

NJERNDANEWS

All welcome

Echuca and Moama gathered for NAIDOC Week to celebrate the strength and solidarity of our community.

Events were held across the week, with the theme of 'For our Elders' underpinning our focus.

- *Stories, pictures - Page 4-5.*

PICTURE COURTESY:
CAMPASPE SHIRE COUNCIL

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SAYING FAREWELL TO JOYCE

WORK WITH US!

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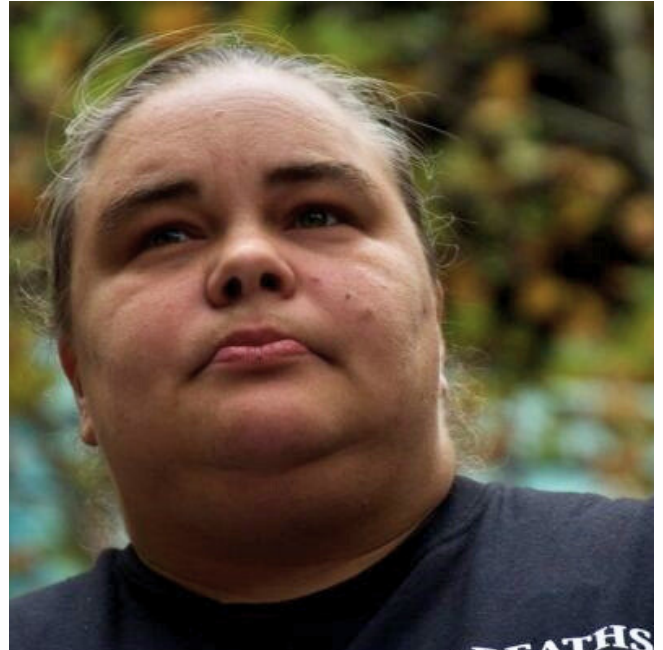
Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation

CHAIR'S MESSAGE - BELINDA DAY

The Njernda Aboriginal Corporation Board formally announces that Tracey Dillon has resigned from her role as Chief Executive Officer.

The Board of Directors has accepted the resignation and will begin a search for a new CEO immediately. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Tracey for her tenure, and acknowledge the difficult task Tracey had before her when she was appointed in March 2022 in preparation of our release from a period of Special Administration. There has been significant progress under Tracey's leadership in stabilising the organisation post-administration which will support the long-term viability and sustainability of our organisation. Achievements during Tracey's time have included:

- Strengthening Njernda's operating model
 - New Human Resources system
 - New financial system
- New Organisational Structure and recruitment of a strong and capable Executive team.
- Moved the Baroona Redevelopment to its final stages with a model of care ready for architectural design and the construction of a new healing centre.
- In the absence of the healing centre developed the Baroona Youth Day program.
- Worked with government and community to develop a master plan for Njernda's capital infrastructure needs which includes a business case to funders or philanthropists.
- Future Strategic Directions ready for community consultation.
- Developed a training program for the Aboriginal community.



This is not an exhaustive list, but this was all undertaken whilst the Echuca community were in a natural disaster during the period of the October floods. With the support of the new Executive and our Njernda teams, in the past six months Tracey has increased the number of community events on offer after COVID. The Board of Directors has begun the careful process of recruiting a new CEO. The search process is expected to take several months, with the Board working with a national agency to identify the best candidate for the role. In the interim, an Acting CEO will be considered in due course to ensure business continuity. Njernda has a strong team of Executive Directors in place who will work closely alongside the Board and our partners to ensure the organisation continues to grow and evolve..

CEO'S MESSAGE - TRACEY DILLON

I am proud of the progress and achievements made during my time with Njernda. It's been a process of future-proofing the organisation and allowing the opportunity for it to emerge as a more focussed and resilient organisation.

Njernda has the platforms in place to move forward and make strong progress from here, and that will depend on the community being prepared to unite behind the board and its new CEO.

Celebrating NAIDOC

NAIDOC this year was "For our Elders" - but how wonderful to recognise the leadership of some deadly young people in our community during NAIDOC 2023.

Anton Atkinson and Alkira Hearn are two super young people and were named Ms and Mr NAIDOC this year. Congratulations Alkira and Anton. You represented our Community so well at our NAIDOC and Community events - you did us and yourselves proud. Thank you!



VIOLENCE AND ABUSE ARE NOT WELCOME

Code of conduct

Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation

It is expected that every member and visitor will:



Uphold Njernda Aboriginal Corporation's core beliefs and values.



Behave in a manner that does not endanger the health, safety and wellbeing of themselves or others.



Abide by all health and safety rules and procedures operating within Njernda and other locations they may visit.



