



UPCOMING DATES

Keeping you upto date with all of our events to put into your calendar for 2026.

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NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATIONS

This year marked '50 years of Deadly!' A recap on Njernda's celebrations.

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KOORIE YOUTH HEALTH & WELLBEING CAMP

Connection, culture and plenty of laughs at our youth camp.

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Celebrating Njernda's team achievements

It's been a wonderful few months of growth here at Njernda, with several of our staff stepping up into new roles within the organisation. We love seeing our team's hard work and dedication recognised, and we're proud to celebrate these well-earned promotions.



Leona Cooper
Early Years Manager at Berrimba Childcare.



Rowena Rose
Receptionist at Corporate Services.



Dylan Gordon
Koori Kids Engagement Worker.



Louise Verstage
Family Services Coordinator.



Clinton Atkinson
Barooka Youth Healing Centre Manager.

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN'S DAY

On 4 August, Njernda came together to mark National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day, a day led nationally by SNAICC and celebrated across the country every year since 1988.

This year's theme, Living Our Truth, is all about the power of story. It reminds us that when children grow up knowing the truth of who they are and where they come from, they grow up strong, connected and proud. It's also a moment to honour our Elders, who carry so much of that knowledge, and to celebrate our own kids as the ones who will carry it forward.

Our morning tea captured that spirit beautifully, with children, families, educators and staff coming together for a deadly time, before the kids capped the day off with a disco in the afternoon.

A big thank you to Uncle Narj for hosting, and to every staff member, family and educator who pitched in to make the day so special.



KINDER CULTURAL CONNECTION DAY

More than 60 children and 30 educators came together for a special Kinders Day on Country, part of the Weaving Waterways project hosted by Campaspe Shire and Candice Williams.

Led by our Berrimba team and community Elders, children from Campaspe Community Childcare Centre, Insight Early Learning Moama and Berrimba spent the day exploring culture and Country through storytelling, music, bush craft, clay creations, native planting and rock painting, along with dancing and didgeridoo with Uncle Narj, and learning about our Bayadherra with Graeme from Turtles Australia.

The day was all about learning through play and deepening connections to culture, Country and community.

A huge thank you to Berrimba, the Elders, educators and participating centres for making the day such a memorable and fun experience for everyone involved.

UPCOMING DATES

- AUG 14** Youth & Wellbeing 12pm service closure
- AUG 14** 2026 Elder's Gala Moama Bowling Club
- AUG 17** Walkabout Barber Youth & Wellbeing Hub
- AUG 26** VALS Legal Info Clinic Youth & Wellbeing Hub
- SEP 2** Educator's Day
- SEP 14** Sheriff Info Visit Youth & Wellbeing Hub
- SEP 23** VACSAL Football/Netball 23rd- 24th Sep

NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATION RECAP

Mr & Miss NAIDOC

Congratulations to our crowned Mr & Miss NAIDOC, and Little Mr & Little Miss NAIDOC, for 2026. Malik Day was crowned Mr NAIDOC 2026, Alkira Hearn took out Miss NAIDOC 2026, Ilaitia Taga-Hudson was named Little Mr NAIDOC 2026, and Lenhi Gordon was crowned Little Miss NAIDOC 2026.

Our deadly winners were crowned at Berrimba Child Care Centre on Friday 3 July, and we couldn't have been prouder. They represented our community at events right throughout NAIDOC Week, and it was wonderful to see everyone give them a big cheer when they were out and about.

A big thank you to everyone who nominated, to all of our wonderful candidates, and to Kylie, Cath and the Berrimba team for hosting such a beautiful morning. Here's to another year of celebrating NAIDOC week!



Opening Ceremony

NAIDOC Week kicked off with a beautiful Opening Ceremony at the Njernda Medical Centre, featuring a flag raising, Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony led by Uncle Rick Ronnan.

