

NJERNDA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION | APRIL 2024 EDITION

# NJERNDA NEWS



After two long decades of advocacy, Echuca's first Koori Court has been officially opened.

The Community gathered to celebrate the initiative, which will improve how the local justice system operates and serves First Nations people.

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Picture: Colin Atkinson leads the smoking ceremony at the Echuca Koori Court opening (image courtesy Casey Atkinson from the Koori Court).

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# **CELEBRATION OF CULTURE**







# On a beautiful early autumn day, we were thrilled to see so many people enjoying our Yarka Yakapna Corroboree at the Baroona Farm.

This event, celebrating our Community and Culture, continues to go from strength to strength, with lots of positive feedback from people who attended.

Falling during the school holidays, the event was obviously a huge hit with our kids!

### A message from Aunty Hazel Hudson:

A big thanks to all my team who made this day possibly, what a mammoth effort it was from all of you to pull this together and make it such a wonderful day. We also appreciate the massive effort that other Njernda staff put into the success of the day, it was wonderful to walk around and see all the collaboration between our Units each unit really displayed what they do for our community.

There was also an increase in partner agencies stalls highlighting to community other services available to them.

### Thank you from Berrimba:

Berrimba would like to say a huge thank you to aunty Hazel and the entire family services team and all others involved in such a successful corroboree day. It was a beautiful day with so many services and activities available, our Berrimba children were all thrilled to be involved, especially grateful for the activity bags they all received.

Highlights for the children included the smoking ceremony, the fire truck, the petting zoo and let's not forget the donuts! We are so proud to be a part of this significant cultural event and we commend all involved on the effort that went in to such a successful day!

# **EASTER CORROBOREE A BIG SUCCESS**





# **ANNIVERSARY EVENTS UPDATE**

Our 50th anniversary team is thrilled to be able to announce dates for two events coming up in June! The first will be our Photo Exhibition on June 14. We have been collecting photos from community for the exhibition. We have had one Photo Drive Day so far, with many Elders coming down to share their memories and photos. If you missed out on bringing their photos down, not to worry, we will be having more Photo Drive Days with dates to be advertised.

The Photo Exhibition will be our launch event to share memories of our community and the history of Njernda Aboriginal Corporation. If you can't make it to the Photo Drive Days you can drop off photos to Candace Williams at the Corporate Building 51-55 Heygarth St, Echuca. We will also have merchandise to give out at 50th Anniversary events, so please come to all events. We will also have an Anniversary Cabaret on Saturday 29 June - more details to come!

# **ECHUCA KOORI COURT OPENING EVENT**

Mjern Qa Mews

March 25 was a very historic day for the Echuca Community, with the opening of the Koori Court. It has taken 23 years to get the Koori Court in Echuca.

Local Justice Worker Colin Atkinson, a proud Wollithiga Man who works for Njernda Aboriginal Corporation, has worked alongside Court Services Victoria and the Koori Court to get one set up for the community.

Ever since he became the Local Justice Worker, he has wanted to get the Koori Court in Echuca and now he has achieved that goal.

"The Koori Court will be a huge benefit to the Indigenous Community to help them through their justice matters and to move on to improving their lives," Colin says.

Colin was given the honour of doing the smoking ceremony and the welcome to Country was conducted by his grandfather – Professor Uncle Henry Atkinson, a Wollithiga Elder from Echuca.

Pictures courtesy Chris Hawking from the Campaspe Shire Council and Casey Atkinson from the Koori Court.

### **About the Koori Court:**

The Koori Court has been developed to reflect cultural issues and operate in a more informal way. In Koori Court, you will sit around a table – called the bar table – with the magistrate, Elders and Respected Persons, a Koori court officer, the prosecutor, community correction officer, your lawyer and family. Koori owned and controlled agencies may also be in attendance in the courtroom to contribute to the conversation and offer support.

Everyone is encouraged to take part in a sentencing conversation by having a yarn and avoid using legal language. Aboriginal Elders or respected persons may give cultural advice to help the magistrate make a judgment that:

- Is culturally appropriate.
- Helps reduce the likelihood of reoffending.







# TIME TO GET YOUR PROTECTION FROM FLU

Health Uplate

# Our popular flu vaccine clinic days are back for 2024!

Vaccines are a great way to protect yourself and others this winter.

We have dedicated appointments available between 9.30am and midday on Tuesday 30 April and Tuesday 7 May.

Please call our medical clinic on 5481 0600 to book your appointment.

Vaccination is the most important measure to prevent influenza and its complications especially in children under five years, adults over 65, pregnant women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and those with chronic health conditions. It is recommended for all people six months of age and over.

The State government is currently running the Stay well this winter campaign to encourage Victorians to get their flu and COVID-19 shots to help themselves and the people around them to stay well.



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# Highlighting childhood mental health

World Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Day (WICAMHD) is held on 23 April annually to bring global awareness and literacy to this issue. Children and adolescents form a third of the world's population. Research has demonstrated that adverse experiences in childhood impact lifelong mental and physical health.



# Due for a health check?

If you attend a 20-minute appointment with the Aboriginal Health Worker, followed by a 40-minute appointment with the Doctor, you will receive a \$25 gift card!



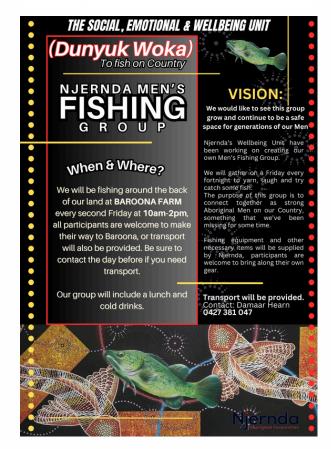
## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



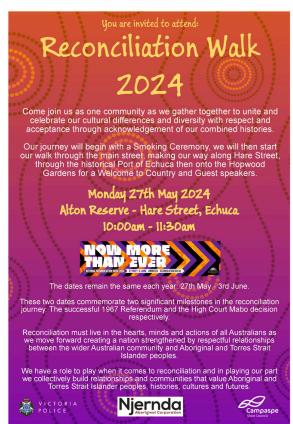
1800 105 303 www.djirra.org.au O@DjirraVIC ODjirra











# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Every year on 26 May, National Sorry Day remembers and acknowledges the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were forcibly removed from their families and communities, which we now know as

'The Stolen Generations'.

# Sorry Day Breakfast

# Join us for breakfast:

Njernda Health and Ageing 84 - 86 Hare Street, Echuca Sunday 26th May 2024 8:00am - 11:00am



## WELCOME BACK TO NJERNDA!

# Hello, all my beautiful Community and deadly Njernda workers.

My name is Kellie Egan. I was born and raised in Echuca all my life. I have two sisters, four brothers and three big, beautiful children.

I have worked at Njernda for 10 years previously as Housing helper to Auntie Lee W, in Stolen Generations, administration, and Family Services. Now I have been re-employed at Family Services three days a week, helping Lani Taga in Housing I am very happy to be back in Housing at Family Services.

I'm very passionate about my community people. I'm really enjoying being back and working for community.

So please drop in and say hello, or come and see Lani and me for help with anything housing please.



### **WORK WITH US**

A career at Njernda can take you anywhere! And we love to support our Mob to step up into real jobs that make a huge difference.

Check our website and follow our social media channels to keep up with what's available.

We encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, but unless stated, our jobs are available to all qualified applicants. If you're interested in any of our listed jobs, or want to know more about what it's like to work at Njernda, have a yarn with our HR Team. Get all the details of all our jobs and apply on our websit HR Team. Get all the details of all our jobs and apply on our website, njernda.com.au









# **CONTACT US:**

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