



Fresh look for garden space

A partnership between our Njernda team and the Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit has transformed an unused plot of land into a thriving Indigenous community garden.

Learn more about this fantastic project.

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LOOK OUT FOR MOSQUITOES

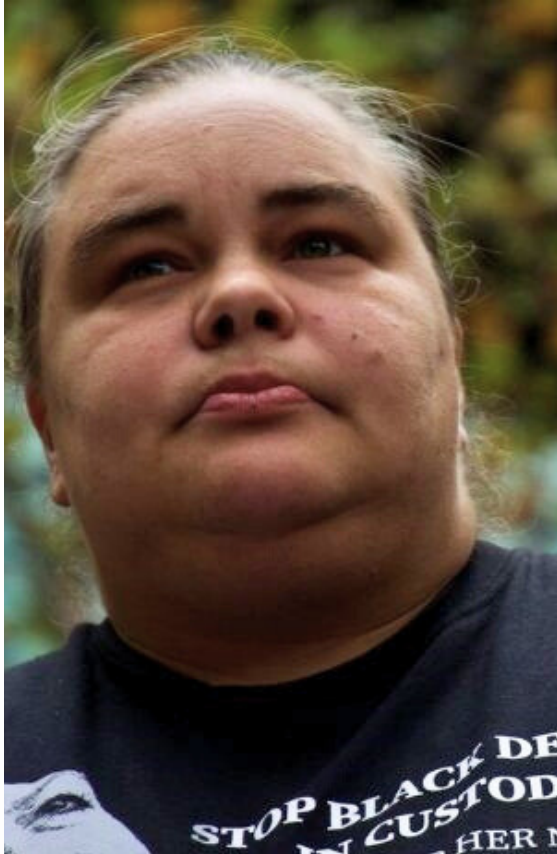
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Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR - BELINDA DAY



I'd like to start 2024 by welcoming our members and staff back for the new year and wishing you all the best for the 12 months ahead.

In 2024 Njernda will be celebrating our 50th anniversary in servicing our community. We acknowledge the struggle of our founding members that paved the way for those of us that have contributed to where we are today.

We are excited to have Candace Williams take on the role as 50th Anniversary Events Coordinator, and we look forward to showcasing our achievements as a community throughout the year.

While 50 years is an important milestone to celebrate and reflect on, we also are aware as a Board that there are some clear strategic priorities for our corporation that will continue to be at the forefront of our core business.

A key priority for the Board has been the recruitment for our new Chief Executive Officer. The position was advertised nationally with applications now closed.

The Board is confident the net has been cast far and wide to identify the right person to lead Njernda into the next phase of our ever-expanding community.

In closing, the Board is excited about what the next 12 months will bring for our community, members and staff as we look forward to the next 50 years of service.

CATH MARKS A DECADE OF SERVING OUR KIDS

We love to recognise important milestones in our Njernda team and recently it was the wonderful Cathleen Andrews we were celebrating! Cheers to 10 years Cath!

Please join us in congratulating Cath on her decade of service to Berrimba.

The love and care Cath shows to our community, families and most importantly our Berrimba children shines through in her love for her work.

Cath comes to Berrimba each day with a positive attitude, and a real passion to be here, doing her best and striving to provide our children with quality care.

We are all so proud of her achievement and her commitment. Thank you so much Catho!



CANDACE TO HELP LEAD CELEBRATIONS



My name is Candace Williams and I am the Njernda 50th Anniversary Event Coordinator.

I am a proud Yorta Yorta, Wiradjuri and Gunnai woman and I am very excited for the opportunity to coordinate the upcoming events that celebrate Njernda's 50th Anniversary. As a born and raised Echuca woman and growing up in this community and with Njernda, it is with great pride that I take on this role that celebrates our Elders, community, and organisation in our 50th year. Njernda Aboriginal Corporation is one of the first Aboriginal organisation to be established, not only in the state, but in the country. We want to ensure that the significance of our organisation's journey over 50 years is celebrated and honoured, while also remembering how far we've come and where we are today.

Throughout the year you will see many events take places to commemorate this significant year. I invite you all to share your special stories and memories with us. I will be located at Corporate Services and would love to hear all your beautiful memories and stories of our rich history here in Echuca.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS BAGS A BIG SUCCESS

These holiday treats came at just the right time this summer for our kids... and our families!

A huge thank you to Kristie Hearn, who packed 150 of these showbags full of all sorts of goodies for our primary school-aged children.

Vouchers were also made available via our Youth team for kids in secondary school.

Importantly, our team is also supporting families as we head back to school for 2024.

