

Goolum Goolum

Early Years

Term 4 2025



Welcome to our Term 4 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
- Girrin Playgroup Update
- Junior Landcare Website: Whose Country: Exploring First Nations Peoples Languages Map
- Narragunnawali – Step by step how to sign up
- Dalki Guli Hub Opening Ceremony

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

- Survival 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!

We would also like to wish you all a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

We hope you all enjoy a well deserved break with your friends, family & loved ones. 😊

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Dates of Significance

- **November-December** Ballambar Season (Early Summer) Which is known as Butterfly Season.
- **24th December** - Christmas Eve - a story worth looking at is The Extraordinary Tale of William Buckley
- **25th December** - Christmas - Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year with your loved ones :)
- **26th January** - Survival Day (Australia Day) - National Day of Mourning 1938 and Aboriginal Tent Embassy Est 1972.
- **4th February** - The Cummeragunja Walk-off Anniversary 1939
- **12th February** - Freedom Rides Anniversary 1965
- **13th February** - National Apology Anniversary
- **21st February** - International Mother Language Day
- **21st March** - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Harmony Day.
- **30th March** - Anniversary of Gunditjmara Native Title Recognition and Settlement

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),

I wanted to thank you all for the work that you have done and continue to do towards embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into your everyday programs. It is essential work towards our Countries commitment to **“Closing the Gap”**.

This year we have had three services where the educators felt comfortable enough to be vulnerable with our team and say that they did not feel comfortable justifying to families why educators were being asked to embed Aboriginal perspectives. Short of directing families to the VEYLDF, EYLF, NQS and Child Safe Standards, they wanted to be able to explain why this was an important focus. Our Early Years team will continue to support educators to grow their confidence. Please remember that we are a resource and we can put you in touch with the resources and people you need for support with your professional journey. This newsletter is just one way in which we aim to support Educators. So, a huge thank you to all Educators and we hope that you are all able to manage some time off over the holiday period for rest and relaxation with family and friends.

In the meantime, here are some quick links to information that can support your understanding of why the work that you do in this area is so important:

- **[Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives during National Reconciliation Week and Beyond | ACECQA](#)**
- **[Promoting, exploring and sharing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures: EYLF Outcome 1 - Children have a strong sense of identity](#)**
- **[InformationSheet_EYLF-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives_v2.pdf](#)**
- **[Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures in early childhood education and care - Case Study 1](#)**
- **[To Heal the Nation we need Understanding - Uncle Jack Charles \(Video\)](#)**

Were you able to watch the **[Victorian Governments Apology to the First Peoples of Victoria?](#)** You can read more about this here in **[the National Indigenous Times publication.](#)**



Girrin Playgroup



**GOOLUM
GOOLUM**
ABORIGINAL CO-OPERATIVE
Early Years

We can't believe it's almost the end of the year! What a great year of playgroup we've had - with a huge number of families attending Horsham Playgroup and the exciting feel of a new space to call our own.

We had our final playgroup last week at the Dalki Guli Hub. In this session we celebrated Christmas by decorating the room, Christmas Craft activities (wooden Christmas tree ornaments, snow globes, and suncatchers), Christmas carols, Christmas themed food platters made by our chef Fab and his assistant Jaara, and as the session finished up, we gave the children their gifts from all of us in the Early Years Team.

Some of our Girrin Playgroup children are off to 3 & 4 year old kindergarten next year. So this session felt a little bittersweet as they go on to their next adventure. We wish them all the best and are glad we will still get to see them around Goolum at events and in the community.





Survival Day



Survival Day, 'Australia Day' is approaching us in January.

January 26 is also known as a Day of Mourning, Invasion Day and Survival Day. Many Australians think of January 26 as a day to celebrate being Australian, with a public holiday, day off work, barbeques and drinks, etc. When in fact, this should not be a date to celebrate.

"It is a day for acknowledging the British invasion of sovereign First Nations lands and respecting the resistance and survival of First Nations Peoples in the face of systematic and ongoing injustice and denial of rights". - ATAR Website.

January 26 marks the start of Colonial Frontier Wars (conflict between settlers and First Nations Peoples).

This lasted until the 'Coniston Massacre' in 1930 (Some argue even later).

What happened to First Nations peoples during this time?

