

NJERNDANEWS

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

Our Baroona wattleseed *hits the shelves!*



Story page 3

Inside

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

BERRIMBA UPDATE

HEALTH AND AGED CARE UPDATE

PAGE 2

PAGE 6

PAGES 4-5

PAGE 8-9

PAGE 10-11

Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation

COMMUNITY NOTICES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT

It was resolved by the Board of
Directors that the
Annual General Meeting
be delayed due to exceptional
circumstances
(Sorry Business).

Njernda (the corporation)
ICN 1274,
will re-schedule the AGM

SATURDAY MARCH 4 2023
at the
ECHUCA EAST RECREATION CENTRE
Sutton Street Echuca

10 am - 11 am

Morning tea will be provided

BAROONA WATTLESEED PASSES THE TASTE TEST!



Njernda's Baroona Wattleseed is a social enterprise project that began as an idea.

It is now driven by a vision - of a business that supports our Mob, shares our culture, and preserves our traditions and knowledge for future generations.

Our Wattleseed is locally grown, harvested and packaged on our 320-acre farm Baroona, on Yorta Yorta (Echuca) country. Commercial production began in 2022 and we were proud, just before Christmas, to begin sales at local outlets.

And the Baroona Wattleseed is certainly passing the taste test at our first retail outlet, Monkee and Co, 531 High Street Echuca (pictured below).

We have so far produced and distributed around 50 bags, and we will produce a further 150 during the next two months.

Our Baroona wattle plantation also continues to grow. Each species offers subtle a variation of the earthy coffee aromatic flavours of wattleseed, with hints of sweet spices and chocolate.

Wattleseed enhances and complements damper (see the boys at left doing some damper-making), cakes, breads, biscuits, pastries, pasta, ice-cream, pancakes, marinades, curries, dry rubs, scones, panna cotta, crème brûlées, coffee and milkshakes.

It is also a nutrient powerhouse, full of iron, high in dietary fibre and protein, gluten free and certified as a low glycemic index (GI) food.

Every pod we pick, every seed we separate, every package we seal, is done on Country with pride.

We acknowledge and respect the journey our ancestors paved and we invite everyone to walk with us, the people of Yorta Yorta Country.

For orders and information contact Keith Hearn (0412) 390 859 keithh@njernda.com.au. Watch our video and check our growing list of distribution partners at:

www.njernda.com.au/baroona-wattleseed

Gaka yawal ngulla yenbena Yorta Yorta woka

Come walk with us, the people on Yorta Yorta country



NJERNDAYOUTH SERVICES SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

MAKING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS FUN!



A huge WELL DONE to our amazing Youth Services team, who kept our the school holidays fun right to the end for our kids. Photos clockwise from top left: Santa was the star attraction at our Christmas Tree celebration; Echuca pool was a cool spot all summer; and the kids loved the trip to Funfields at Whittlesea.



NJERNDAYOUTH SERVICES SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

MAKING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS FUN!



The Njernda Youth Services School Holiday Program was packed with highlights, starting with our Koori Christmas tree in December. Some favorite activities included; Funfields at Whittlesea; Aqua Island; the cinema; a waterfight at Apex Park; The Fun Zone in Bendigo; Billabong Ranch and more. Phew! We're exhausted! But it was heaps of fun! Thanks to all the deadly kids and families who came along and joined in.



REFLECTING ON OUR STRENGTHS IN 2023

A new year is always re-energising and I am pleased to be starting out on a 2023 journey that will bring with it some very exciting times for Njernda, our staff and our Community.

We are doing some great work behind the scenes on exciting projects that the board, the executive and I know will carry us toward our vision of "a self-determining community, strong in culture and walking towards a deadly future".

Ending a year and starting a new one is a great time to reflect about the positives the hard working staff of Njernda are doing in the community.

Our Executive Directors and Managers at the end of the year took the time to think about, recognise and thank the individuals in their teams for their particular strengths and skills - and we have some wonderful people at all levels in our organisation.

Thank you to our Njernda teams for their contributions during 2022. They were challenged in so many ways, but found strengths they didn't know we had! I am looking forward to harnessing these as we launch into 2023!

We now have most of the senior management team in place - a strong and committed group of people who are dedicated to delivering services that support and grow our strengths as a Community. We are currently recruiting for a Director of Children, Youth and Community and we look forward to finalising that appointment in the next few months.

