



UPCOMING DATES

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

Page 3

YOUTH HUB COMMUNITY DAY

Connection, culture and plenty of laughs at our Community Day.

Page 4

ELDER'S GALA

Elders gathered at Moama Bowling Club to celebrate community, culture and connection.

Page 8-9

Please note: this newsletter contain the name of a community member who has passed.



Welcome to Medical

Please give a big Njernda welcome to Mia Mills-Firebrace and Tiffany Barwick, our new Receptionists at the Medical Centre. If you're popping in, be sure to say hi and help them feel right at home!

Tiffany: "Hi everyone, I'm Tiffany, but call me Tiff! I'm a proud Wiradjuri woman from Wellington (NSW), one of 17 siblings, and I've loved my time at Njernda Medical so far. Looking forward to meeting you all!"

Mia: "My name is Mia Mills-Firebrace and I'm a Yorta-Yorta woman working at Njernda Medical Centre, helping out the community."



Tiffany Barwick Mia Mills-Firebrace

Congratulations Keyarny

Keyarny Lamb has some exciting news: she's our new Koorie Supported Playgroup Facilitator at Berrimba! Keyarny is moving on from her role as a Family Services Integrated Worker to start this new chapter.

In her new role, Keyarny will run playgroups for our youngest mob, bubs and kids (0-5). She



will share culture, language and yarns, as well as help mums and dads feel more confident in raising strong, happy kids.

Congratulations Keyarny, we wish you all the best!

MALIK WINS EXCELLENCE AWARD

Congratulations to Malik Day-Kennedy, who was presented with the Excellence Award for Community Impact on Friday 14 August. Malik was nominated for the award by his colleagues, who recognised the positive impact he has within his community and the difference he makes to those around him.

Through his volunteer contributions, youth advocacy and commitment to supporting Aboriginal community initiatives and events, Malik continues to demonstrate the important role young people can play in creating positive change.

The night also featured a performance of Gitjika to Gitjika from a talented local girls dance group.

It was fantastic to see Malik's contribution recognised. Congratulations Malik. You should be incredibly proud of this well-deserved achievement, and we look forward to seeing you continue making a difference in your community.



Photos courtesy of Shire of Campaspe



EDUCATORS DAY AT BERRIMBA

Berrimba recently celebrated the incredible educators who make our early learning centre so special, with three awards recognising their care, commitment and heart.

This year's awards were Family Nominated Educator, Team Nominated Educator and Leadership Nominated Educator.

Sam Sleight took out the Family Nominated Educator award, nominated by the children themselves for being nice, playing with them, telling mooky stories and doing their hair. There's no better endorsement than that!

Cath received the special honour of being nominated by both families and the team for always going above and beyond and being so supportive and helpful.

Rachael was nominated by the team for always giving 110%, helping wherever she's needed and always being kind and supportive.

Jennah was nominated by leadership for representing what Berrimba is really about. Whether jumping on the bus, cooking, working on the floor or covering breaks, she always pitched in without complaint. Leadership also recognised how she lives the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework Practice Principles every day, from building relationships with families and holding high expectations for all children to supporting inclusion and building positive partnerships.

Congratulations to our award recipients and thank you to every Berrimba educator for all you do for our children, families and community. You're all deadly!

UPCOMING DATES

- OCT 7** Women's Mosaic Term 4 program starts
- OCT 8** Winyanboga returns 8 week program
- OCT 15** Board Member Applications close
- OCT 19** Youth and Wellbeing 'WALKABOUT BARBER'
- OCT 19** Mental Health Monday at Crossenvale Community House
- NOV 28** Njernda 2026 Annual General Meeting

YOUTH HUB - COMMUNITY DAY

What a deadly day it was! On Monday 17 August, community came together at our Youth Hub for Njernda's Community Day, and the turnout was fantastic from start to finish.

Families, young people and community members spent the day connecting with a range of local services, all in one place. We were proud to be joined by Ganbina, the Department of Justice, headspace, Mental Health Services, Births, Deaths & Marriages and Sheriff Liaison, who were on hand to share information, answer questions and yarn with community about the support available to them.

Of course, it wasn't all business. A BBQ lunch kept

everyone well fed, while the pet zoo was a huge hit with the little ones (and plenty of the big ones too). The fun didn't stop there, with a raffle drawn on the day and some lucky winners walking away with vouchers.

Days like this are a wonderful reminder of the strength of our community and the value of bringing people and services together in a relaxed, welcoming space.

A big thank you to everyone who came along, and to all the organisations who gave their time to be part of the day. A special shout out goes to our Youth and Wellbeing team for creating and hosting such an awesome event.



BAROONA FARM UPDATE

Exciting things are happening at Baroona Farm, with John Cubby's men's group program putting down roots on the property as a space for cultural connection, mentoring, personal development and hands-on learning.

John recently worked alongside three young men to redesign the yarning circle at Baroona. The project gave them the chance to learn practical skills, work together as a team and take ownership of a task from start to finish. The end result is a quality space that will be enjoyed by many visitors to Baroona for a long time to come, and the young men should be really proud of what they achieved.

Over the coming weeks, John will continue working with the same three young men, along with four older participants, on a range of projects around the property. The group will help move and set up furniture, establish a workshop in the shed, take care of general property maintenance and lawn care, and assist with fencing and other practical improvements around the farm. They'll also be maintaining garden beds filled with fresh fruit and vegetables.

These activities will give participants ongoing opportunities to build practical skills, teamwork and responsibility, along with a real sense of pride in contributing to the development of Baroona.

We're looking forward to watching this program grow and seeing the positive difference it makes.



BERRIMBA FIRST AID

On Thursday 27 August, the Berrimba team headed to Apex Park for a day of first aid training delivered by 000 Training.

The hands-on session gave participants the chance to build their skills and confidence in responding to emergencies, from assessing a situation and providing CPR to managing injuries until help arrives. It was a practical and valuable day, and a great opportunity for the team to learn together in a relaxed outdoor setting.

Having staff trained in first aid is an important part of keeping children, families and community safe, and the team can now head back to Berrimba with the knowledge and confidence to act quickly if the need arises.

A big thank you to 000 Training for delivering such an engaging session, and well done to everyone who took part!



FOSTER CARE WEEK

To celebrate Foster Care Week, Njernda hosted a community BBQ at Apex Park on Monday 14 September to honour our incredible foster and kinship carers. This year's theme, Open Doors. Open Hearts. Open Opportunities., recognises carers who open their homes and hearts to help children feel safe, supported and connected.

Community came together to meet our Njernda carers and acknowledge the important role they play for children and young people in Out of Home Care.

Caring for children is a shared responsibility that reflects the strength of community, connection, belonging and healing. Our carers provide safe, nurturing homes while helping children stay connected to family, culture and Country. To all of our carers, thank you for the care, commitment and love you show every day.



COMMUNITY DAY featuring Walkabout BARBER

new date announced!

MONDAY 19 OCTOBER

59 McMillan Road, Echuca

CONTACT NJERNDAYOUTH & WELLBEING FOR MORE INFO
03 5481 0630

NJERNDAS 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

2026 We're returning!

8 Week Program - Every Thursday

We are running the next 8-week program every Thursday. Starting again from 8th October, 2026.

10am until 2pm at Families, Healing and Support Service 103-107 Hare Street, Echuca

We will be participating in Weaving Classes and doing some Possum Skin Burning.

Empower yourself and your community!

Open to local Indigenous Women

Transport is available upon request

Call us to register your interest. Please contact:

Njernda Aboriginal Corporation
Families, Healing and Support Services
(03) 54810 620

TERM 4 STARTS OCT 7 WOMEN'S MOSAIC ART PROGRAM

Ever wanted to turn broken tiles into beautiful art? Join our Mosaic Class and discover the joy of creating something stunning with your own hands. No experience needed — just bring your curiosity and creativity!

Learn techniques, experiment with colour and pattern, and take home a one-of-a-kind piece you made yourself. It's relaxing, social, and surprisingly addictive.

All materials supplied. All skill levels welcome. Come yarn, create, and have a go!

11:00AM - 2:00PM Wednesdays
59 McMillan Road, Echuca

Alkira Hearn: 0457 975 150
Tegan Wanganeen: 0458 725 422

2026 ELDERS GALA

Elders from across the region gathered at Moama Bowling Club on Friday 14 August for Njernda's 2026 Elders Gala, a joyous afternoon dedicated to celebrating community, culture and connection. Around 55 guests came together for the occasion, with mob from Echuca and Moama as well as further afield, including Shepparton and Swan Hill, to share in the day. Dressed to impress and full of warmth, the room was buzzing with guests greeting old friends and settling in for an afternoon of celebration.

The Gala began with a Welcome to Country delivered by Uncle Rick Ronnan, a fitting way to open a day that celebrated connection to community and Country. Njernda CEO John Mitchell then gave an informal welcome to the room, thanking everyone for coming together and extending a special acknowledgement to those who had travelled from near and far to be part of the celebration.

One of the loveliest moments of the day came when John gave a shout-out to Elder Jill Holman, who celebrated her 70th birthday. Guests joined together to mark the occasion, adding an extra bit of celebration to an already special day, and a lovely reminder of the milestones our Elders continue to reach within the community.

Guests were treated to a two-course meal, with plenty of time to sit back, relax and enjoy each other's company over lunch. Live entertainment from guitarist Maddi Colville kept spirits high throughout the afternoon, with music providing the perfect backdrop for old friends catching up and new friendships forming across the tables.

Days like this are about more than food and music. They are a chance to pause and honour the Elders who hold so much knowledge, wisdom and history within our community, and to bring generations together in celebration. The turnout from across the region, and the warmth in the room, spoke to just how important these gatherings are.

Every guest went home with a gift bag as a small token of appreciation for attending. Njernda extends its heartfelt thanks to Moama Bowling Club for hosting such a wonderful afternoon, and to everyone who worked behind the scenes, from planning through to the day itself, to make sure our Elders felt celebrated from start to finish. The 2026 Elders Gala was a beautiful reminder of the strength and warmth of our community. Njernda thanks all our Elders for coming along and making it such a deadly day.



VACSAL FOOTBALL/NETBALL CARNIVAL

Our young people did us proud at the 2026 VACSAL Statewide Junior Football Netball Carnival, held in Bairnsdale on Gunaikurnai Country on 23 and 24 September.

Njernda sent teams in both netball and football. Our youth played alongside mob from right across Victoria over two big days of games at Bairnsdale World Courts, Bairnsdale City Oval and Wy Yung Football Netball Club. Our players showed plenty of skill, heart and teamwork throughout. It was deadly to see them backing each other in, representing Njernda with pride and connecting with young people from communities across the state.

A carnival like this doesn't happen without a strong team behind the scenes. Vanessa Handy and Montana Handy coached our Under 15s netball side, and Laura

Hudson took charge of the Under 12s netball team. Our Under 17s football team was coached by Warren Stevens and Malik Day, with Luke Egan stepping up as team manager.

A special shout out goes to Luke's wife Keisha. She was running all over the place making sure every player got to their games on time, and she quietly took care of the many unseen jobs that kept everything ticking along. Big thanks also to Damaar Hearn for keeping everyone well fed on the BBQ, and to Stewart Day for his support across the carnival.

To all the young people who pulled on the Njernda colours and gave it their all, you should be really proud of yourselves. To every staff member who helped make it happen, thank you. Days like these remind us how much sport brings our community together.



STATE CHAMPS: VINEYS BURRAIS

Congratulations to Vineys Burrais, who were crowned VACSAL Statewide Junior Under 17s Champions after an outstanding netball carnival last week. Proudly sponsored by Njernda, the young team played with determination, teamwork and pride from start to finish, and they did our community proud.

The team's name carries deep cultural meaning. It honours Viney Morgan, the first healthcare worker from Cummeragunja and a highly respected Elder who dedicated her life to Aboriginal health and to caring for and supporting her community. "Burrais" means "babies" in Yorta Yorta language, reflecting the team's commitment to nurturing young people and empowering them to grow into strong leaders within their community.

The championship team was made up of Ivy Morgan, Julia Taranto, Grace Morgan, Des Morgan, Summer Atkinson, Lara O'Callaghan, Yulkirri Bamblett, Marnie Morgan and Sienna Dean, with Kotika Morgan-Bulled leading the way as coach.

A special shout out goes to Summer Atkinson, who was awarded MVP and Best on Court for her standout performance.

For Vineys Burrais, this championship meant more than a win. It was a celebration of culture, community, connection and the strength of our young mob. Njernda was proud to support Kotika and the team.



HONOURING AUNTY MAVIS EGAN

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised this article contains the name of a person who has passed.

The late Aunty Mavis Egan has been honoured by the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners (NAATSIHWP) in their Inaugural Founding Members Hall of Fame Awards.

As one of NAATSIHWP's fourteen founding members, Aunty Mavis helped build a strong national voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners. She also worked at Njernda for many years, and her legacy lives on in the health workers who continue her work today.

Her son Kyle shared, *"I would like to thank NAATSIHWP and Njernda Aboriginal Corporation for the acknowledgment of my mother's service in the health sector over many years for the Echuca community. Her passion for Aboriginal health was inspiring to a lot of people, especially her family. It is an absolute honour for her to be still acknowledged to this day and means so much to Njernda and our family."*

We send our love and respect to Kyle and his family.





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



NJERND A 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Njernda Aboriginal Corporation Board of Directors
invite MEMBERS to join us for our 2026 Annual General Meeting



Saturday 28th November - commencing at 10am



Echuca East Community Facility (36 Sutton Street, Echuca)