



NJERNDABORIGINAL CORPORATION | APRIL 2024 EDITION

NJERNDANEWS

Community justice

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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Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation

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

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.



Health
Update

TIME TO GET YOUR PROTECTION FROM FLU

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.



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!

Have you changed your address or phone number?

Let Njernda Medical know so we can update your records!



COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



SISTERS DAY OUT

You're invited to join our Sisters Day Out workshop in Echuca!

Come and hear all about Djirra's services and programs, along with the opportunity to connect with local services on the day. We will also have cultural and wellbeing activities for you to join in and enjoy.

All registered participants will receive a t-shirt and showbag.

Workshop details
When: Tuesday 7th May
Time: 9.30am - 3pm
Where: Dungula Event Centre
 69 Dungula Way, Moama NSW

Please ensure you register prior by visiting djirra.org.au or email sistersdayout@djirra.org.au
 Registrations close Wednesday 1st May

1800 105 303

www.djirra.org.au

@DjirraVIC • Djirra



Funded by:




Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

Come join us for morning tea and to light a candle for those who have been impacted by Cancer.

Njernda Medical Centre
 84-86 Hare Street Echuca
 Thursday 23rd May 2024
 9:30am - 11:30am

Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country
 Raffle and door prizes
 Cultural food and entertainment

Further information contact:
 Keith - 0412 390 859
 Nadine - 0492 159 564

Njernda Aboriginal Corporation

Cancer Council



THE SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL & WELLBEING UNIT

(Dunyuk Woka)

To fish on Country

NJERND A MEN'S FISHING GROUP

VISION:

We would like to see this group grow and continue to be a safe space for generations of our Men

Njernda's Wellbeing Unit have been working on creating our own Men's Fishing Group.

We will gather on a Friday every fortnight to yarn, laugh and try catch some fish.

The purpose of this group is to connect together as strong Aboriginal Men on our Country, something that we've been missing for some time.

Fishing equipment and other necessary items will be supplied by Njernda, participants are welcome to bring along their own gear.

When & Where?

We will be fishing around the back of our land at **BAROONA FARM** every second Friday at **10am-2pm**, all participants are welcome to make their way to Baroona, or transport will also be provided. Be sure to contact the day before if you need transport.

Our group will include a lunch and cold drinks.

Transport will be provided.
 Contact: Damaar Hearn
 0427 381 047

Njernda Aboriginal Corporation



You are invited to attend:

Reconciliation Walk 2024

Come join us as one community as we gather together to unite and celebrate our cultural differences and diversity with respect and acceptance through acknowledgement of our combined histories.

Our journey will begin with a Smoking Ceremony, we will then start our walk through the main street, making our way along Hare Street, through the historical Port of Echuca then onto the Hopwood Gardens for a Welcome to Country and Guest speakers.

Monday 27th May 2024
Alton Reserve - Hare Street, Echuca
10:00am - 11:30am

NOW MORE THAN EVER

The dates remain the same each year: 27th May - 3rd June.

These two dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey. The successful 1987 Referendum and the High Court Mabo decision respectively.

Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We have a role to play when it comes to reconciliation and in playing our part we collectively build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, cultures and futures.

VICTORIA POLICE

Njernda Aboriginal Corporation

Campaspe Shire Council

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'.

National Sorry Day Breakfast

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

Njernda
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WELCOME BACK TO NJERNDABORIGINAL CORPORATION!

Hello, all my beautiful Community and dear 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 website HR Team. Get all the details of all our jobs and apply on our website, njernda.com.au



Want to help shape our services?

APPLY NOW

We are hiring for a range of exciting and fulfilling roles

- Kinship Placement and Support Worker
- Foster Care Recruitment and Assessment worker
- Wala Yarka Practice Leader
- Aboriginal Child Specialist Advice and Support Service
- Aboriginal Child Well-Being Practitioner

Visit www.njernda.com.au/employment-opportunities/ to see position descriptions and application details.



More info:

W: njernda.com.au
E: jobs@njernda.com.au
P: (03) 5481 0610

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CONTACT US:

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