calendars/gariwerd-calendar>



Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day



Living Our Truth | 4 August 2026



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 :)

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day is a national celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children held each year on 4 August since 1988.

Join the nationwide celebration on Tuesday, 4 August 2026!

Art Acknowledgement: Learning from Country by Tovani Cox.