Ensure their actions do not bring Njernda into disrepute.



Respect the authority of staff members and observe Njernda rules as required.



Refrain from activities, conduct or communication that would reasonably be seen to undermine the reputation of the Njernda, employees or students of Njernda (including activities on social media).



Strictly adhere to Njernda's policies and procedures as required.



Refrain from all forms of bullying and harassment.



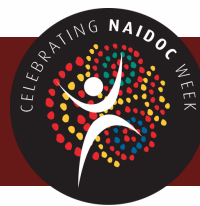
Respect Njernda property and the property of staff, contractors, volunteers and others.



Behave with courtesy and consideration for others.



Not commit unlawful acts.



NAIDOC WEEK 2023 - FOR OUR ELDERS



NAIDOC Week is always a special time for our community and this year is no exception.

It all started on Monday with the formal flag raising ceremony at our offices, plus a morning tea.

On Tuesday we held our Elders' lunch, there was a community barbecue on Wednesday and then a men's day at Baroona on Thursday.

It was fantastic to see so many people come together to yarn, share meals and demonstrate our strength as a community.

And of course, it was all For our Elders!

The struggles of our Elders help to move us forward today. The equality we continue to fight for is found in their fight. Their tenacity and strength has carried the survival of our people. It is their influence and through their learnings that we must ensure that when it comes to future decision making for our people, there is nothing about us - without us.

We pay our respects to the Elders we've lost and to those who continue fighting for us and we pay homage to them.

(Pictures: Campaspe Shire Council, Njernda.)





NAIDOC WEEK 2023 - FOR OUR ELDERS



Chris playing Gori
(accuracy) spear game

47 proud men were part of the NAIDOC Men's Day at Baroona Farm.

Having an outdoor event in winter was risky, but the weather held off and we had a great day - a combination of good food, good music and great company!

A "spur of the moment raffle with gamin tickets" was great fun, and some big talent in our Traditional Indigenous games. Winners were Woomera - Jakyden, Stewie, Connor; Boomerang (Buran) - Jono; Boomerang (Illye, disc golf) - Earl; Spear (Battendi, distance) - Earl; Spear (Gori, accuracy) - Jono, Brody, Jalil, Mark, Bowen.

All our winners received a \$50 BCF gift voucher and our grand prize raffle winner was Uncle Rob who received a 10 person tent from BCF. Minor prizes of a fishing rod went to Uncle Col, Noel and Jakyden.

Everyone received a complimentary gratitude bag as well as a hygiene pack, so no one left empty handed!

Thank you to everyone who helped: Keith and Kristie (as always, ordering, designing, cooking), Chris, Damaar, Darius and Keith for running the Traditional Indigenous Games, Mark Colville as pitmaster looking after the fire and the camp ovens, and his lovely wife Vicki Walker who shared with us her "secret leg of lamb recipe". Darren and Noel as always, for helping to set up and take down and Craig Wickham for the music.

Gratitude to Uncle Des for the welcome to country, Uncle Col Walker for his wisdom and Uncle Ross Morgan for sharing their insights and understandings with us all.

Our sincere thanks to all who attended and supported the day - we look forward to being able to do more for the men of our community in the future.

Stuart Hearn



Uncle Mark and Uncle Noel making
our Boomerang shaped fire pit



Another great event held to celebrate NAIDOC Week was our Women's Wellbeing Day at the Rich River Golf Club.

A huge well done to everyone involved in organising this special day. And to all the women and girls who came along, we hope you felt just a little bit special!

SISTERS DAY OUT IN SHEPPARTON

What a great day our Elders, mothers and young women had at Sisters Day Out in Shepparton.

It was a beautiful day being able to share stories together as sisters, connect with our Elders to meet other strong women from community or connect to family we have not seen for a while. Sisters Day Out is Djirra's long standing wellbeing workshop, where Aboriginal women can support each other, enjoy a little pampering, get information about rights and options, engage with support services available.

Aunty Fenella Johnson was the lucky winner of a door prize on the day.



TAKING CARE OF OUR COMMUNITY

The STI Test Vending Machine is available to people who are from one or more of the following priority populations:

- Between 16-25 years of age.
- People of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.
- Those who identify as members of the MSM community (men who have sex with men).

The kits are free and no appointments are necessary, just access the STI Test Vending Machine, located inside the Echuca Library (near the toilets), take the kit away to collect your sample in the privacy of your own home.

There are detailed instructions including a link to videos inside, then return the samples to the lab via Australia Post (also free). Users will then be followed up by Melbourne Sexual Health Centre to discuss treatment options, if required.

This is the first time in Australia that an STI Test Vending Machine has been placed outside of a capital city (there are similar machines currently in Adelaide and Brisbane).

Echuca is the first town in this project to host the machine, making it a leader in this space and a new and unique option for people in Echuca.



Our Health team gathered recently to say thank you and farewell to our Acting Director of Health, Hope Briggs.

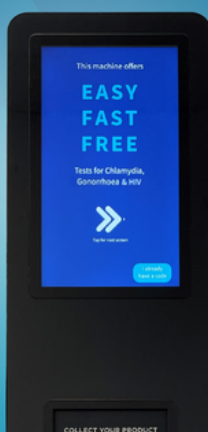
Hope began at Njernda in mid-November 2022 in the role of Primary Health Care Manager and has been Acting Executive Director of Health and Ageing since February.

Hope has worked tirelessly to support staff through change at Njernda and has supported Children, Youth and Community services in health engagement and especially the school holiday program.

Hope worked closely with Keith and Kristie arranging the health week and wellbeing day in May in which a number of community members completed their full health assessments.

Hope is returning to BDAC in the role of Regional Coordinator for Working Together For Health which is supported by LMARG. We are fortunate that this will enable us to continue working with Hope in this capacity.

STI Test Vending Machine



**Now available at
Echuca Library**

310 Hare St, Echuca VIC
Monday to Friday, 10am to 5:30pm
Saturday, 10am to 1pm
Sunday, 2pm to 4:30pm

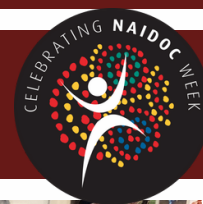


Vaccinations still available!

Our Medical Centre team is still taking bookings for vaccinations for

COVID-19
and
flu

If you are yet to get your COVID booster or want some extra protection from flu, call us on 5480 6252 to make your appointment.



CULTURAL FUN AT NUMURKAH FOR NAIDOC



Sharing our culture was fun for everyone when we visited Numurkah Good Start Child Care during NAIDOC Week.

Keith Hearn and Damien Wright spent some time with the children, with Uncle Keith doing a Welcome to Country and teaching some Yorta Yorta language. He explained what Possum skins were used for, told the story of the Murray River. The students and teachers loved the dance and traditional games. We wrapped up the day by making wattle seed scones. Thanks for having us Numurkah Good Start!



The power of reviving our language

Preserving and reviving our languages restores connection to our ancestors, land and culture. It underpins cultural integrity and contributes to our learning, identity and spiritual wellbeing.

Skye Cemino from our Berrimba Child Care centre is passionate about language revival and is a Yorta Yorta language teacher. Her work ensures language is a key element of Berrimba programs every day.



Lead educator Emily Cheap supporting Berrimba 3-5 year old children learning Yorta Yorta Language. Focus words for them that week: Fire - Bitja, Baby - Burrai, Possum - Batja.

"I am very passionate about our language because our Elders who have walked before us were denied it - therefore it was lost," Skye says.

"It is my dream that one day our younger generations will be able to speak confidently and fluently once again in our languages."

There is a Yorta Yorta language dictionary available if you would like to learn more. It's been put together by Auntie Sharon Atkinson and her daughter Roxanne Atkinson.

You can find resources and download the app on google play or the Apple store, or learn online here: <https://wccp.com.au/yorta-yorta-dictionary/>

BERRIMBA NEWS - AN EARLY YEARS UPDATE

OUR GOAL:
CHILDREN HAVE
A STRONG SENSE
OF IDENTITY AND
ARE CULTURALLY
SUPPORTED.

Berrimba Child Care Centre and Njernda Aboriginal Corporation staff have farewelled a “pillar of the community” in Joyce Ward, after 18 years of service.

Ms Ward, who was a “Berrimba baby” herself, said she always “knew and believed in the importance of early childhood education”.

“I was a Berrimba kid – I was here because my aunties were in here. I used to attend from a little baby, and I always had beautiful nurturing aunties who brought me up in here,” she said.

“I think because I have grown up with strong positive role models, I always knew and believed in the importance of early childhood education. “I started a traineeship in 2006 when I was 17, and even though I was young when I started, I ended up going to uni as an adult – I wanted that degree behind me to educate our kids.”

Ms Ward said to her, the most important thing Berrimba achieves is instilling pride in culture.

“What Berrimba achieves every day is not about me. I can’t take any credit,” she said.

“It takes a whole team and I have been so fortunate to have a really good team.

“They are, all of them, dedicated, passionate, driven childcare workers – obviously in childcare it’s not about the pay. You have to love kids and believe in the importance of the work you do.

“All the staff here want to be here, and they do it because they love the kids and the work they do. All the educators here are always ‘aunty’ or ‘uncle’ – for the kids, this is their place this is where they belong.”

Berrimba colleague Skye Cemino said Ms Ward was a “deadly, strong, caring, positive and passionate role model not just for staff but for our younger generation of leaders”.

“Ms Ward was the third generation of her family to come through the centre since its establishment in 1983,” Ms Cemino said.

“Being a Berrimba child herself coming through the centre, to having her own children, working in the baby room, to the 3-5’s, to being our bush kinder teacher, to then stepping into an Early Years Management role, it’s the least to say that this woman has accomplished a lot.



“She is admired by many, older through to younger generations, and she really does leave her print with you.

“We appreciate Joyce and thank her for all the outstanding hard work she has done. We thank her for giving our younger generational leaders inspiration, empowerment, love, connection, and a strong sense of belonging not only at Berrimba, but out in the world too.”

It’s a sentiment echoed by Njernda chief executive officer Tracey Dillon, who said Ms Ward’s commitment to her work was “to be commended”.

“Joyce has been a much loved, respected and admired member of our Berrimba family for many years, we were incredibly lucky to have had her as part of her team, and we wish her the absolute best on her next journey,” Ms Dillon said.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



STRATEGIC PLANNING

Members are invited to take part in our rescheduled Strategic Planning event:

Date:
Tuesday 18 July 2023

Time:
4.30pm - 6.30pm

Venue:
Njernda Family Services
(Kookaburra Room)

With facilitator Sue Kelsall from Rapid Impact and Njernda board members and staff.

MORE INFORMATION
Visit:
www.njernda.com.au
or contact
P: (03)5480 6252



Njernda
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Notice of

COMMUNITY MEETING

To ensure members are provided with regular and timely information on the operations of the Corporation, members are invited to this upcoming information meeting:

Date:
Wednesday 19 July 2023

Time:
4.30pm - 6.30pm



Venue:
Njernda Youth and Community Hub
(34 Annesley Street Echuca)

This meeting will be an opportunity to inform members of the current status of Njernda operations.

MORE INFORMATION
Visit:
www.njernda.com.au
or contact
P: (03)5480 6252




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NJERNDABORIGINAL CORPORATION

TERM 3 HOMEWORK CLASSES

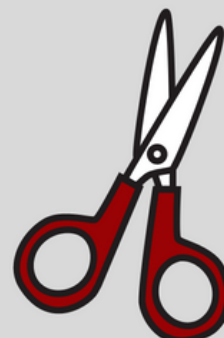


A program to help students
in need of some extra support

Primary students from Wed 12 July
High school students from Thurs 13 July

Time: 3.30pm to 5.30pm
Venue: Njernda Youth Hub

For more information, contact:
Nicole - 0499 820 320
Mark - 0473 205 861
Vanessa - 0460 034 369
Earl - 0448 707 379



COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



Expressions of Interest

AUSKICK TERM 3

Ages 5 - 12

- SIX WEEK PROGRAM
- Njernda sponsorship of \$60 cost per child
- FREE Auskick pack (Auskick Blue backpack, Auskick Football, Auskick Pump Trading Cards & Auskick Plush Footy)
- GUARANTEED half time experience at AFLW match
- MEMBERSHIP of your AFL/W Membership Club of Support (access to Home & Away AFLW matches)

STARTING AUGUST 1
Training 4.30 pm Tuesdays
Echuca United Football Oval
252-278 High St Echuca

More information:
Earl Handy – 0448707379
Mark Roberts – 0473205861
Vanessa Handy – 0460034369

Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation

WORKING AT NJERNDABORIGINAL CORPORATION



We Are

HIRING

We're creating
A STRONG FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN

- **Wala Yarka Case Support Worker**
- **Kinship First Supports Worker**
- **Salary packaging available**
- **Flexible position/career support**
- **Innovative, growing organisation**

More info and apply:

W: njernda.com.au
E: jobs@njernda.com.au
P: (03) 5480 6252

Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation

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 Auntie Trish or the HR Team. Get all the details of all our jobs and apply on our website, njernda.com.au

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.



Talk to us!

As well as recruiting to available positions, our Njernda HR team is always looking to build our pool of talent. If you're looking for a flexible

Part-Time or Casual Role

or you have

qualifications

you think we can use at Njernda we would love to hear from you.

Have a yarn with us:
E: jobs@njernda.com.au
P: (03) 5480 6252

CONTACT US:

Njernda Aboriginal Corporation
51 - 55 Heygarth Street Echuca (Corporate Office)
Phone: (03) 5480 6252
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