

NJERNDANEWS

"A SELF-DETERMINING COMMUNITY, STRONG IN CULTURE & WALKING TOWARDS A DEADLY FUTURE"



NJERNDAAOPEN FOR BUSINESS!

NJERNDAS CORPORATE SERVICES AND ADMINISTRATION TEAMS HAVE A NEW BASE!

THE CORPORATE TEAM AND THE EXECUTIVE HAVE OUTGROWN THE OLD IVY HOUSE SITE, AND HAS MOVED INTO A NEW AND ROOMY HEADQUARTERS AT 51 - 55 HEYGARTH STREET, ECHUCA.

The move will mean all of our Corporate Services team is in the same building and can operate more efficiently and effectively.

But the move will also free up space at Ivy House for the Aged Care team to provide more services, including Aged Care Packages (more news on this soon).

The new building will have space for exciting and important community projects going forward - and, importantly, meeting rooms and long-awaited space for community.

The new site is within walking distance to the centre of town (we are in the old bank building on the corner of High Street, opposite to McDonalds).

Community will be welcome to come in for a cuppa, to get information about Njernda services, get a hand with forms or have access to a computer if you need it. (Watch this space for information on the official opening.)

Plans for the move began under the former administration early last year.

Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Greetings everyone!

I am excited to see a proud, strong organisation is emerging from the uncertainty of the past 12 months.

Njernda is and has always been led and empowered by our people - our staff and our Community.

Our work together over this past three months and our focus on the future has brought important progress towards our shared goal - which is to deliver accessible, holistic programs and services to improve the health and wellbeing of our Mob on every level.

The immediate challenge for us all now, is to reset our course.

We have a highly-functioning and passionate board in place, with a strong skillset. Together we will soon be looking at the Njernda Strategic Directions which is the foundation document that underpins all that Njernda does, and all it plans to do.

As part of this process we will continue to engage with the Community, formally and informally, so that we all have the opportunity to be part of a strong future.

If you have thoughts on Njernda's future direction, services, priorities and methods, you are welcome to get in touch with me at any time.

Tracey



TRACEY DILLON

NEW EXECUTIVE STRUCTURE

As part of moving forward and strengthening Njernda as a vibrant and progressive organisation, we now have in place a new corporate structure.

The structure was agreed upon during the Administration process to be the most appropriate and effective model for our organisation.

It provides clear lines of responsibility and is easy for community members to understand where the services you need to access fit within the Njernda operations.

Njernda's Corporate Structure...

Each area of Njernda's operation is headed by a Director, and each Director is responsible to the CEO.

The new structure replaces the previous Manager-based model. The structure has been developed around a succession model that ensures each tier of management has direct support and communication with staff.

The Directors, which are currently in the recruitment process, will provide a high level of expertise and experience to further develop each department across areas of quality improvement, governance, compliance, stakeholder engagement and service delivery.

We will announce to community through our website, this newsletter and on our social media platforms when appointments are made to these positions.

Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)

DIRECTOR
- CORPORATE SERVICES

DIRECTOR
- HEALTH SERVICES

DIRECTOR
- FAMILY SERVICES

DIRECTOR
- CHILDREN, YOUTH &
COMMUNITY SERVICES

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

JOHN KERR

**Board Member Njernda Aboriginal Corporation
CEO of Moama Aboriginal Land Council (LALC)**

I'm from Yorta Yorta Country. I grew up between Deniliquin and Moama, but I left Deniliquin when I was 15. Since then I've lived in Moama, Bendigo, Kerang and Shepparton, depending on where my work is. My first job after I left school was working in the forests with my grandfather burning charcoal and cutting firewood. I've got mainly a Natural Resource Management and Cultural Heritage Management background, but I also worked in mining and at Goulburn Valley Health as the HACC coordinator.

Now I am the Moama LALC CEO, and it suits me perfectly because I love meeting new people and helping community members. I've been there six years. Moama LALC has a mandate to protect cultural heritage and Country, and those are the things I'm passionate about. My wife is also in natural resource management and four years ago we worked together to start the Bitjwalla natural resource management team, which is something I am proud of. Bitjwalla means "Fire and Water" and we now have around 12 crew members working to protect important sites in the region.

I nominated for the Njernda Board because I had seen the difference (as a former board member of Moama LALC) that a good, functioning board can make within a community. At Moama, we had our issues but when I joined the board it showed me what community-orientated people can do when they put their heads together. I had never really thought about being on the Njernda board before, but I thought why not? Let's see what positive outcomes we can achieve.