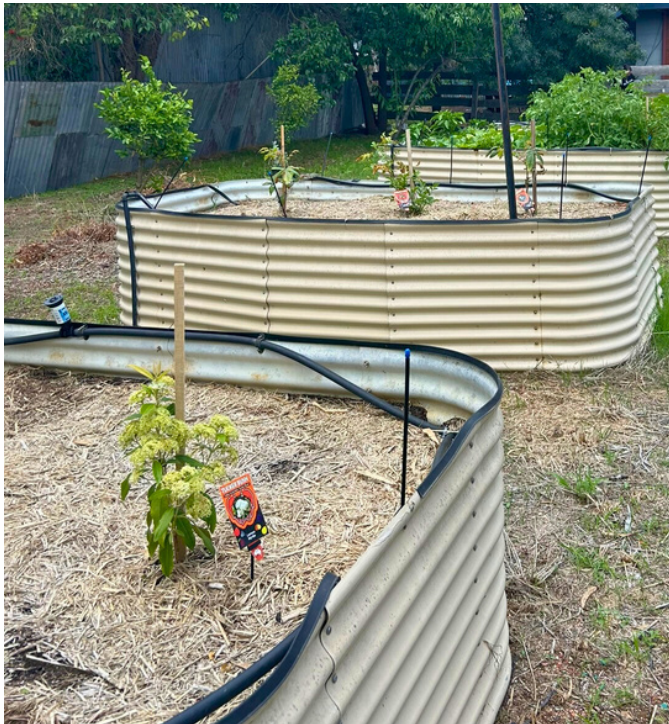
Our School Assistance Program is designed to help contribute to the cost of children heading back to school.

Assistance worth up to \$250 is available to eligible children each year, and is available to support school-related items ONLY.

The businesses that work with us are Worklocker Echuca, Intersport Echuca and Hip Pocket Echuca. Further details and application forms can be sourced from the Youth Hub.



COMMUNITY GARDEN BLOOMS WITH LOVE



A previously dormant plot of land has been transformed into a thriving Indigenous community garden in a partnership between Njernda Aboriginal Corporation and the Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit (LMPHU).

The aptly named garden “Yurri Mandiga” (fresh food in Yorta Yorta language) is situated on Njernda-owned land on Goulburn Road in Echuca and aims to improve access to locally produced, fresh, healthy, plant-based food for those in need.

Njernda Healthy Lifestyles Coordinator Denise Barwick said the seven newly established garden beds are now home to an array of Indigenous plants including Cinnamon Myrtle, Aniseed Myrtle, Lemon Myrtle, Finger Limes and Davidson’s Plum, in addition to non-Indigenous plants including strawberries, watermelon, cantaloupe, pumpkin, radishes, capsicums and tomatoes.

“It was really important to include the Indigenous plants, as it’s a way to keep that connection to culture through these native plants,” she said.

“The aim of the garden is to bring the community together, support cultural empowerment and enable education and knowledge sharing amongst the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

“The garden is a really wonderful way to breathe new life into a space that was previously overrun with weeds and not very appealing to look at – now it’s an oasis of beautiful fresh fruit and vegetables that will benefit many people.”

Ms Barwick said the fruit and vegetable bounty will be harvested once a week and shared with community members in need.

“With the cost of living the way it is, people are really struggling,” she said.

“We’ll be placing the produce at the front of Njernda for people doing it tough to come along and help themselves – every little bit helps.

“We’ll be working with the Youth and Justice teams as well as the Elders to come together and maintain the garden as it flourishes, which is a really nice way to connect and help out those in need.”

Loddon Mallee Public Health Units Operations Manager Emma Vains said the LMPHU are “committed to supporting placed based initiatives in local communities, that meets local needs.”

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM MOSQUITOES

The recent rain has created ideal breeding conditions for mosquitoes.

We are encouraging the community to seek protection from bites and illness by:

- Covering up by wearing long, loose-fitting clothing
- Using mosquito repellents containing Picaridin or DEET
- Checking the repellent label before applying to children
- Limiting outdoor activity
- Removing stagnant water where mosquitoes can breed
- Making sure windows are fitted with mosquito netting or screens

For more information, visit

www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/mosquitoes-can-carry-diseases

Vaccination against the mosquito-borne virus Japanese Encephalitis can also help keep you healthy.

You can learn more about the virus and the vaccine here: www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/japanese-encephalitis



Welcome to new colleagues

We are excited to confirm two new members of our Medical team.

Janelle Handy is our new business support officer, and Colleen Atkinson has joined us as a casual driver and receptionist.

Congratulations to both!



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!



Need to update your COVID vaccination?

Over 50 and interested in a free Shingles vaccination?

Contact us on 5481 0600 to book an appointment.

Have you changed your address or phone number?