- Massacres / Genocide
- Abuse / Cruelty / Violence
- Dispossession / Land grabs
- Child removal
- Suppression of language / Culture / Lore
- Oppression
- Spread of disease thanks to colonialism
- And much more



A LARGE BLACKBOARD displayed outside the hall proclaims, "Day of Mourning." Leaflets warned that, "Aborigines and persons of Aboriginal blood only are invited to attend." At 5 o'clock in the afternoon resolution of indignation, protest, was moved, passed.

We ask you to please rethink celebrating Australia Day and encourage you as Educators to critically think about celebrations, and why you do what you do.

- Who is privileged and who is excluded?
- Whose voices are being heard and whose are being silenced?

In Early Childhood education, this day gives us an opportunity to educate rather than celebrate. We can do this by "aligning with the principals of social justice, equality and equity.

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Survival Day



Early Childhood Educators can create opportunities for the children to learn more about Australia's history and understand different experiences and perspectives (Age appropriately).

This date could be a chance to discuss fairness and bias (As in Outcome 2 EYLF). The Koori Curriculum shares some great books to read with the children on Survival day here: <https://kooricurriculum.com/blogs/news/books-to-learn-about-the-26th-of-january>

It is also good to remember, this is not just about discussing history, it's understanding ongoing issues and injustices for First Nations Peoples.

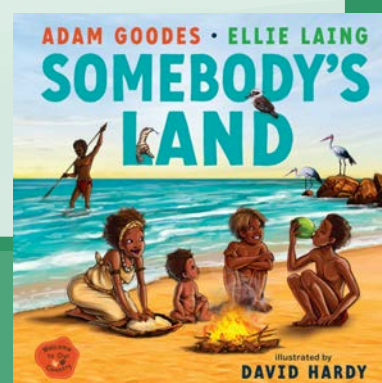
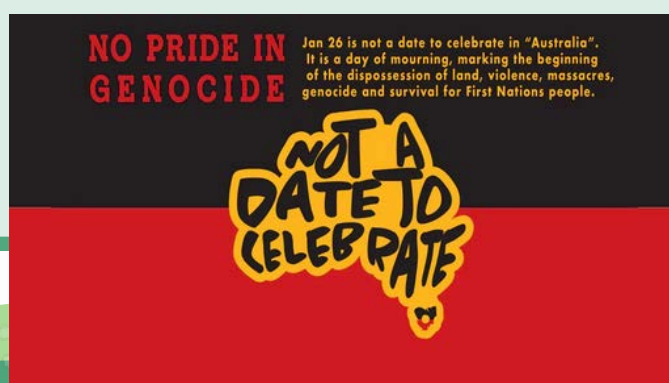
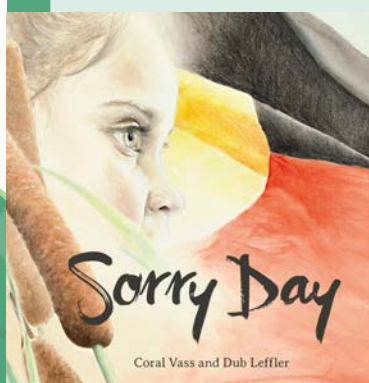
If faced with tough questions from the families, these few dot points might help you

- Open communication with families
- Emphasise that your approach is based on national guidelines and creating a culturally safe environment
- Truth telling and education the next generation is so important

Also, please don't hesitate to reach out to us, the Early Years team at Goolum Goolum for any support.

Here are some great articles about Survival Day that we think are well worth the read:

- <https://thespoke.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/a-time-to-educate-not-celebrate-26-january/>
- <https://antar.org.au/issues/survival-day/history-of-the-date/>
- <https://antar.org.au/issues/survival-day/not-a-date-to-celebrate/>
- <https://antar.org.au/issues/survival-day/rethinking-26-january/>
- <https://www.vaeai.org.au/wp-content/uploads/delightful-downloads/2022/01/Australia-Day-brief-2022.pdf>



Junior Landcare website



Whose Country: exploring First Nations peoples languages map (0-7yrs) | Junior Landcare

Interested to see examples of how other services work to incorporate First nations perspectives into their services and curriculum? The Junior Landcare site has a searchable menu of resources, videos and webinars. You can even search by age group. Click on the link below to explore the menu:

[First Nations perspectives learning activities and worksheets.](#)

“From Indigenous Language Maps, Indigenous Weather Knowledge, Indigenous Plant-Use, through to Yarning Circles. Bring Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander histories & cultures into the classroom with informative, thoughtful and engaging educational content”. Below is a link to one Learning Activity, titled “Whose Country”.

