



NJERNDABORIGINAL CORPORATION | CHRISTMAS 2024 EDITION

NJERNDANEWS



Having a ball

Our 50th Anniversary Gala Ball at the Dungala Events Centre in Moama was such a special night for our community - a chance to celebrate our achievements and look forward to the future.

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Njernda
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BERRIMBA TEAM BUILDS CONNECTIONS

The Berrimba Kinder team along with Sam McMasters, our Kindergarten improvement advisor from the state department, recently visited two of the best early years ACCO services – Yappera Children's Services in Thornbury and Bubup Wilam Child and Family Centre in Thomastown.

The Berrimba team would like to say a huge to both Stacey Brown at Yappera and Lisa Thorpe at Bubup for their time and sharing what they do. We are so grateful for the connections we have formed with both centres and all the knowledge shared and gained and how we can come back home to Berrimba feeling validated and inspired.



Koralynn, Kylie and Marley also recently attended the SNAICC national gathering in Glenelg at the Stamford Grand. We had two jam-packed days of keynote speakers and information sharing, as well as networking with other professionals in the Early Years space. It's so important to get out and connect and share what's working for our teams, and how we can upskill and adapt to always strive for the best for our children. As always, it was incredible to hear Catherine Liddle, SNAICC CEO, speak to the importance of ACCOs and the work we do. We enjoyed hearing about services in NSW and WA that SNAICC supports, what they are doing and how they're leading the way. The location was incredible, and we came away feeling very refreshed. Thanks to SNAICC and Njernda for supporting us to attend.

WELCOME AND PLAYGROUP EOI OPEN

Expressions of Interest are now open for Baby Welcome to Country and our Yarka Yaka Daya playgroup in 2025.

Expressions of Interest for either of these programs can be lodged with our Berrimba team.

You can call on 5481 0640, email Koralynn at koralynnnd@njernda.com.au or contact Colleen at colleend@njernda.com.au

These are terrific initiatives and we'd love to see the community get behind them so they can thrive in 2025.



BUSY WEEKS OF SPORTING ACTION



We'd like to say a big congratulations to all of those who've been taking part in a range of sporting competitions in recent weeks, and to those who are supporting our teams!

On Mondays, our Under 18 boys participate in the domestic basketball competition, where we have nine community kids participating every week for Warma. Also on Mondays, our touch footballers are in action. We have 14 adults and kids participate in the sport every week, along with plenty of community members who come along and support the team. Our C grade men participate in domestic basketball competition on Tuesdays, when three Njernda staff play with the young adults in our community. Wednesday's are our open basketball sessions, when the Youth team invites all young community kids to come along and shoot some hoops between 4.30pm and 6:00pm at the Echuca Basketball Stadium. Thursdays, we have three teams participating across the under 12s and under 14 girls' basketball. We have great numbers each week, ranging from 20 to 40 Aboriginal boys and girls. If you would like to learn more about any of these sports or teams, please contact Laura from the Yinya Mulana team on 0437856375.

ART AND CONNECTION AT WINYANBOGA



Our Winyanboga sessions are growing and great fun!

Every week we offer a variety of activities which include wall hangings; jewellery making including earring, necklaces, bracelets; headbands; woodburning and emu egg carving.

Join us on Wednesdays from 11am, with lots of yarns and laughs and some beautiful art pieces created.

You can join us by contacting our Family Services unit on 5481 0620.

GALA BALL A SMASH HIT

Oh what a night! We are still feeling the love after holding our 50th Anniversary Gala Ball.

On behalf of Events Coordinator Candace Williams, the Board and our Executive, we would like to thank:

- Blakground Productions for filming and taking photos
- Volunteers Bianca Rose, Bailee Smith, Munyari Johnson, Tyson Stevens Day and Gratton Harrison
- Uncle Des Morgan for his Welcome to Country
- Sissy Cooper and Narjic Day Burns and the Dhungala Yalka Dancers
- Jade Johnson for being our MC
- Plus our brilliant entertainment – Madi Colville Walker, Emma Donovan and Isaiah Firebrace.

And thank you to everyone who came along to celebrate our mob and the Njernda organisation!



SPOOKY DANCE FOR HALLOWEEN



What a great time we had at our Halloween Disco!

The party was held on October 31 at the Uniting Church in Echuca.

A huge thanks to everyone involved in creating and hosting this event.

It was wonderful to see our so many smiles and our community having fun.



SAFE ROUTES TO KINDER

A reminder to our community about our Safer Routes to Kinder map!

This resource was developed in partnership with Echuca Regional Health and is all about making sure our kids can travel safely and actively to Berrimba.

The map shows the best routes to take for families who are walking, riding and scooting to kinder.

These forms of active transport are also a great way of promoting a health lifestyle and helping our young people to develop good habits at an early age.

Talk to the Berrimba team to learn more!



HIGHLIGHTING FOSTER CARE AT NJERNDABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Have you seen our billboard at Kyabram, advertising our foster care service?

We've been running a campaign all year to attract new people to get involved in foster care, and this billboard is just our latest attempt to raise awareness.

Want to know more about foster care and keeping our kids on Country? Contact fostering@njernda.com.au or 5481 0620, or read more on our website: www.njernda.com.au/services/family-support/foster-carer-eio/



BAROONA DAY PROGRAM SUPPORTING YOUTH



Our Baroona Day Program is a preventive scheme, offering an alternative for those who are disengaged from school or at risk of entering the justice system.

This program is proving successful so far and we are looking at growing in 2025.

Our aim is to provide our youth with life and cultural skills in a safe environment.

We provide social skills, tool knowledge and work in a team environment, developing cultural knowledge in skills such as didge making, fishing and grubbing.

Each participant can bring their own project or we will give them one.

We have had four participants consistently come over the past two months and we are open to having up to ten in the new year.

If you would like to learn more about the Baroona Day Program, please contact Damaar Hearn on 0427 381 047.

EARL EMBRACES LEARNING OPPORTUNITY



Recently we had one of our staff members, Earl Handy attend the Milparanga Emerging Leadership Program in Cairns. Earl (pictured here at the back left in a blue cap) was one of 15 to be selected out of a nation-wide program.

The Milparanga Emerging Leadership Program is an immersive and transformative program. It equips the participants with the skills to apply cultural awareness, gender perspectives, political insights and environmental understanding to their decision-making.

"Over the experience I grew my understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture from the Traditional Owners there and how their strong leadership has helped their community," Earl says.

"The immersive program gave me a broader perspective of what great leadership is and how I can apply it in work and all aspects of my life. In the Milparanga program I learnt that there can be continual introspection and growth that will help me in the future, as well as building and strengthening connections with the amazing people you might meet or already know.

"One important thing I learnt is that pushing myself out of my comfort zone can lead to amazing opportunities."

Well done to Earl for completing the program!

BE READY FOR HOLIDAY BREAK

OUR SERVICES WILL CLOSE FOR THE HOLIDAY BREAK.

WILL BE CLOSED FROM MONDAY 23
DECEMBER 2024, AND WILL REOPEN
ON MONDAY 6 JANUARY 2025.

Njernda
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Our teams are taking a short break over the Christmas and New Year period.

Our services will be closed from Monday 23 December 2024, and will reopen the Monday 6 January 2025.

If you're a patient at our medical clinic, please remember to check your scripts to ensure you have plenty to last you over the holidays.

Patients are urged to book now if they need a prescription or a check up before our closure period.

For any urgent medical care during our closure period, please call 000 or visit the Echuca Regional Health emergency department.

There are also mental health services available, including 13YARN - which can be contacted on 13 92 76 or at 13yarn.org.au - and Lifeline, which is at lifeline.org.au or on 13 11 14.

We hope you have a safe and happy holiday, we'll see you in the new year!

COVID remains a part of our lives and right now we're experiencing an increase in cases across Victoria.

During this time, it is especially important to be mindful that those at greatest risk of becoming seriously ill – this includes people aged 65 and above, people with a disability or chronic medical condition and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

- If you're not well, stay home
- Wear a mask if you're visiting someone in a high-risk setting
- Ensure ventilation by letting fresh air in or meeting outdoors
- Test if you have symptoms before going to a party or gathering
- Immunity wanes over time, make sure you're up to date with your COVID vax

For more advice on what you can do to protect yourself and others, visit:
<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-victoria>



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

Berrimba Childcare wish all our families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

LAST DAY DEC 19TH 2024
FIRST DAY JAN 7TH 2025

NJERNDAA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SAVE THIS DATE
More information to follow

FRIDAY
3 JANUARY
2025

12 PM –
2 PM

Echuca East Community Facility
54 Sutton Street Echuca

NJERNDABORIGINAL
CORPORATION

SCHOOL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

UPDATE!!!

LIMITS- SINGLE PARENT- \$250 PER
CHILD

PARTNERED-\$125 PER CHILD

Government Assistance
School Saving Bonus of \$400 is also
available to all school age children. Refer to
link below.

<https://www.vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus>

Contact:
Njernda Corporate Office
51-55 Heygarth Street , Echuca
(03) 5481 0610

NJERNDABORIGINAL CORPORATION
School Assistance Application Form

Date: _____

Childs Information

Child name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

School attending: _____

Grade: _____

Parent Information

Parent name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

PLEASE CIRCLE

Have you got a COA? Yes or No

Marital status: Single or Partnered

Employment Details Partner 1: Unemployed Fulltime Part-time Casual

Employment Partner 2: Unemployed Fulltime Part-time Casual

PLEASE NOTE- THERE ARE CHANGES TO ASSESSMENT PROCESSES ELIGIBILITY:

The child needs a confirmation of Aboriginality Form

There is a limit of \$250 per single parent family and \$125 per coupled family

ALL APPLICATION FOR 2024 CLOSE 16TH DECEMBER 2024



BABY (BURRAI) WELCOME TO COUNTRY SIGN UP FORM

FOR BURRAI'S BORN
FROM 2022 -2024

Parents/Carers
Name :

Email Address :

Phone Number :

Burrai's Name :

Burrai's Date of
Birth :

 / /

Burrai's Name :

Burrai's Date of
Birth :

 / /

For more information please don't hesitate to contact

Koralynn Dodds - Early Years
Manager

koralynnd@njernda.com.au

Colleen Day Muhr - Best Start
Facilitator

colleend@njernda.com.au

STAFF DRESS DOWN TO SUPPORT OUR KIDS

Our fantastic staff used their Casual Dress Fridays to raise more than \$1000 for Berrimba Childcare Centre this year!

Each casual dress day throughout the year, our teams make a small donation towards Berrimba. Their donations will make a meaningful impact for the children coming into the Christmas season, and it is all thanks to everyone's collaborative efforts and generous donations. We are looking ahead to next year, we aim to exceed our goal once again.

A huge thank you to everyone for your continued support and participation. Your contributions truly make a difference for the children of our community.



WORK WITH US!

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

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.



Want to play a key role in an organisation dedicated to serving the community?

Chief Financial Officer

This position is responsible for the operational management of all financial services, administration and associated support services to ensure the achievement of Njernda's strategic plan.



- Full time, ongoing position
- Supportive culture
- Innovative, growing organisation

Applications close Friday 27 December 2024.

More info:

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

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CONTACT US:

Njernda Aboriginal Corporation
51 - 55 Heygarth Street Echuca (Corporate Office)
Phone: (03) 5481 0610
www.njernda.com.au

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