Let Njernda Medical know so we can update your records!



COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



Koori Court and Legal Clinic BBQ
Wednesday 14th February
34 Annesley Street - Wellbeing Unit
11:30am - 2:30pm

Come for a Yarn and BBQ about the Koori
Court coming to Echuca.

Hear about the Njernda Legal Clinic and what
they do.

Yarn with VALS, VLA and Koori Court
representatives.

For further information contact Local Justice
Worker Colin Atkinson 0459 908 213



Sheriff's Aboriginal Liaison Officer

A Sheriff's
Aboriginal Liaison
Officer (SALO) can
help with your
outstanding fines
and warrants



A Sheriff's Aboriginal Liaison Officer (SALO) works with the Community to provide advice and help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in a culturally safe manner with:

- Infringement fines and payment arrangements
- Options available to resolve outstanding fines
- Outstanding Sheriff's warrants

A SALO is not a Sheriff's Officer.

Who can I contact for more information?
Wayne Walsh - Loddon Mallee Region
Wayne.Walsh@justice.vic.gov.au
0429 659 943

More information on fines is available from www.fines.vic.gov.au

WAYNE WALSH - LODDON MALLEE REGION SALO

WAYNE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN PERSON, AT THE NJERNDABORIGINAL CORPORATION'S FAMILY SERVICES BUILDING, WHICH IS LOCATED AT:
103 - 107 HARE STREET, ECHUCA

APPOINTMENTS ARE NOT NECESSARY, WALK-INS ARE ACCEPTED AS EACH PERSON IS SEEN TO IN ORDER OF ARRIVAL TO RECEPTION

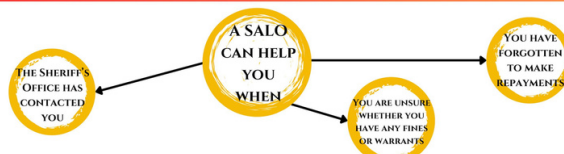
PLEASE SEE DATES AND TIMES FOR WHEN WAYNE WILL BE AVAILABLE ONSITE

JANUARY
MONDAY 22 JANUARY 10AM-3PM

FEBRUARY
MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY 10AM-3PM
MONDAY 19 FEBRUARY 10AM-3PM

MARCH
MONDAY 4 MARCH 10AM-3PM
MONDAY 18 MARCH 10AM-3PM

APRIL
MONDAY 1 APRIL 10AM-3PM
MONDAY 15 APRIL 10AM-3PM
MONDAY 29 APRIL 10AM-3PM



THE DEPARTMENT ACKNOWLEDGES ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND AND ACKNOWLEDGES AND PAYS RESPECT TO THEIR ELDERS, PAST AND PRESENT

NO TUITION FEES FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS ON MANY TAFE COURSES

FROM 1 JANUARY 2024, ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENTS AT BENDIGO TAFE PAY NO TUITION FEES* ON A WIDE RANGE OF TAFE COURSES.

Skills First - a Victorian Government program that provides access to subsidised training for eligible courses - now offers Tuition Fee subsidies for Indigenous students. So there's never been a better time to start studying!
Over 9,000 students study more than 100 vocational courses at Bendigo TAFE every year. Our experienced teachers, modern campuses and exciting programs create a dynamic and welcoming environment for learning.
Entry to courses is not based on ATAR. Study locally and get ready for your new future.

Bendigo TAFE offers courses in:

- Animals, Plants & Sciences
- Automotive
- Accounting, IT, Business & Management
- Health & Community Services
- Hair, Beauty & Creative
- English & Foundation Studies
- Trades & Industrial
- Hospitality, Culinary & Baking

The Indigenous Education Centre (IEC) plays an important role in supporting Aboriginal students by providing a welcoming environment and assisting with finding the right TAFE course, getting enrolled and starting training.

The IEC also holds events through the year, celebrating Aboriginal and Indigenous culture and key milestones to which all the students are invited to along with friends and family.

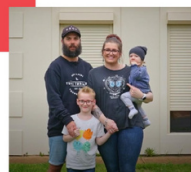
There are dedicated Koorie Liaison Officers, Koorie Student Support Officers and a Koorie Engagement Mentor at the IEC to assist students in accessing a full range of support services, to help successfully complete their course.

CONTACT US TO DISCUSS YOUR OPTIONS AND FIND THE COURSE THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU:
MERINDA SLATER, KOORIE LIAISON OFFICER: M.SLATER@BENDIGOTAFE.EDU.AU | 1300 328 329

BTO No. 30771 CMC05, Provider No. 02365 | January 2024 | Some or all of this training is delivered with Victorian and Commonwealth Government funding. *Please note that other fees and charges, such as Materials Fees and Consumables Fees, may still apply depending on the course.

Bendigo TAFE acknowledges their campuses are located on the ancestral lands of the Guurni people of the Gae Dja Wurruung and the Yorta Yorta People. The Institute respects traditional custodians, Elders and their cultural heritage.

THINKING ABOUT OWNING YOUR OWN HOME?



We'll be in your area soon! Come along to the next workshop to learn about IBA's home loan products, eligibility criteria, the process and how you can prepare for success. I look forward to seeing you.

Njernda Family Services, Kookaburra Room

Date: Tuesday 5th March 2024

10am to 12pm - First Workshop followed by face on appointments.
12pm-1pm - Light lunch provided to participants
1:30pm - Second workshop followed by face on appointments till 4PM

Unable to make it? Scan the QR code to register for our online sessions.

For more information contact:

June.Edwards@IBA.gov.au or 0399206001



This workshop provides you with all the info you need before submitting an IBA home loan application, and answer any questions you may have about the process. In this one-hour free workshop we will discuss:

- **IBA eligibility criteria:** what criteria you must meet to be considered for an IBA home loan
- **IBA vs mainstream lenders:** make an informed decision on whether an IBA home loan is right for you
- **The steps to owning a home with IBA:** a step by step guide to the IBA home loan process
- **Interest rates & deposit requirements:** information about our commencing interest rates and deposit you will need
- **Loan scenarios:** walk through different scenarios, show you how you can access and use our home loan calculator
- **Resources & tools:** options if you need assistance and what tools are available

26-01-2023

iba.gov.au 1800 107 107 [f](#) [in](#) [v](#) [t](#) [w](#) [a](#)

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION AND Q&A

WHEN: Wednesday 7th February 2024

WHERE: Njernda Aboriginal Corporation
103-109 Hare St, Echuca VIC

TIME: 9.30am - 10.30am

BRING YOUR BILL !

We will be available for any questions after the session

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Are you having difficulties paying your energy bill? We can help you with:



Talk to your energy retailer and get help if you have debt



Access extra financial support



Check you are getting your Government energy concessions and ensure the concessions are applied to your bill



Find and move to an affordable energy plan



Understand your bill and fix any possible errors



Save money by changing the way you use energy around the home



Understand what other supports are available

**All you need
is a copy of
your most
recent bill.**

Call Anglicare Victoria's Energy Team on 1800 531 741



**Register
Here**



Translating and
Interpreting Services
are available

This program is supported
by the Victorian State
Government



**BETTER
TOMORROWS**

anglicarevic.org.au

Housing Justice is visiting, 2024



housing justice
supporting tenants in the Loddon Campaspe



Tenant information, advice and support!

Information and Assistance

Housing Justice provides information and assistance to tenants.

Support

Housing Justice supports tenants living in public housing.

**Housing Justice provides a
free and confidential service**

*Housing Justice helps clients stand up for themselves.
We can also speak on tenants' behalf.*

Family Services

103-107 Hare Street, Echuca
10am to 12pm

If you have any enquiries, or require some further information
phone us and have a chat with:

Our SAAP Officer
(03) 54 810 620

First Friday of each Month

Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation

Our outreach includes Maryborough, Echuca,
Castlemaine, Kyabram and Rochester

(03) 5445 0990
171 Hargreaves Street, Bendigo

(1800 450 990) If outside Bendigo
www.arcjustice.org.au

Housing Justice is a program of the
Advocacy & Rights Centre Ltd trading as Arc Justice



OUR PHONE NUMBERS ARE CHANGING...*

MEDICAL: **5481 0600**

CORPORATE: **5481 0610**

FAMILY SERVICES: **5481 0620**

YOUTH/WEELLBEING: **5481 0630**

BERRIMBA: **5481 0640**

YAKAPNA: **5481 0650**

NYINI GYM: **5481 0669**

**TO MAKE
IT EASIER
FOR YOU
TO GET IN
TOUCH!**



*From September 4

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 Aunty Trish or the HR Team.

Get all the details of all our jobs and apply on our website,
njernda.com.au



**WE ARE
HIRING!**

JOIN THE HAPPY TEAM
AT
BERRIMBA

We're forming a
pool of casual staff
to support
our Berrimba Early
Years programs -
to help our kids
love learning and
strengthen
connection to
Culture,
Community &
Country

Got skills, a can-do attitude and happy to learn?

CONTACT US:

(03) 5480 6252
jobs@njernda.com.au

Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation

CONTACT US:

Njernda Aboriginal Corporation
51 - 55 Heygarth Street Echuca (Corporate Office)
Phone: (03) 5480 6252
www.njernda.com.au

Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation