



Picture: Campaspe Shire Council.

NJERNDABORIGINAL CORPORATION
JUNE 2025

NJERNDABORIGINAL CORPORATION

NEWS

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Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation

COMMUNITY WALK FOR RECONCILIATION WEEK

Our annual Reconciliation Community Walk was once again a huge success, bringing together people from a range of backgrounds to show their support for a common cause.

The walk, beginning at Alton Reserve and held to coincide with Reconciliation Week, drew people of all ages to participate and show solidarity with our mob.

The crowd moved down Hare Street to the Aquatic Reserve, walking behind a reconciliation banner, while also hearing from a range of speakers, taking part in a smoking ceremony and watching the raising of the Australian and Aboriginal flags.

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ACCEPTANCE TREE PROJECT LAUNCHED

Njernda and Campaspe Shire Council are delighted to launch the Acceptance Tree sculpture, a powerful mixed-media installation by local Yorta Yorta artist Stuart Hearn on display at Echuca Library.

The Acceptance Tree sculpture, crafted from red gum burl, eucalyptus didgeridoo, concrete, acrylic paints and emu feathers, is a deeply symbolic piece reflecting the themes of connection, healing, and community care.



The project aims to promote inclusiveness and reconciliation by interviewing Elders and Community members about their feelings of acceptance and what it means to them in the context of their Indigenous community and the wider community. "Everybody has a desire to be wanted and needed, and to me, is the essence of acceptance," artist Stuart Hearn said.

Photo: (L-R) Yorta Yorta Artist Stuart Hearn, Campaspe Shire Mayor Cr Daniel Mackrell, Council's First Peoples Engagement Officer, Suzy Barlow, and Yorta Yorta Elder and Njernda Representative Uncle Keith Hearn stand beside the Acceptance Tree Sculpture.



ORANGE DOOR ARTWORK UNVEILED

Anglicare Victoria's Echuca office recently came alive with a vibrant Smoking Ceremony and the unveiling of cultural enhancements throughout the office, along with stunning art by the talented Jippa Murray.

The Orange Door family violence support service is one of our significant partnerships—Njernda has a presence in the Echuca Orange Door Hub with a three-member team, led by Jessica Smith. Congratulations to all involved in this work!

LOCAL YOUTH REPRESENT REGION



The Koorie Youth Summit is the largest gathering of young First Nations people across Victoria.



This year's event was held on Yorta Yorta Country in Barmah at the Dharnya Centre and in Shepparton at Rumbalara Football Netball Club. This year's theme was Wisdom to Power: Purpose, Passion and Action.



We had six participants attend from the Echuca region: Mia Lamb, Imogen Lamb, Harmony Rose, Vanessa Handy, Tanise Young and Kotika Morgan Bulled.

Shout out to the Koorie Youth Council for hosting a great summit, with over 100 deadly people from across the state. We look forward to next year's event!

FISHING GROUPS BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

We've had men's, women's and youth fishing groups all running in recent weeks, giving people from across our community the opportunity to connect with Country, share a feed and have a yarn.

These groups are a great example of how our teams are supporting the wellbeing of people of all ages, while promoting closer ties and positive physical health - well done to everyone involved.



BIG CROWD SUPPORTS RECONCILIATION WALK

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We'd like to once again thank all the local schools and agencies involved in the event, especially the Campaspe Shire Council.

"This year National Reconciliation Week is particularly significant for Council as we embark on our first Reconciliation Action Plan," Mayor Cr Daniel Mackrell said.

"We are deeply committed to advancing reconciliation within our community. By embarking on our Reconciliation Action Plan, we aim to foster stronger relationships, respect, and understanding between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians."



Pictures: Campaspe Shire Council.





TEAM READY TO PROTECT YOU FROM FLU

We've been running our flu clinic over the past few weeks, encouraging people to take action to protect themselves from the virus this winter.

Annual influenza vaccination is the most important measure to prevent influenza and its complications. It is recommended for all people 6 months of age and over.

Influenza vaccination is particularly important for those most at risk, with the need to improve uptake in children under 5, pregnant women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

To book your appointment, please contact the Njernda Medical Clinic on 5481 0600.

HEART SPECIALST SERVICE AVAILABLE VIA OUR CLINIC

Dr Jennifer Coller, Cardiologist, will commence consulting Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander patients at Njernda Medical Centre in late June.

See your GP as a referral is required. You will then be added to her waitlist.

Jennifer has over a decade of diverse clinical experience within cardiology, having worked in multiple areas within regional Victoria.



KIDS KICKING GOALS AND HAVING A BALL

During April and May, Warma Auskick - in partnership with AFL Victoria - supported over 40 kids to participate in the Auskick program, where they have showed great commitment and dedication every week.

On Friday 23rd May, 30 Warma Auskickers were selected to participate in the half time Auskick match at the Dreamtime at the 'G game in front of over 80,000 people. The kids from ages 4-11 showcased their deadly talent and skills on the mighty MCG with their families and the crowd cheering them all on.

Big thankyou's to all the parents/carers that got their child/children to the program every week, also to all the parents/carers that came and supported their child Friday night.

Also, thank you to all the staff: Vanessa Handy, Stewie Day, Earl Handy, Dylan Gordon, Warren Stevens, Damaar Hearn, Tegan Wanganeen and Laura Hudson.

The Njernda Youth Team hopes you and your child/children enjoyed the experience and we look forward to making many more memories very soon.



OUR NEXT GENERATION OF ARTISTS



Another fantastic initiative in recent weeks has been the establishment of art classes at our Youth Hub.

Starting with painting, the participants have been learning the basics of expressive art.

The kids joining our first sessions have had a great time, and were pleasantly surprised by the results! The program is continuing each Friday until the end of term, which is great news!



KIDS COLLABORATE ON HEADSPACE ART WORK

Njernda KKE Officer Nicole Cooper and Echuca Headspace started working in April in collaboration on a community art project to install a metal art piece.

The project is One Headspace, Many Communities – A Collaborative Art Installation, and “this initiative will bring together individual language groups, reinforcing Headspace as a place of inclusivity and emotional wellbeing”.

It was a combination on six sessions run over six weeks, with the support of Njernda Family Services, where kids engaged with KKE program came together to share stories, express themselves on their individual connections with country and where they would go to feel safe, and share memories that make them feel connected, safe and seen on their journeys.

Within this project we shared stories, found connection, and great pride. The project was facilitated by Allison Connelly (art therapist) at Echuca headspace, and Nicole Cooper (Njernda KKE Worker)

Finalisation has begun for the design, which will include planting around the space to prepare for the installation of the metal art piece at the entrance of Echuca Headspace at 451 High Street, Echuca.

There will be a presentation with the youth and families involved at the completion of installation, a community gathering and program evaluation.

Our young people are so excited and looking forward to seeing the result, and to show their families what they achieved!



Njernda Aboriginal Corporation

NAIDOC WEEK

6th – 13th July 2025

FRIDAY
JUL

4

Mr and Miss NAIDOC

Celebrate leadership and cultural pride as we showcase the talent and aspirations of the next generation.

MONDAY
JUL

7

Opening Ceremony

Kick off NAIDOC Week with a traditional welcome, inspiring speeches, and smoking ceremony that honour the theme 'The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy'.

TUESDAY
JUL

8

Elders Luncheon

A special event to honor and celebrate our Elders, acknowledging their wisdom, guidance, and invaluable contributions to our community.

TUESDAY
JUL

8

Youth Disco

A fun-filled night for the young ones to celebrate their culture and heritage through music and dance.

WEDNESDAY
JUL

9

Dharnya Day

Connect with Country and celebrate the rich cultural heritage through storytelling, traditional practices, and activities.

THURSDAY
JUL

10

Mens Day

A day dedicated to celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men, focusing on their health, wellbeing, and contributions to the community.

THURSDAY
JUL

10

Womens Day

An empowering event to honor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, highlighting their strength, resilience, and achievements.

FRIDAY
JUL

11

National NAIDOC Holiday

A day of reflection, celebration, and unity as we come together to acknowledge and honor the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

www.njernda.com.au

Phone: 03 5481 0600

Deadly Choices
A DEADLY CHOICE IS A HEALTHY CHOICE

Celebrate Healthy Choices with Deadly Choices

JOIN US FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE COMMUNITY EVENT

Discover the importance of embracing healthy lifestyle choices for you and your community at this engaging event focused on wellness and to celebrate the launch of our Deadly Choices Program.

Njernda Health and Ageing
84 Hare Street, Echuca
Wednesday 25th June 2025
10:00am - 1:00pm

Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation

Deadly Choices

- Welcome to Country
- Smoking Ceremony
- VAHS in attendance
- Deadly Choices Program
- Mini Health checks
- Echuca Regional Health
- Ambulance Victoria
- Health and Wellbeing Information
- BBQ Lunch and refreshments
- Prizes and giveaways

For further information:

Keith Hearn
Healthy Lifestyle Coordinator
Njernda Health and Ageing
0412 390 859

GET YOUR
715 HEALTH CHECK




Art Program Extended

Until end of term every Friday
3:30pm-5:30pm

For More Information
Khayla - 0447 873 207
Vanessa - 0460 034 369

Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation

HELP US DESIGN OUR L2P CAR

WE HAVE EXTENDED:
13TH JUNE 2025

Add Indigenous story behind your design!

\$500
GIFT VOUCHER OF YOUR CHOICE

We would love some design ideas for our new L2P car. Create your designs in the comfort of your own home on A4 size paper or digital form. If you are needing any assistance please contact Youth Services.

Eligibility 15-24 Years Old
NO STAFF

Please forward your designs to
Stuart Day via email or come into
the HUB
Stuartd@njernda.com.au
0439051494

Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation



COMMUNITY • FAIRNESS • CARE
COURAGE • INCLUSION

Yanda Dunguludja – Walk Strong

We can help you with free and confidential information about the law.

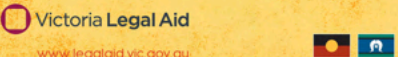
This includes legal matters in areas like criminal law, child protection (DFFH), family law, mental health, discrimination and fines.

Drop in to Njernda (Family Service Unit) at 103-109 Hare St, Echuca from 10am to 1pm, third Wednesday of each month.

Have a chat with a lawyer and an Aboriginal Community Engagement Officer from Victoria Legal Aid.

For more information or support, contact:
Ashlee Moffatt
Tel: 0499 326 960
Email: ashlee.moffatt@vic.gov.au
Armana Parsons
Email: armana.parsons@vic.gov.au

Victoria Legal Aid
www.legalaid.vic.gov.au



BENDIGO HEALTH Expression Of Interest: **CALLING FOR MOB – YOUR VOICE MATTERS**
(paid opportunity)



Have you or your family had experiences with Bendigo Health?

We're inviting Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community members to yarn with us and share your stories.

Your lived experience is powerful - and we want to listen.

Bendigo Health's is building a new Reconciliation and Cultural Safety Strategy, and your voice can help shape a safer, stronger, and more culturally respectful health service for our mob.

Come and be part of a conversation that centres culture, community, and change.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION WORKSHOP
Thursday 19 June, 2025
10am to 1pm - morning tea and lunch provided
Larnangurrak Djaara
43 Hattam Street, Golden Square.

\$40p/hr payment provided for your contributions
Travel reimbursement provided (if outside of Bendigo)

[Register your place here](#)

If you're interested to contribute your voice and perspectives, online or via phone instead, please contact NPetrucchi@bendigohealth.org.au and we can organise for this to take place.

Jewellery Making Program



Come along and join us in our Jewellery Program.

Women of all ages are welcome



6 Week Program
Every Wednesday

Starting: 28th May 2025
Time: 10am-2pm
Venue: Youth HUB

Food and transport will be provided!

Contact:
Tegan 0458 725 422
Khayla 0447 873 207



Njernda Aboriginal Corporation  Forever Learning

2025 Baby Welcome to Country

For Burrai's Born in the year 2022 - onwards
Thursday 7th August, 2025



Njernda Aboriginal Corporation & Berrimba Childcare Centre invite you to our
First Baby Welcome to Country of 2025

To be held at the Dungula event center at Moama on the Murray come join us for a cultural experience as our Elders Welcome our Burrai's on onto country

All are welcome lunch and refreshments will be provided

10:00AM – 2:00PM

The Closing date for registrations for Baby Welcome – 18 June
To Register Your Burrai or if you have any questions
please contact:

Colleen Day Muhr – Best Start
Facilitator
03 5481 0640
colleend@njernda.com.au

Koralynn Dodds – Early Years
Manager
03 5481 0640
koralynn@njernda.com.au





WORK WITH US HERE AT NJERND A!

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 at our website. You can also find our current opportunities by searching for Njernda on Seek.

JOIN THE TEAM HERE AT NJERND A!

We are hiring for these roles:

- COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
- HUMAN RESOURCES COORDINATOR
- ACCREDITATION AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COORDINATOR
- KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN CULTURE WORKER
- ABORIGINAL CHILD WELLBEING PRACTITIONER (ORANGE DOOR)
- FOSTER CARE MANAGER
- ABORIGINAL HUB PRACTITIONER (IDENTIFIED POSITION)



APPLY VIA





CONTACT US

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(Corporate Office)
Phone: (03) 5481 0610
www.njernda.com.au

SOCIAL MEDIA

