

NJERNDA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION | MARCH 2024 EDITION

NJERNDA NEWS



STORY INSPIRES ANNIVERSARY LOGO PAGE 2 GIVING OUR KIDS THEIR BEST START PAGE 4 **HEALTH NEWS** PAGE 5 STEP FORWARD FOR JESSICA'S CAREER

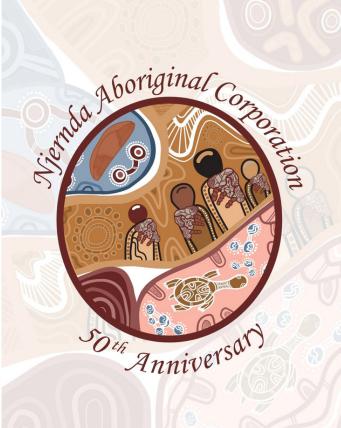
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EMMA'S DESIGN CAPTURES OUR STORY







Emma Bamblett is a proud Aboriginal woman with Wemba Wemba, Gunditjmara, Ndgajon-ji and Taungurung connections.

Born and raised in Echuca, Emma has a strong connection to community and Njernda Aboriginal Corporation. She is a proud mother of 4 children and Nan to two gorgeous Granddaughters and is also the Granddaughter of respected Elder and Founding Member - Valerie Mitchell.

Emma remembers her Nan Valerie Mitchell along with Aunty Melva Johnson always advocating for our community and our youth to have safe spaces of connection and education in Echuca. Emma remembers being raised by the Aunties at Berrimba and catching up with all her cousins and friends at afterschool care, holiday program and homework classes at the Health House.

She also has fond memories of going to Robinvale for school holidays and sitting watching her Aunty Barb Egan paint. Emma's love and passion for painting started 18 years ago as a therapeutic way to deal with life stresses.

She has worked with and supported community organisations to share their stories through art and has also done commissioned work across many sectors and departments. Emma currently works in the Aboriginal Children's Healing space where she can share her passion for art, Identity and Connection. Emma along with her business partner Megan Van Den Berg own and run their successful retail store in Northcote, Melbourne called 'Kinya Lerrk'. Kinya Lerrk is a store that showcases beautiful homewares, gifts and art and promotes and supports other Aboriginal businesses in the Community.

Emma's artist signature is her vibrant and bright colours, and we are very thrilled and excited to have her as our artist for Njernda's 50th Anniversary.

Please see our new logo and artwork by Emma Bamblett and her story of community, connection, culture and belonging.

INSPIRED BY NJERNDA'S STORY

Mjern Qa Mews



Artwork Title: Resilience, Strength and Pride

Artist: Emma Bamblett Mob: Wemba Wemba, Gunditjmara, Ngadjonji and Taungurung

Artwork Description: Looking at this artwork from a bird's eye view, it encompasses all of the important elements of identity and culture that I remember being enriched in growing up in Echuca on the Murray River which is the stream flowing throughout the artwork.

Within the river in the middle of the artwork is our Elders standing strong and who advocated for our Community to have our places of belonging. They are wearing possum skin cloaks to highlight their connections to language, land and kinship.

The coolamon on the left hand side with curved lines connected by circles, represents all the Aunties and Uncles at Berrimba who nurtured, protected and gave us a place of belonging.

The blue area above represents symbols of places that Njernda gave Community, whether it be the Health House, Wellness Centre, Youth Services or Baroona Farm.

To the bottom of the artwork is the Long Neck Turtle. The Long Neck Turtle represents and acknowledges the Yorta Yorta Nations on which the Community is living on. Surrounding the Long Neck Turtle are circles of connection which also represent 'Warma' and the opportunities that were provided through sports.

The top right hand corner are symbols of boomerangs, these represent our connection to Culture. For 50 years Njernda has provided Community with Cultural experiences and allows Community to showcase this through dance, art and storytelling while also providing a safe place of belonging.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO JOHN MITCHELL

Miern Qa Mews



As many of you would already know, I am a proud Wemba Wemba/Gundtijmara man, and I was born and bred in Echuca. My mother Valerie Mitchell was one of the founding members of Njernda and was an advocate for her people. I believe I share my mother's values of hard work, integrity, social justice and forging pathways for our Community. I am passionate about working for and making positive changes for my local and wider Community. My expansive and innate knowledge of the complex needs of my community for me, highlights the importance of more work opportunities, increased housing, early education, family violence concerns, legal issues, child protection challenges and the need to keep our cultural position strong and vibrant.

It is paramount for Njernda to continue meaningful relationships with funding bodies, NACCHO, VACCHO and other relevant Organisations. I have developed and continue to maintain good rapports with State organisations from my roles as Deputy CEO at Njernda and Chair of VACCHO and RAJAC. During my tenure as Deputy CEO, I was able to secure funding for a lot of programs at Njernda, including funding to redevelop Baroona Healing Service, a program very dear to me. I am committed to the principles of self-determination and working as one to see the best outcomes for our Community. I look forward to seeing many old and new faces around the organisation and in Community as I help lead the organisation into this milestone 50th year of service.

BEST START FORUM BUILDS COLLABORATION

On Tuesday the 19th of March, Emma (pictured) and Koralynn from our Berrimba team attended the VACSAL Best Start forum in Northcote.

It was fantastic to be a part of the statewide Aboriginal Best Start forum, where there was a focus on collaborative partnerships to "keep the fire burning".

There were several great speakers that were culturally focused and had so much knowledge and great insight to share on the day. We learnt so much and it was great to get out and recognise the critical role that best start plays for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Thanks to VACSAL for providing such a great forum - we really enjoyed getting down to Melbourne and being able to network again.



CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Health
Uplate

Healthy ears are crucial for children, and some great information about looking after them is available from NACCHO.

Middle ear infection (Otitis Media) can lead to hearing loss and negatively impact on children's development outcomes, quality of life, family harmony, school readiness, and transmission of cultural and linguistic knowledge.

To ensure our children have a strong start, Care for Kids' Ears offers free information and resources about ear health for parents, carers, teachers, teachers' aides, early childhood workers and health professionals.

Resources explain:

- · what ear disease is.
- · the symptoms (or lack of symptoms).
- · how to prevent ear disease and,
- the importance of getting regular ear checks. Check out these free resources from NACCHO: https://store.naccho.org.au/pages/care-for-kids-ears



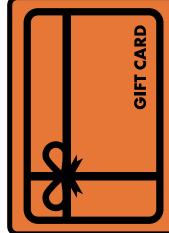


Pharmacy career support

NACCHO has announced the third year of its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacist Scholarship.

Each recipient will receive up to \$10,000 per annum to contribute to university expenses.

For questions or further information, please contact Harrison Milne on 0481 257 904 or harrison.milne@naccho.org.au



Due for a health check?

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



Are you ready for the Easter break?

Check your medications and prescriptions, and book an appointment with our medical clinic if you need anything!

Have you changed your address or phone number?

Let Njernda Medical know so we can update your records!



COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Njernda Aboriginal Corporation

YARKA YAKAPNA CORROBOREE

"Easter Cultural Event

FREE ENTRY

Everyone of all ages and walks of life are more than welcome to attend, to experience a fun and informative day full of traditional and cultural events!

CATCH A RIDE

Transport will be provided via Bus, leaving from Youth Services (The Hub) 1st trip @ 9:30am & 2nd trip @ 10:15am



Need directions? Scan the QR code

- Learn with Elders
- Bush Tucker
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Amusement Rides
- Traditional Dancing
- Boys 2 the Bush
- Animal Petting Zoo
- Arts & Crafts
- Cultural Walks
- Yabbie Races
- Emu Egg carving
- Wood Carving/Burning
- Traditional Games
- Goody Bags
- Health Promotion
- Marquee Stalls
- Food & Refreshments
- Raffle Prizes

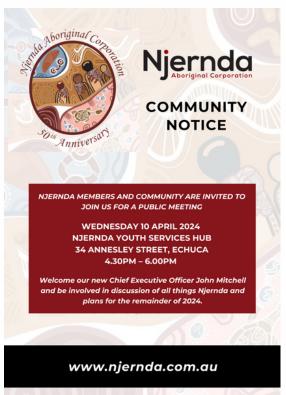
11th of April, 2024

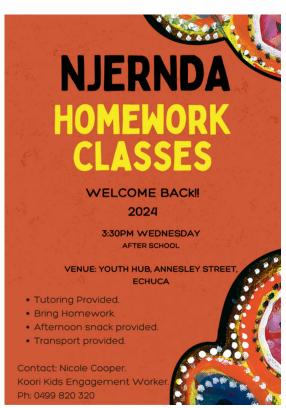
10:30am to 3:00pm

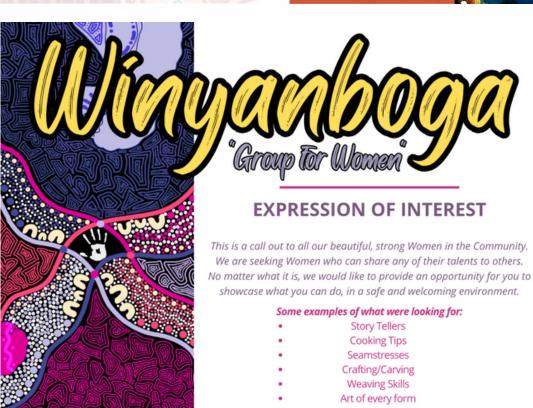
Baroona Farm

access via Braund Road Echuca VIC, 3564

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD







Any skill that you have, we would love for you to share it!

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A big congratulations to Jessica Smith on obtaining your Graduate Certificate in Client Assessment and Case Management.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the family violence sector and the work you do in the community.



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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