A big thank you went to our CEO John Mitchell and Cr Tony Marwood from Campaspe Shire Council, who shared some words to open the week, and to everyone who came along to be part of it. It was deadly to see so many familiar faces gathered together for such a special milestone, 50 Years of Deadly!



NAIDOC Youth Gala

As part of NAIDOC Week celebrations, Njernda welcomed over 70 local young people to the Moama Bowling Club for the NAIDOC Youth Gala, celebrating culture, community and 50 Years of Deadly. The dance floor was pumping, the smiles were huge, and the vibes were unreal all night long.

Congratulations to our Belle of the Ball, Kiara Day, and Beau of the Ball, Djikurra Atkinson, along with all of our award winners who lit up the dance floor with their deadly moves.

A big thank you to our Njernda Youth Team for the time, passion and hard work that went into creating such a fun, safe and memorable night, along with Balloon Design by Studio Z, BT Photo Booth, DJ Lokki, and the staff at Moama Bowling Club for helping bring the night to life.

Most of all, thank you to every young person, family and community member who came along and made it such a special celebration.

Elder's Breakfast and Luncheon

As part of NAIDOC Week celebrations, Njernda was proud to host an Elders Breakfast at Family Services and an Elders Luncheon at the Mercure in Echuca, bringing our community together to celebrate and honour our Elders.

Both events were a special opportunity to acknowledge the wisdom, guidance and ongoing contribution our Elders bring to our community. From the knowledge passed down through generations to the strength and leadership they continue to show today, our Elders are the backbone of our community, and these gatherings gave us the chance to say thank you and show our appreciation in person.

Events like these remind us how important it is to take the time to honour those who have paved the way for us, and to continue learning from their guidance as we move forward together.

A big thank you to everyone involved in bringing these events together, and to all of our Elders for continuing to share their knowledge, strength and wisdom with our community.



Dharnya Day

Njernda was honoured to attend Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation's NAIDOC Week celebrations on Wednesday 8 July, marking the official opening of the Dharnya Centre at Barmah. In this milestone year of NAIDOC, the event celebrated the reopening of the Dharnya Centre as a place for culture, connection and community for Yorta Yorta people.

Despite the cold weather, blue skies greeted attendees for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony, led by Uncle Lance James alongside YYNAC CEO John Kerr. The day was filled with Yorta Yorta dancers, live music, stalls, food and children's activities, all part of the celebrations marking 50 years of Deadly.

Congratulations to YYNAC and the Yorta Yorta community on a wonderful event.



NAIDOC Men's Day

As part of NAIDOC Week's celebrations, Njernda brought the men of our community together for NAIDOC Men's Day at Tindarra Resort in Moama on Thursday 9 July. True to its theme of celebrating our Strong Men, the day gave the fellas a chance to come together, connect and mark fifty years of NAIDOC in good company.

From late morning through to early afternoon, the men enjoyed a catered lunch and plenty of laughs courtesy of comedian Aden Hitchins, along with door prizes and gift bags throughout the day. NAIDOC Men's Day reflected Njernda's ongoing commitment to the health and wellbeing of our community, offering a safe and welcoming space for the men to yarn, relax and be proud of their culture.

Thank you to everyone who came along and helped make the day such a success.



NAIDOC Women's Day

Njernda celebrated NAIDOC Women's Day on Thursday 9 July at the Dungala Event Centre in Moama, bringing together sistas, aunties and nans from across the community for a day of connection and celebration. As part of NAIDOC Week's 50 Years of Deadly celebrations, the event honoured the strength and resilience of Aboriginal women, past and present.

Guests enjoyed a catered lunch, pamper stations and door prizes throughout the day, with everyone going home with a gift bag to remember the occasion. Transport was made available for those who needed it, ensuring the day was accessible to as many women as possible, and the event was proudly held as an alcohol and drug free space.

It was a wonderful day of laughter, relaxation and community spirit, a fitting tribute to the deadly women who continue to lead and strengthen our community. Thank you to everyone who came along and made the day one to remember.



Art Book Project

Little Voices, Our Stories
Book Launch and Art Exhibition

As part of NAIDOC Week 2026, Njernda proudly celebrated the launch of 'Little Voices, Our Stories', a beautiful collection of artwork and stories created entirely by our young people. The event, held at the Kookaburra Meeting Room, Njernda Family Services, on Tuesday 7 July, brought together families, staff and community members for an afternoon of celebration and pride.

The book captures the voices, imagination and creativity of the children involved, many of whom took part in workshops and excursions throughout the project, exploring their surroundings and working alongside staff and community members to bring their stories and artwork to life. Guests at the launch also enjoyed a small art exhibition, with each piece proudly created and shared by its young author.

A big thank you to Aunty Col for coordinating this special project, and to everyone who came along on the day to show their support. Congratulations to all the young storytellers and artists involved.



NJERND A HOSTS FIRST LDAT MEETING

Njernda Aboriginal Corporation was proud to host the first meeting of the Local Drug Action Team (LDAT) Governance Group on Wednesday 17 June, held at our Youth & Wellbeing Unit. The meeting brought together representatives from Njernda, Echuca Regional Health, Headspace, Mind Australia, Victoria Police, Community Corrections and the Alcohol and Drug Foundation, marking the start of an important new partnership for our community.

Together, the group will work to identify local alcohol and other drug issues, share emerging trends and service gaps, and develop community-led prevention initiatives that improve outcomes for

individuals, families and the broader community. The Governance Group will continue to meet regularly, guiding the LDAT project as it grows and helping to strengthen the local partnerships that make this work possible.

It's a great step forward in building a safer, healthier community for everyone, and reflects the strength of what can be achieved when local services and organisations work together with a shared purpose. We're grateful to all the partners who came together for this first meeting, and we look forward to sharing more updates as the project continues to grow and take shape.



WARMA AUSKICK KIDS TAKE ON THE G!

On Saturday 27 June, 20 of our WARMA Auskick kids, along with 20 proud parents and carers, travelled to the AFL to experience an unforgettable day at the Collingwood vs Richmond match.

The highlight of the day was seeing our young football stars take to the MCG during the half-time break, where they proudly showcased their skills in front of thousands of AFL fans. It was an incredible opportunity and one that created lasting memories for everyone involved.

From running onto the ground to cheering on their AFL heroes from the stands, the smiles on our Auskick kids' faces said it all. They had an absolute blast, building confidence, making new friends, and enjoying every moment of this exciting experience.

A huge thank you to all the families for their support and enthusiasm, and to everyone who helped make the day such a success. Opportunities like these inspire our young people to stay active, dream big, and continue enjoying the game they love.

A very special shout-out goes to our dedicated Njernda staff, whose time, commitment and passion made this experience possible. From organising the event to supporting our young people throughout the day, your hard work behind the scenes ensured everything ran smoothly. Thank you for going above and beyond to create opportunities that our children and families will remember for years to come.

We can't wait to create many more memorable experiences with our WARMA Auskick families.



NJERNDA MURAL PROJECT BRINGS YOUTH VOICE TO LIFE

Njernda's Youth Hub was buzzing with creativity as ten local young people came together to design and paint a mural now proudly displayed on the back of our building. Led by Montana Handy, the project ran in partnership with the Shire of Campaspe and ERV, with the mural fully co-designed by the young people involved.

Each Tuesday for six weeks, the group met at the Youth Hub to work alongside successful applicant Tammy-Lee Atkinson, guiding her through their ideas, stories and designs before bringing it all to life on the wall. Participants included Munyari Johnson, Tyson Stevens, Tennesy Edwards, Bronsae Johnson, Keanu Austin, Seth Spacik, Durant Mcrae, Kiara Day, Bianca Rose and Malik Day, whose creativity and collaboration shaped every part of the finished piece.

On the day of the reveal, participant Bianca Rose shared the story behind the painting, read aloud by

her fellow students. She explained that the mural represents youth coming together as a strong and connected community, with yellow, orange and red tones reflecting the community's strength and warmth. The three rivers running through the design speak to the place they call home and their connection to community and country, while the trees symbolise growth and the journey each young person is on. Each turtle was painted individually by the students, and though they share the same form, no two are alike, just like the young people who created them. Together, the rivers and turtles tell a story of connection and of being stronger when we come together as a community.

Congratulations to all involved on a mural that will stand as a lasting reminder of what our young people can achieve when given the space to lead, create and be heard. Our community can walk past this every day and feel proud, a true reflection of the talent, voice, youth and connection.



YOUNG LUV WITH DJIRRA

Back in June, Tegan Wanganeen and Vanessa Handy attended the Young Luv program, delivered by Djirra and focused on family violence prevention and healthy relationships for girls aged 13 to 18.

The day was split into two sessions, with Aboriginal girls from years 7 to 9 in the morning and years 10 to 12 in the afternoon. Across both groups, the girls were engaged and thoughtful, drawing on their cultural strengths to build resilience while learning about power and control dynamics and how to recognise red flags in relationships.

It was wonderful to watch the girls work through what makes a relationship healthy versus unhealthy, with each group building a list of 30 to 50 words identifying the signs. It also gave them a chance to come together and better understand how to recognise when a sister girl might be struggling in an unhealthy relationship, and how to support her.

Tegan and Vanessa are grateful to Djirra for delivering this important program, and are looking forward to running more workshops like this with the young girls in our community.



NJERNDA'S L2P PROGRAM

WE HAVE OUR OWN LEARNER'S VEHICLE!

DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE GETTING YOUR LEARNER'S PERMIT?

DO YOU NEED DRIVING LESSONS?

CONTACT YOUTH & WELLBEING RECEPTION
5481 0630

COMMUNITY DAY

featuring *Walkabout* BARBER

MONDAY 17 AUGUST
9:30AM - 2:00PM
59 McMillan Road, Echuca

CONTACT NJERNDA YOUTH & WELLBEING FOR MORE INFO
03 5481 0630
*BARBER BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!

BBO LUNCH PROVIDED & 'LET'S DO COFFEE' VAN

AMBULANCE VICTORIA
ECHUCA CFA
POLICE VICTORIA
YARNING SAFE N STRONG HEADSPACE

YOUTH & WELLBEING CAMP

– FOUR POST CAMP, DENILIKUIN

To kick off the school holidays, the Njernda Youth and Wellbeing Team hosted a three day Youth Health & Wellbeing Camp at Four Post Camp in Deniliquin, bringing together 15 young people from the Echuca Moama community for an unforgettable experience focused on health, wellbeing, culture and connection.

The camp gave young people the chance to access health and wellbeing services in a culturally safe and supportive environment, while strengthening their cultural identity, building resilience, developing positive relationships and encouraging healthy lifestyle choices.

Day one centred on culture and connection, with a session facilitated by Black Connection and led by Alice Wickey. The activities created a warm and welcoming space for young people to connect with one another while learning about culture through creativity, including designing and creating their own personalised t-shirts and tote bags to encourage self-expression, confidence and cultural pride.

Day two focused on health education and access to local support services, with young people taking part in engaging sessions delivered by Griffith Aboriginal Medical Service through their Passport to Health program, the ERH Dental Van, VAEAI, headspace, Fire and Rescue NSW and the Njernda Wellbeing Team. These sessions covered physical health, oral health, mental wellbeing, healthy relationships, justice awareness and the importance of accessing support services. The relaxed camp setting encouraged open conversations, allowing young people to ask questions, build trust with service providers and gain a better understanding of the support available within their community.

The final morning began with a relaxing Yakoa Yoga session, giving participants the chance to unwind, practise mindfulness and reflect on their camp experience before heading home.

Throughout the three days, young people built new friendships, strengthened existing connections and enjoyed spending time outdoors in a safe and supportive environment. For many, the camp was their first opportunity to engage directly with health professionals and community organisations outside of a clinical setting, helping to build trust,

increase awareness and encourage future help-seeking behaviours. The success of the camp also highlighted just how important strong partnerships between community organisations and health services are in delivering culturally safe and meaningful programs for our young people.

The Njernda Youth and Wellbeing Team would like to sincerely thank everyone who helped make this camp such a success. A special thank you to Oakberry & Co for the delicious catering throughout the camp, and to Deniliquin Council for welcoming us to Four Post Camp and providing a guided tour of the facility. Thank you also to Alice Wickey and the Black Connection team for delivering meaningful cultural activities, and to Griffith Aboriginal Medical Service, headspace, VAEAI, the ERH Dental Van, Fire and Rescue NSW and the Njernda Wellbeing Team for their engaging and informative sessions.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to the dedicated Njernda Youth and Wellbeing Team for your commitment, care and passion in creating a safe, inclusive and enjoyable camp experience. Your hard work ensured every young person felt supported, connected and valued throughout the three days.

The Youth and Wellbeing Camp continues to be a valuable initiative that empowers young people to strengthen their connection to culture, build confidence and create positive relationships. Njernda also remain committed to providing opportunities that support our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people to thrive, make positive choices and reach their full potential.



WARMA KIDS BRING HOME THE GOLD

Congratulations to our Warma representatives who took to the court over the long weekend in June, playing for the Southern Aboriginal Sports Team at the Basketball Tasmania Mid-Winter Classic 2026.

Our Under 12 Girls team, made up of Narlah Wright, Aaliyah Day, Fatai Morgan, Nimmi Johnson and Shandy Firebrace, along with our Under 12 Boys team, Elijah Stevens and Asher Parsons, both went through the entire tournament undefeated, returning home to Victoria as champions.

These young athletes represented their families and communities with pride, showing great teamwork,

determination and sportsmanship throughout the weekend. Warma and the Echuca Moama community are incredibly proud of each and every one of them. Their success is a true reflection of their hard work, dedication and commitment, and we can't wait to see what they achieve next.

Congratulations to all the players, families, coaches and supporters who helped make this achievement possible, your support behind the scenes means just as much as the wins on the court, and we're grateful to everyone who played a part in getting these kids to Tasmania and cheering them on every step of the way.



MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

If you're feeling no good or need some extra support, yarning about how you're feeling with someone you trust can help.

You and your loved ones can also find support through your local Aboriginal Medical Service or one of these crisis and support services:

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)

Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and Aboriginal Medical Services in each state and territory.
naccho.org.au

WellMob
wellmob.org.au

Brother to Brother
 24-hour Crisis Line for
 Aboriginal Men
 1800 435 799

**Suicide Call Back
 Service (24/7)**
 1300 659 467
suicidecallbackservice.org.au

Kids Helpline (24/7)
(For 5-25 yrs)
 1800 551 800
kidshelp.com.au

Lifeline (24/7)
 13 11 14
lifeline.org.au

Mensline (24/7)
 1300 78 99 78
mensline.org.au

Headspace
(for 12-25 yrs)
 1800 650 890
headspace.org.au

13YARN (24/7)
 13 92 76
www.13yarn.org.au

Beyond Blue (24/7)
 1300 224 636
beyondblue.org.au





We are hiring!

CURRENT VACANCIES

Find all our current vacancies on our website or via the Seek website.



Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation

Medical Centre - 03 5481 0600

Youth & Wellbeing - 03 5481 0630

Corporate Services - 03 5481 0610

Families, Healing and Support - 03 5481 0620

Berrimba Childcare - 03 5481 0640

Corporate Office:
51-55 Heygarth St, Echuca

www.njernda.com.au