I think the most important role we have is bringing community back together – we have been through a lot here, and there are still people hurting in community. But we've got to work now to heal those wounds and move on. It's not about how hard you fall – it's about how you get back up.



JOHN KERR

I think the most important role we have is bringing community back together – we have been through a lot here, and there are still people hurting in community. But we've got to work now to heal those wounds and move on.

John Kerr

OUR NEW BUS!

OUR NEW BERRIMBA BUS IS ON THE ROAD AT LAST!

The old Berrimba bus had well and truly done its job, with 17 years of service picking up and dropping off.

Our awesome drivers Graeme and Cath are loving being at the wheel of the new 16-seater, and still enjoying that "new bus" smell!

And our Berrimba kids are so excited to be riding in comfort on their brand-new wheels!



GRAEME & CATH WITH THE NEW WHEELS!



KAREN HAGAN

TOP MARKS FOR ACCREDITATION

We are proud to advise that Njernda completed a mid-cycle accreditation review in August.

This is part of an annual process of review of Njernda's performance as an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation and a service delivery agency to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

We are proud of all the hard work our teams are doing in keeping Njernda on track with accreditation and meeting standards and regulations every day. It shows that Njernda is a strong organisation, and its people are the ones that keep it strong.

This is a credit to our CEO and Managers; our Team Leaders; our service delivery staff and all of the individuals who work to ensure our systems and services are efficient, effective and culturally safe.

We will keep you informed of the details of our most recent accreditation once they become available.

WELCOME TO...

CINDY MCGEE
Primary Health Care Manager

Our Njernda Primary Health Care Manager oversees the operation of the Medical Clinic, Wellbeing Unit, HACC/CHSP programs and the Nyini Health and Wellness Centre.

I am a proud Yorta Yorta/Wamba Wamba woman who was born and raised in Shepparton.

After an extensive career in education, employment, social services and nursing, I travelled Australia for 10 years, living in various parts of our beautiful country, including four different states.

I returned to my hometown nine years ago. I spent seven and a half years at Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative and then nine months in high-level positions reporting to the CEO at Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative.

I am absolutely thrilled to be a part of such a wonderful organisation as Njernda and to be a part of the next journey. I am looking forward to getting to know more of the staff and our community.

I am fortunate to now be employed at Njernda in the position of Primary Health Care Manager

Cindy McGee





NJERNDAPURPOSE

As an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Njernda's purpose is to deliver holistic services & programs to improve the physical, emotional, cultural & spiritual wellbeing of our Mobs

LIVING OUR NJERNDABVALUES

AT NJERNDABWE STRIVE TO BUILD RESPECT & TRUST WITH OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH:

Belongingness and Connection: We want to ensure everyone has a connection to Njernda, by ensuring all community members can access services fairly and equitably.

Voice and recognition: Our staff ensure people's voices are heard and their ideas are appreciated and considered.

Purpose: Our community has a clear understanding of an Aboriginal Community Controlled organisation's purpose and how they can contribute be engaged and productive.

Dependability: We honour commitments which are within our control and our budget.



OUR DREAMING, OUR FUTURE

CELEBRATING OUR CHILDREN

It was a happy celebration at our Berrimba Childcare Centre for National Aboriginal Children's Day on Thursday August 4.

The theme for the day was "My Dreaming, My Future". Our Berrimba kids loved celebrating with the traditional practice of songs, stories and dances, face painting, games and of course delicious food.

We had a special guest for the day, the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People Meena Singh. Ms Singh, a proud Yorta Yorta woman, visited Berrimba and spent the day with us, including dinner with our Njernda Board members that evening.



COMMISSIONER FOR ABORIGINAL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE MEENA SINGH RAISES THE FLAG WITH NJERNDABOARD CEO TRACEY DILLON



ABORIGINAL CHILDRENS DAY!



HAPPY FACES FOR ABORIGINAL CHILDREN'S DAY AT BERRIMBA



THE STAR OF THE SHOW!



NJERNDAB IS TURNING 50!!!

AND WE WANT TO SHARE YOUR STORIES!

In March 2024, Njernda will celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

It's a long way off...but we need your help now!

Have you, your family, friends, Elders you know of been an important person in the Njernda history?

We need to include as many voices as we can, as we tell the story of how and why Njernda came to be and what we have achieved together.

This is a proud story of persistence, achievement and innovation and we want to interview and record as many Elders, community members, volunteers, clients, donors, government officials, and other supporters who were involved, to ensure their part in our history is recognised.

If you know of someone who should be included, please contact or email Therese Shelley: thereses@njernda.com.au



YARKA YAKA DAYA
(Children Come Play)

WHEN:
Monday | 11AM

WHERE:
APEX Park Hall

FOR MORE INFO
EMMA
0407 462 711

Njernda

FORWARD NOTICE...



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

We are looking for three

TRAINEE ADMINISTRATORS

to work in our Corporate offices on a
full time basis.

We would be offering the
successful applicants
on and off the job training
undertaking a
Certificate III in Business.

FURTHER INFORMATION:
Contact Keith Hearn
Special Projects
0412 390 859



Yaka Yakapna Corroboree

VENUE: ROTARY PARK

DATE: 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

TIME: 10AM UNTIL 3PM

We are holding a Cultural Day and
get-together for all of the Community

Our focus is bringing Mob together, and reconnecting
Community with each other,
and having a meet and greet with Professionals

Lunch and Refreshments will be available

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

CONTACT: BRODY ATKINSON - 0437 262 965

MILSTONE FOR BERRIMBA

How exciting to find that, as of this year, we have had over 100 children attend our Bush Kinder at Berrimba!

Bush Kinder has been running since 2016 and has a focus on strengthening our children's connection to culture, country and community.

We celebrated the milestone with a smoking ceremony by Uncle Rick Ronnan on Country at our new site, Acknowledgement to Country in Language with Skye Cemino, Singing in language with Narjiic Day-Burns and Koori Dancing with Narj and Sissy Cooper.

We finished off with some group painting, canvases and tree planting with trees donated to us by Bunnings.



POSITIVE FUTURES...

CAREERS AT BERRIMBA!

Berrimba is currently looking for community members interested in working in childcare – it's possible you could even work with us while you complete study and gain new qualifications!

Berrimba's vision is that all Aboriginal children have the opportunity to access a high-quality childcare service that provides care and education in a safe, stimulating and enriching environment which strengthens their Aboriginal identity.

The main aim of Berrimba is to promote a positive self-concept in all Aboriginal children.

Children need to experience success and positive reinforcement in all areas of their learning, while being encouraged to do their best. Children learn through actively being involved in the environment and participating in experiences that provide balanced opportunities for all aspects of the child to grow and develop.

Study and career opportunities are available at all levels from Certificate to Diploma and Bachelor study.

A career in childcare can take you anywhere!

Please give us a call if you would like more information or come in for a yarn.

STUDY OPTIONS:

- Certificate III In Children's Services
- Diploma of Children's Services
- Bachelor of Early Childhood Education

CAREER OPTIONS:

- Educator (Cert III, Diploma, Bachelor)
- Room Leader (Diploma, Bachelor)
- Kindergarten Teacher (Bachelor)
- Kindergarten Assistant (Cert III, Diploma)
- Inclusion Support Educator (Cert III, Diploma)

OTHER AREAS YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN:

- Early Years Manager
- Centre Coordinator
- Assistant Centre Coordinator
- Koori Preschool Assistant
- Best Start Facilitator

Please note these positions are not currently vacant but are a career pathway for future interest.



Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation

'BURRAI GULPA GAKA WOKA'



2022

Baby Welcome to Country



WHEN:

Wednesday 12th October | 10AM - 2PM

WHERE:

Radcliffe's

Smoking ceremony
Gift & Certificate presentation
Turtle display from Turtles Australia
Family portraits
Births, Deaths and Marriages available
Lunch provided

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL (by September 30)

Renee Walsh - 0428 536 567
Leona Cooper - 0400 354 480



SISSY COOPER AND DHUNGALA
YALKA DANCERS

AFTER SCHOOL AT THE YOUTH HUB:

Music Class
Monday 4-5PM

Homework class
Tuesday 4-6PM

Nyini Gym Health Program
Details coming (AT NYINI)

Cultural Art Program
Thursday 4-5:30PM

ALL COMMUNITY YOUTH WELCOME



CHRIS FERGUSON

YOUTH UPDATE

ENGAGING & CONNECTING WITH OUR KIDS

*From Chris Ferguson
Youth and Justice Services Team Leader*

The Youth Team is working on new programs for after school such as a gym program using our Nyini Health Gym. Our music, homework and cultural arts programs at the Youth Hub are already popular.

We have been working with Baroona staff on starting a workshop for our youth to learn skills in mechanics, welding and tool handling at Baroona Farm's shed.

We regularly interact with our kids at school to ensure they are engaged and supported in any areas they find difficult. We have also engaged with our kids who are disengaged from education to try to encourage them to participate in positive activities.

Our Koori Kids Engagement Worker Sissy Cooper has been focusing on traditional cultural workshops within the schools and working with youth individually on cultural arts. The bonds being formed through cultural art and showing young people how to tell a story through their art has been an awesome process to watch.

Rochester Secondary School has requested some cultural support and we are working with them to provide some cultural workshops around dancing and arts.

**WATCH THIS
SPACE!**

**Youth Camp coming
soon! Watch our
website, Facebook and
Instagram pages.**

REFLECTING ON NAIDOC

Our Njernda Youth team hosted an arts and crafts day during NAIDOC Week at the Youth hub. A family day was also held during the week at the Aquatic Centre in Echuca. We had our music class perform on the day and we had stalls run by community members to showcase their talents and sell their artefacts. There was a performance from singers Lily Walker and rapper TruBluud.

Thank you to Uncle Rick Ronnan for doing the welcome and smoking ceremonies, congratulations and thank you to Sissy Cooper and her Dhungala Yalka dancers for performing during NAIDOC week.

A big thank you to Uncle Desi for his cultural story and Narjiic for the cultural song. Thank you to all who helped and support during a big and proud week.

BERRIMBA UPDATE

GIVING OUR KIDS THE BEST START!

From Emma Taylor
Best Start Facilitator

What is Best Start?

The Victorian Government has set up Best Start partnerships to lead reform at the local level. They play a key role in bringing local services together to ensure the best outcomes for our children and families. Best Start partnerships work in a culturally inclusive manner with Aboriginal communities and families.

What are we doing?

Njernda's Aboriginal Best Start Partnership includes representatives from local Early Years agencies and service providers.

Our current partnership group includes delegates from Njernda (Family Services, Medical, Berrimba, Youth Services), Echuca Regional Health, Shire of Campaspe, Shine Bright, Department of Education, Intereach, Save the Children, VACSAL and Anglicare. Our partnership group meets as a whole once per term with working group meetings on focus key areas in between.



Our Best Start Term 2 Partnership Meeting with some of our members: Tracy Woods, Amy Whitten, Bernadette Patterson, Joyce Ward, Jennah Ferris, Sissy Cooper, Leona Cooper and Shirley Burrell)

The two areas we focus on are:

- That children engage and participate in playgroups, early childhood education and kindergarten to support them to enter school as confident and involved learners.
- That children and families actively engage with Maternal Child Health Services, attending key ages and stages visits to optimise health, wellbeing, safety, learning and development.

Focus Areas for 2022: Enrolments, Transitions, Allied Health Supports, Playgroup (Yarka Yaka Daya), Birth Certificates, Early Years Workforce.

WANT TO SEE EASIER ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD FOR MOB?

Join in over two days to participate in the FoodPATH Community Workshops.

These workshops will be facilitated by VACCHO and Deakin University to discuss community views, concerns and priorities on the actions needed to improve food environments and nutrition for Aboriginal Communities in Victoria.

When?

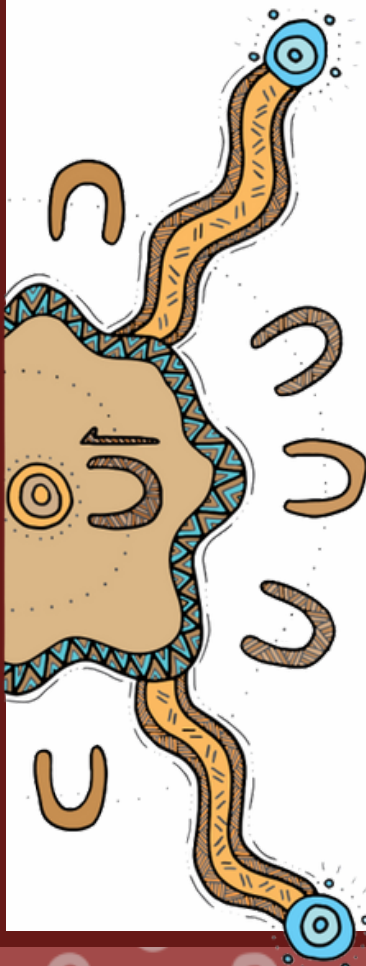
TUESDAY August 23 12 - 5 pm

Where?

**Mercure Port of Echuca 'Murray Room'
465 High St, Echuca VIC 3564**

**To Register contact Renee Walsh at Njernda
Email reneew@njernda.com.au or phone (03) 5480 6252/1**

Lunch and afternoon tea will be provided and **participants will receive a \$50 voucher** for their time at each workshop.



GETTING TOGETHER FOR MENTAL HEALTH

From Chris Cooper Working Together for Health

Getting together for a yarn is one of the best things you can do for your mental health – and it was great to see so many Elders, community members and young people at our Working Together for Health Mental Health barbecue and yarning circle at Apex Park Hall, despite the weather!

We're not that great at opening up when it comes to mental health. The barbecue gave a space for conversations to happen, and access to resources to support mental health, both from Njernda and other agencies. Health professionals including staff from the hospital, were there to have a yarn too.

COVID was a really isolating time for many people, but it's great to be able to get together in groups again now, and it's important for Mob to come together and support one another.

Thanks everyone who was involved, especially Keith Hearn and Darren McGrath, and Koori Mental Health Liaison Officer Alison Clarke who travelled all the way from Bendigo. Gratitude to Njernda staff who came along to share and listen, and community members who appeared on the day - we had some great discussions and feedback from you guys which is vital.

If you require social and emotional wellbeing support, please reach out to us at Njernda.

WATCH THIS SPACE!

**Next event:
DIABETES HEALTH DAY**
Watch our website,
facebook and instagram
pages



HEALTH UPDATE

**Together we can
do so much!**

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL SAFETY AT ERH

We are asking all Aboriginal people who have visited any service at Echuca Regional Health to please take the opportunity to have their say and provide us with the valuable feedback and insights that will allow us to work on improving Aboriginal Cultural Safety for our community



CULTURAL SAFETY AT ECHUCA REGIONAL HEALTH

From Echuca Regional Health

Echuca Regional Health is seeking to understand and learn more about the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, respectfully referred to as Aboriginal people, who have received care at our health service.

We have committed to undertaking a deep dive into the cultural safety of our health service and developing a plan, with our Aboriginal community, to improve the experience of Aboriginal people and provide culturally safe care to all.

The first step of the work being undertaken is to achieve a broad level understanding of the current situation via a community survey.

We are asking all Aboriginal people who have visited any service at Echuca Regional Health, including but not limited to the Hospital, Emergency Department, Hopwood Centre, Dental Clinic or Consulting Suites to please take the opportunity to have their say and provide us with the valuable feedback and insights that will allow us to work on improving Aboriginal cultural safety for our community.

The survey can be completed online via the QR code (left) or the survey monkey link below and closes August 31.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AboriginalCommunitysurvey>

If you would prefer to fill out a hard copy please reach out to a Njernda staff member who can provide a hard copy and assist you to complete it if needed.

ASK YOUR MOB, YOUR WAY,

R U OK?

because we are...

#StrongerTogether

**STRONGER
TOGETHER**

RUOK?
A conversation could change a life.

SEPTEMBER 8

WORK WITH US! CURRENT JOB OPPURTUNITIES

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.***

Why work at Njernda?



Who are you?

My name is Dy Bray - I'm the Room Leader in the Babies Room at Berrimba.


How did you come to work at Njernda?

I started here four years ago with my Certificate III in Children's Services and have also completed my Diploma in Children's Services. I love working with the babies and getting to play with them and watch them grow. Berrimba has such a cruisy flexible environment.

Why you should come work here?

Come and see what really happens here - it's so much more than Childcare!

Available this month:




BUSH KINDER TEACHER

The Bush Kindergarten Teacher is responsible for developing and providing a high quality cultural and developmental kindergarten program, which strengthens our children's connection to culture, community and country.

- 3YO program including early start
- 4YO funded positions

Incorporating the Early Years Learning Framework of 'Being, Belonging, Becoming' in a cultural context, with a strong focus on wellbeing and social and emotional development.

Applications close:
Friday August 26, 2022



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 Aunty Trish or the HR Team.

Get all the details of all our jobs apply on our website.

CONTACT US:

Njernda Aboriginal Corporation
51 - 55 Heygarth Street Echuca (Corporate Office)
Phone: (03) 5480 6252
www.njernda.com.au

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