[Whose Country: exploring First Nations peoples languages map \(0-7yrs\) | Junior Landcare](#)

Whose Country: exploring First Nations peoples languages map (0-7yrs)

Category: First Nations Perspectives
Climate Region: Arid | Temperate | Tropical
State or Territory: ACT | NSW | NT | QLD | SA | TAS | VIC | WA
Age Range: 0-7

STORY

Jarrah was very excited to be invited to give a talk at his younger cousin Alina's pre-school. Her teacher thought that Alina and her friends would enjoy hearing Jarrah talk about the Indigenous plant-use gardens that Jarrah and his friends had recently planted at their school.

Jarrah began his talk with an Acknowledgement of Country. Jarrah explained to the younger children that it was important for all of them to acknowledge and be thankful to the Land, and make a promise to care for the land, the waterways and all the plants and animals. The children loved hearing from Jarrah and realised that they had a lot to be thankful for. They wanted to make sure they were able to do this each day at the preschool.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

This activity introduces the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First peoples of this Country, who are the traditional custodians of the lands, waterways and skies across Australia and that it is important for us to recognise that.

A **Welcome to Country** and an **Acknowledgement of Country** are opportunities for all people that show respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures, and build understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and connections to Country.

Anyone can do an Acknowledgement of Country to acknowledge the country that they are on. Only an Elder from that Country can do a Welcome to Country.

Learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages can help children build their understanding of land, water and people. This activity helps to assist the identification of the

The activity overview reads: This activity introduces the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First peoples of this Country, who are the traditional custodians of the lands, waterways and skies across Australia and that it is important for us to recognise that.





Narragunnawali - Step by step how to sign up

Dalki Muwill (Hi all),

We have shared the Narragunnawali website on a couple of occasions now. It is free to sign up and it contains a wealth of knowledge and resources to assist you in the work that you are doing to incorporate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into your programs. In fact, the site can seem overwhelming with the amount of resources available and sometimes people don't know where to start. In this newsletter, we will share where to sign up, and how to search for specific resources. Then we will highlight the specific resources available to support your service with implementing an Acknowledgement of Country.

Signing up is simple. There is a "Sign up" tab in the top right of the screen.



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Narragunnawali - Signing up

Once selected, you will be informed what the site has to offer and asked to provide your contact details. You can also read about their terms and conditions of how they will keep, store and use this information.

The screenshot shows the Narragunnawali website's sign-up page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: ABOUT, RAPS, PROFESSIONAL LEARNING, CURRICULUM RESOURCES, AWARDS 2025, LOG IN, and SIGN UP. The main heading is "JOIN THE NARRAGUNNAWALI COMMUNITY". Below this, a paragraph describes the organization's mission. A list of benefits is provided, with callouts pointing to specific links: "What you can access if you sign up" points to the "professional learning" link, and "What you can access if you sign up" points to the "curriculum resources" link. The sign-up form includes fields for First name, Last name, Your Email, and a dropdown for "What is your role?". Below these are two more dropdowns for "Please specify how you heard about Narragunnawali". The password section has "Create password" and "Re-type password" fields, with a callout "Check out terms and conditions" pointing to the "Terms and Conditions" link. A checkbox for "I agree to the Terms and Conditions" is also present. The final step is a green button labeled "JOIN NARRAGUNNAWALI".

What you can access if you sign up

Provide your details to sign up

Check out terms and conditions

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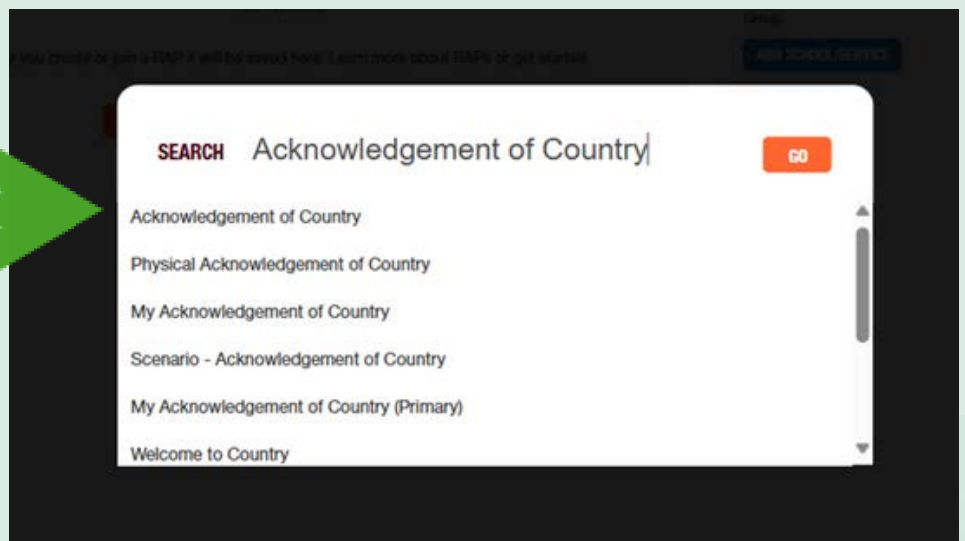
Narragunnawali - cont.

Now the fun part: how to find what you're looking for? Once you have signed in, use the search tool to enter key words.



Enter key words here to search the resources

You can make a selection as the menu self populates, or wait for the results to make your selection.



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Narragunnawali - cont.

For the example on the previous page, I selected “My Acknowledgement of Country”, and the below options were generated. It seemed a timely example as services often ask about how they can get their teams together to work on developing an Acknowledgement.

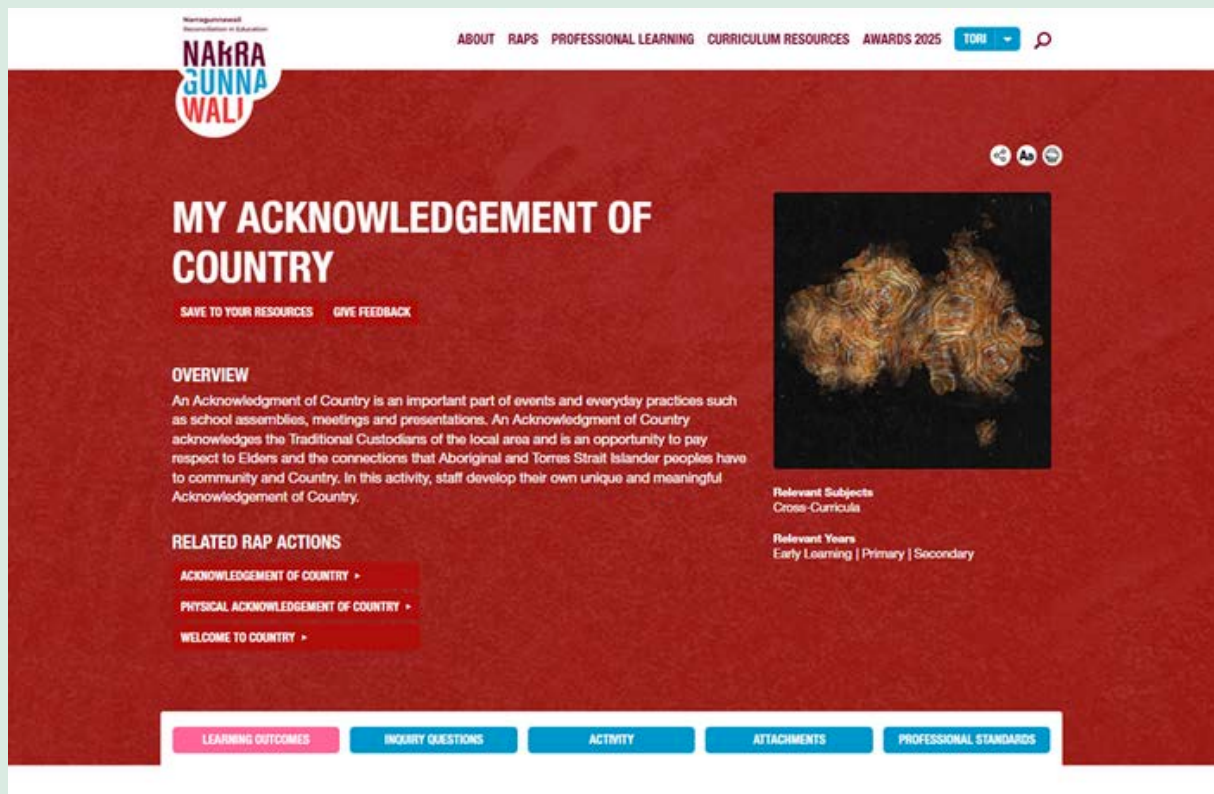
Search: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY Develop understanding of what it means to acknowledge Country, and provide everyone the opportunity to do so at meetings and events throughout the year.	Type RAP Action Required: Yes Category: Respect around the school
 PHYSICAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY Display a physical, durable Acknowledgement of Country such as an Acknowledgement plaque or mural.	Type RAP Action Required: No Category: Respect with the community
 MY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY In this activity, staff develop their own unique and meaningful Acknowledgement of Country.	Type Professional Learning Relevant Subjects Cross-Curricula Relevant Years Early Learning Primary Secondary
 SCENARIO - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY Discuss this scenario with a group of your staff to start a conversation about the importance of understanding the act of acknowledging Country.	Type Professional Learning Relevant Subjects Cross-Curricula Relevant Years Early Learning Primary Secondary

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Narragunnawali - cont.



Each example will say what year level the resource is recommended for. This can help you make decisions, though most resources can be adapted. Once selected you will see the tabs towards the bottom of the page titled, “Learning outcomes, Inquiry questions, Activity and Professional standards”. Everything you need is here for you to bring your team together and work through the tabs, supporting resources and relate the learning to the professional standards for teaching. What’s not to love?!

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Narragunnawali - cont.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

INQUIRY QUESTIONS

ACTIVITY

ATTACHMENTS

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

- Staff understand the importance of Acknowledging Country.
- Staff know the difference between an Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome to Country.
- Staff recognise and respect the continuing connections that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have to Country, especially the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which the school or early learning service is situated.
- Staff understand the importance of using [respectful and inclusive language and terminology](#) within Acknowledgement of Country statements.
- Staff understand how to personalise and localise an Acknowledgment of Country, among other opportunities for ensuring the Acknowledgement is meaningful and not [tokenistic](#).

LEARNING OUTCOMES

INQUIRY QUESTIONS

ACTIVITY

ATTACHMENTS

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

- What is the purpose and significance of an Acknowledgement of Country?
- How does an Acknowledgement of Country differ from a Welcome to Country?
- How is an Acknowledgement of Country an act of reconciliation?
- How can I meaningfully personalise an Acknowledgement of Country?
- How can we actively live our Acknowledgement and make it something more than just lip service?

Explore each tab for the resources and tasks available. We hope that you will enjoy exploring the site as much as we have 😊 Let us know what resources you have used and how they have helped.



Dalki Guli Hub Opening



A few weeks ago Goolum Goolum had the official opening ceremony of the new building, the Dalki Guli Hub.

The opening had such a great turn out, with people from all over.

We began with a Welcome to Country outside by Colin Gorton, followed by dances from the Dalki Murrup Ceremonial Performance Group lead by Tanisha Lovett- Marks, an introduction talk from Jake Goodes and Johnny Gorton, then a Smoking Ceremony at the new fire pit / Yarning Circle.

Inside the new building, we had a few different people present and speak about the new building, including managers, builders and Aboriginal Community members involved in the story telling and design process.

They spoke about how and why certain things were implemented in the building, such as the Language names of the rooms, the Wathaurong glass doors, the 'river' flooring that flows throughout the building with pictures of water animals relating to the Wotjobaluk area, the light display in the shape of Bunjil, and much more.

Lunch was provided to all thanks to Goolum's amazing chef who is based in the Dalki Guli Hub Cafe - Fabian Lauricella!

The Dalki Guli Hub is intended to be a place for Aboriginal Community members to come and feel welcomed, culturally safe and connected. A place to call there own, like a big family feel.

Our team feels so lucky to be able to work in such a beautiful new space, not only because it's new and beautiful, but because of the meaning behind it, the story telling and how much it means to the Aboriginal community. We are so excited for the future and what it has in store. :)

If you would like to watch a video of the building journey, you can find it amongst the videos on Goolum Goolum's website by clicking here: <https://www.goolumgoolum.org.au/videos>

Photos on next page