In the near future we will be revisiting our strategic plan with community and other stakeholders so watch this space to have a say about your organisation.

Tracey



TRACEY DILLON - CEO

Njernda Board:

Chairperson: Belinda Day

Vice Chairperson: Damian Morgan Bulled

Board Members: Jennifer Mitchell, John Kerr, Janice Muir

Chief Executive Officer

Tracey Dillon

Director Corporate Services

Robert Nugent

Director Health Services

Cindy McGee

Director Family Services

Hazel Hudson

Director Children, Youth & Community Services

TBA

THANKS AND RESPECT: UNCLE JOE DAY



Our heartfelt sympathies to the Day families, all friends and loved ones far and wide on the recent passing of Uncle Joe.

Uncle Joe, a loved and respected Elder, played significant and pivotal roles in Njernda housing, supporting our youth in the Local Justice area and later on in his Pastoral Care role, spanning 32 years of dedication and commitment to his Njernda Community.

Uncle Joe always went above and beyond in supporting so many families, children and community.

He will be sorely missed by all whose lives he touched.

Rest Easy Uncle Joe.

All your Njernda Family

TRANSFORMATION FOR OUR NJERnda WELLBEING UNIT



A huge thanks to these fellas!

Noel and Darren put in the hard yards to beautify the surrounds of our Njernda Wellbeing Unit during December.

What a transformation it was!

Well done to these two.

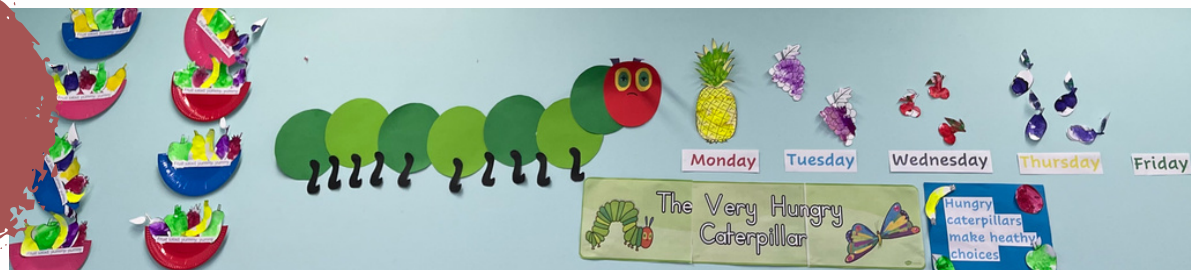
It gives a much warmer welcome to clients and visitors.

Thanks boys!

BERRIMBA NEWS - AN UPDATE FROM EARLY YEARS



We are so excited to welcome our families back and to meet new faces for this year!



We are acknowledging the land on which we gather and working hard at learning through play.

This month the children have been focusing on building new relationships with their peers and educators, as well as strengthening existing ones.



Our goal: 'Children have a strong sense of identity and are culturally supported.'

The children have been learning about colours.

One of our follow up experiences was reading "How the bird got its colours".

We then created our own colourful bird with bright paint and feathers.



The children have been helping decorate a canvas with our room's name on it: Dhuk-an-dirra (wombat). This has promoted talk about other animals and what their indigenous names are.



BERRIMBA NEWS - AN UPDATE FROM EARLY YEARS

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.

Best Start and Koorie Preschool Assistance Program news

2023 will see projects take shape with Best Start and KPSA working with Echuca Campaspe Shire to improve the Kinder enrolment process and time frame ensuring greater access to first round offers for community children.

Yarka Yarka Daya will begin again on February the 21st. Yarka Yarka Daya is a positive play space for children under 6 and their care carers. 2023 will see Yarka Yarka Daya return to Berrimba every Tuesday during school term time.

Best Start hope to create an Early Years Advocacy Group. This group will allow for community members to Advise Best Start around accessing services from outside providers. Offering suggestions on how to create improvements for children (more information below).

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST EARLY YEARS ADVOCACY GROUP

Do you have ideas or want to have a say about Early Years programs in our Community?

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST:

Njernda Aboriginal Best Start is seeking expression of interest to join our Early Years Advocacy Group (EYAG) for 2023.

AIM:

The EYAG will be required to meet once per term to discuss Early Years Services provided in our local community. We will be looking at what's currently being offered, what's working and what's not and seeking feedback to help us improve the services offered to Aboriginal families.

MEMBERSHIP:

We are looking for Aboriginal Elders, Colleagues, Parents and community members who have an interest in Early Years who would like to come along and have input into the work that we do.

If you would be interested in being a part of our Early Years Advocacy Group please complete the question below and bring into Berrimba or contact Emma Taylor 0407 462 711.



HEALTH AND AGED CARE UPDATE



Health and Aged Care
Director Cindy McGee

It's business as usual here at the medical centre!
Please call our wonderful reception staff who are always here to help with all your appointment needs.

Don't forget:

Book in for your annual health check! It's just 20 minutes with an Aboriginal Health Practitioner and forty minutes with the doctor to receive a \$25 gift card. Your health check will also put you in for the end of year Christmas draw.

Our visiting health professionals include:

- Podiatrist
- Optometrist
- Paediatrician
- Dietitian
- Endocrinologist
- Audiologist.

We are here for you! Our Medical Centre staff are a dedicated team who are always available to talk about any of your health needs...or just for a friendly chat!

LITTLE ONES UNDER 4?



Kendall Coogan

It's time to book in for your child's annual health check. Our friendly Maternal and Child Health Nurses Kim, Jenny and Kendall will not only keep your child's health checks on track, they have heaps of information and ideas to help parents and families.

Our GP team

We now have six GPs here at Njernda!

There are plenty of appointments available so now is the time to book your health checks and health assessments!

- Welcome to our new GP Dr Sujeeth (appointments available Mon-Fri)
- Dr Naresh has increased workdays to Mon-Thurs
- Dr Madi (Mon-Wed)
- Dr Klasine (special interest in antenatal /women's health) (Tue, Wed, Thurs)
- Dr Mary-Lou (special interest in children's health under 21 years) (Mondays)
- Dr Catherine (Mon-Fri)



Meet...
Doctor Madi

Winter vaccinations due soon

Pfizer Winter COVID-19 booster doses will be available soon! These can be given with your annual flu immunisation.

DO YOU LIVE WITH A CHRONIC DISEASE?

If you are living with chronic disease, it's even more important for you to have your health check and update your management plan. Book in with Jackie, Viv or Sarah. Diabetic clients can also keep on top of things with three monthly HBA1c readings with Viv, Bec or Jackie

HEALTH AND AGED CARE UPDATE



Our Elders are back together and loving it! We are planning an exciting year for our HACC and CHSP groups, so if you know someone who would enjoy some company, outings and new activities, please get in touch!

Christmas Lunch

To celebrate the holiday season the HACC/CHSP team put together a Christmas luncheon for Elders who were involved with our programs over the year 2022. This was a deadly day with 40 attending and enjoying a feed, having a laugh and participating in the raffle. Thanks to all who attended.

Art and Craft at Ivy House

We are back every Friday for our art and craft group! Since the middle of 2022 we have run an activity group at Ivy House. Our lovely aunties and uncles come along every week to do painting, weaving and creating all-round beautiful artwork. They share stories yarn and enjoy a lovely morning tea and lunch together.

Coming up:

- Winton Wetlands day trip February 28 (details in community notices pages 13-15)
- Aqua Aerobics classes starting March 7 (details in community notices pages 13-15)



MORE INFORMATION?

If you would like to be involved in HACC/CHSP Programs, or know someone who would, have a yarn with Hope Briggs our Primary Healthcare Manager/Health and Ageing
Mobile: 0448 444 208

FAREWELL SIMONE



We recently farewelled our much-loved Simone Ronnan - a proud Wollithiga woman who many describe as "having a heart of gold, who would do anything for her community".

Committed to helping and serving her community through Njernda over almost 13 years, Simone's dedication to her job, her presence, smiling face and genuine spirit around the place will be missed so much!

We wish Simone all the best in her new endeavours.



ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH SURVEY

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) is underway in our Echuca-Moama community through January.

The NATSIHS is an important national survey that collects information about the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The NATSIHS was first collected in 1995. The last NATSIHS in 2018-19 collected information on a range of topics, including:

- long-term health conditions
- health actions and health service use
- physical measurements including a hearing test
- risk factors such as nutrition, physical activity, alcohol consumption, unfair treatment, smoking and substance use
- experiences of physical harm
- social and emotional wellbeing.

If you're asked to take the survey, please think about being involved - it helps improve services and health programs for our Mob and find better ways to support healthier and happier lives.

If you'd like to know more, have a yarn with our Njernda Aboriginal Health Workers.

Take part in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health surveys



"By sharing your story, together we'll tell our story and help our future health"

Kevin Kropinyeri
Ngarrindjeri man
Comedian



Community Noticeboard

VACSAL STATEWIDE ABORIGINAL BASKETBALL CLASSIC 2023

**Saturday 11 - Monday 13
March 2023**

**Shepparton Sports Stadium,
Numurkah Road, Shepparton**

**Visy Basketball Stadium,
Wanganui Park Secondary College
Brauman St, Shepparton**

AGE GROUPS

U10's Mixed (2014-2016)

U12 Boys (2012/13)

U12 Girls (2012/13)

U14 Boys (2010/11)

U14 Girls (2010/11)

U16 Boys (2008/09)

U16 Girls (2008/09)

U18 Boys (2006/07)

U18 Girls (2006/07)

C Men

C Women

B Men

B Women

A Men

A Women

Please register with the below link:

<https://www.playhq.com/basketball-victoria/org/greater-shepparton-basketball-association/78e5e0d8/register>

Registration closes 17 February

In partnership with



For more information please call
June Bamblett (03) 9416 4266



Community Noticeboard

Njernda HACC/CHSP
Aqua Aerobics Classes.

Join Us for free

A Class will be held every week for
HACC/CHSP clients and Elders of
the community Tuesdays at
10:00am - 10:45am Starting on the
7th of March 2023 at the Echuca
War Memorial Aquatic Centre.

Only 25 spots per class.
Contact us if interested !
0419 187 755 or 0427 130 929

Don't forget Yarka Yaka Daya!

Yarka Yaka Daya (Children
Come Play) is back at Berrimba
from February 28.
It's a positive play space for kids
and families.
More information from Emma:
0407 462 711

Need a hand with
back to school?

We can help with:



School uniforms and
shoes

Booklist needs

School Fees

Get in touch with our Njernda Youth Services Team if:

- You have a pension or healthcare card and
- Live in the Echuca-Moama area

DATE: 28TH OF FEBRUARY 2023

Winton Wetlands

HACC/CHSP Elders Day Trip.
Contact us on 0421 710 127 or
0419 1877 55 if interested

Join us on a day trip to
Winton Wetlands. We will
be participating in a
cultural guided tour,
sightseeing and enjoying a
morning tea and lunch.

-Meet at Njernda
Medical centre at
9:00am and be
ready to depart at
9:15am

-We will arrive
back to Echuca at
roughly 3:00pm

Community Noticeboard



JOIN THE FUN!

Warma Turtles

Echuca East Primary School

Date/Time: TBA

you have any questions, please contact Bailey Bell at
bailey.bell@afl.com.au

Folow the link below or scan the



QR code to register today!!

play.afl/auskick

WORK WITH US!



CONGRATULATIONS SANDY!

A huge congratulations to Sandy Owen, who recently completed her Diploma of Community Services.

Sandy is our **Wala Yarka Program Manager** and her completion recognises her success in achieving higher qualifications - meaning better services for our Njernda children and families.

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.*



POSITIONS VACANT

NEW YEAR... NEW OPPORTUNITY Make a difference in 2023!

Current Opportunities with Njernda

- **Executive Director - Children, Youth and Community Services****

Make an impact. Lead for change. Break cycles of inequity. This senior leadership position will direct the operations of Aboriginal Children, Youth and Community Services.

- **Children, Youth and Community Manager**

Step up to lead! Holistic, culturally-responsive services supporting Aboriginal Children and their families

- **Children, Youth and Community Team Leader**

Lead an energised team of passionate people providing culturally-responsive services

- **Family Services Team Leader**

Find solutions. Build resilience. Be part of ground-breaking work supporting Aboriginal Children and their families

- **Youth Workers**

Help build a strong, healthy future for our community. Join our energised, fun youth team. Multiple positions available

**This is an "Indigenous Only" role under Special Measures of the EEO Act 2010, Section 12

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. www.njernda.com.au

CONTACT US:

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

Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation