

**Check out page 3  
for our yarn with  
Aunty Ros**

Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative

# October Newsletter 2023

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this publication may contain images and names of deceased persons in photographs.

## In this issue

- Pg 2 - CEO update
- Pg 3 - Celebrating 20th Anniversary
- Pg 4 - Health Clinic
- Pg 5 - Group updates
- Pg 7 - Community notices
- Pg 8 - Employment
- Pg 9 - Kids Activity
- Pg 10 - Emergency contacts
- Pg 11 - Feedback and complaints

## October Dates

**Mental Health Awareness Month**

**11th** Community Dinner

**31st** Halloween

## November Dates

**Transgender Awareness Month**

**14th** World Diabetes Day

**22nd** Community Dinner

**\*Please note on public  
holidays we will be closed**

Do you or someone you know want to receive our newsletter?

You can update your information or sign up on our website! Visit [www.gunditjmara.org.au/newsletter](http://www.gunditjmara.org.au/newsletter)



## CEO Update

September has marked the revival of the school holiday program and we couldn't be more thrilled with the turnout!

We would like to extend our gratitude to the exceptional team and the community for their unwavering support.

Keep an eye out for upcoming program events such as community dinners, and more.

We appreciate the continued support from our staff and community.

*To gantunk*



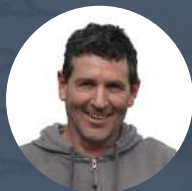
### Ngatanwaar to our new staff!



**Brian Mewdew**  
Counsellor



**Danny Lawlor**  
Intensive Family  
Violence Practitioner



**Andrew Foster**  
Home & Community  
Care Worker



**Charmaine Barber**  
Home & Community  
Care Worker



You are invited to the Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperatives 40th Anniversary



**Friday November 10th 2023**



**6pm to 8:30pm**



**Warrnambool Showgrounds, 331  
Koroit St, Warrnambool VIC 3280**

RSVP to come!



# Celebrating 20 Years

"This year is my 20th year at Gunditjmarra. I had a break in-between where I worked elsewhere.

I came back in 2007. So adding my years from 84' to now worked out exactly 20 years which I am very proud of. Considering my mum and grandfather were part of a group as the founding members of Gunditjmarra Aboriginal Cooperative. As a young 14 year old I can still remember the elders talking around the kitchen table of the aspirations and goals to keep our community together and to have a place we can call our own." - Ros



**Roslyn Britton**  
20 Years

## **What was your role when you first started at Gunditjmarra?**

"Secretary/Receptionist in 1984 when I left high school, my first job"

## **What is your current role?**

"Cultural Strengthening Practice Lead for The Orange door"

## **What has been your favourite role?**

"I've enjoyed all my roles but my favourite would have been when I was the activities officer. Was a planned exercise group, I use to work with the Elders and do specific exercises designed for the elderly"

## **What is your favourite memory at the co-op?**

"My favourite memory was seeing the Harris St building being built. When I started in 84' we were in a little side room at South West Tafe in Timor St and to see the building come to life, it was awesome.  
We had the job of picking the decor. Back in the 80s we had the lovely pastel pinks and pastel blue for the walls. It was fun going through the design of it and picking a colour scheme that was fashionable back then"

## **What would you like to see from the co-op in the future?**

"I'd like to see the co-op continue to deliver programs and be an agency for our children, our youth, our community and especially our elders. With that cultural lens. I think culture and community are paramount for us and we should have more of a cultural focus on our programs"

## **Acknowledging our Dedicated Long-term Staff Members**

We would like to take this moment to also recognise our deadly staff who have been with us for many years also. Your dedication and hard work have been instrumental in the success of Gunditjmarra Aboriginal Cooperative and community. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do.



**Georgie Taylor**  
25 Years



**Bev Harrison**  
24 Years



**Jenny Sack**  
19 Years

## Health Clinic

### ALLIED HEALTH VISITS

At our health clinic



OPTOMETRY

Friday 27th  
October



AUDIOLOGY

3rd April  
(Every 6 months)



DENTIST

29th  
November



To book in please call the Gunditjmarra Health Clinic on 5564 3344

Can't make your appointment?



Please contact the Gunditjmarra Health Clinic 24 hours prior to your scheduled appointment or as soon as possible as this will help us accommodate to others on the waitlist



To gantunk!

## Health Clinic

### Opening Hours

Please note our medical clinic now closes at 5:00pm on Wednesdays.

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

9am - 5pm

Tuesday

9am - 8pm

Friday

9am - 4pm



To contact the clinic, please call 5564 3344

## Aggressive Behaviour

Aggressive behaviour and language will not be tolerated at Gunditjmarra at any time, this includes via phone, email and text. We understand you may feel frustrated at times, but please remember our staff are doing the very best they can to support yourself, our clients and community.

We'd like to remind community that our organisation is a ZERO TOLERANCE TO DRUG & ALCOHOL and a ZERO TOLERANCE TO VIOLENCE space. These policies are in place to protect our Community and help us keep the space we work in safe. Failure to comply with these policies may result in disciplinary action or the Police to be called. We thank you all you deadly mob out there who are already doing the right thing

GUNDITJMARA IS A **ZERO** TOLERANCE TO DRUG AND ALCOHOL AND **ZERO** TOLERANCE TO VIOLENCE SPACE

**VIOLENCE**



Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative

# Wata Takoort

Aboriginal cultural  
activities every Thursday  
and fortnightly Tuesday

September saw our annual Wata Takoort Camp. Staff and group members headed off to the Morning Glory River Resort & Conference Centre just outside of Moama for 3 nights. They spent their time enjoying the peaceful surrounds of the Murray River, with trips to Cummeragunja Mission and Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative's Residential Aged Care Facility.

At Cummeragunja the group was lucky to meet with Uncle Col and Auntie May, Uncle Col provided a Welcome ceremony and spoke about the history of the Cummeragunja mission.

Another highlight for September was a visit from 'Do ya wanna dance', sharing their rock n roll skills with us. It was fantastic to see the fun had dressing up in our rockabilly outfits and a very special Tina Turner, everyone gave the moves a go and had a good laugh. Tory's favourite was 'The Nutbush'. This might be one to come back again



## Aged Care Reforms Update

The Aged Care Reform Roadmap has been released providing an indicative timeline for key reform elements, <https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/aged-care-reforms/roadmap>

To find out more and help design the changes, visit the [Get Involved Page](https://agedcareengagement.health.gov.au/get-involved/) <https://agedcareengagement.health.gov.au/get-involved/> or call 1800 318 209.

Watch this space for frequent updates on the changes too. If you would like more information, please contact Tory.





# KOORNONG MAARR

Young Tribe  
(ages 12 - 18)

October Dates:

Monday 9th      Monday 23rd

For more information contact:  
Cody 0455 316 969 or Coedie 0455 309 142



**PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUP**  
SEARCH "KOORNONG MAARR  
(YOUTH GROUP)" ON FACEBOOK

## Peeneeyt Pootngeerang

Aboriginal Women's Group

Join us for our Aboriginal Womens Group !  
Participate in other activities with mob  
every fortnight.

October Dates:

Tuesday 10th      Tuesday 24th

Want to learn more? Contact  
Belinda on 0467 010 002



## Aboriginal Men's Group

Join us for our Aboriginal Men's Group !  
Participate in other activities with mob  
every fortnight.

October Dates:

Wednesday 11th      Wednesday 25th

Lunch  
Provided



Want to learn more? Contact  
Levi on 0447 197 018



EVERY FRIDAY 11:00AM -12:30PM

Location:  
Harris Street  
Reserve

## BABIES TO 5 YEAR OLDS WELCOME!



Children are required to be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent to attend. Exceptions - non Aboriginal siblings or other children in parents/ carers care. Your child will be introduced to stimulating and engaging developmental experiences and activities aimed at getting your child/ children kindergarten and school ready in a culturally safe environment.

Join Bron & Casey!



Bron Ferguson



Casey Harradine



Contact Bron Ferguson on 0418 394 500 for more info



Yarn with Truth Receivers from the Yoorrook Justice Commission about your experiences of injustice.

Injustices can be things that happened in the past or things that are happening now.

Sharing your truth will help Yoorrook create a formal public record of injustice. It will also help Yoorrook recommend real changes to systems and laws affecting our people.

Call Joseph Saunders on 0459871852 to get more information or to make a submission on-on-one.

Find out more on the Yoorrook website:

<https://yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au/have-your-say/make-a-submission/>

**WATTA TUKKEEN**

**COMMUNITY DINNER  
Halloween Party!**

Wednesday 11th  
of October

Harris Street Reserve

RSVP via link in post

**MENU**

MAIN  
BBQ meats  
Salad

DESSERT  
Ice cream  
Fruit salad

**PRIZES FOR  
BEST DRESSED!**

**GUNDITJMARARA**  
ABORIGINAL CO-OPERATIVE LTD

TREATY NEEDS AN

**Elders'  
VOICE.**



**HELP US BUILD  
THE ELDERS' VOICE**

Call the Elders' Voice Hotline,  
email us, or find an in-person Elders'  
Voice Gathering happening near you:

- 1800 TREATY (1800 873 289)
- [eldersvoice@firstpeoplesvic.org](mailto:eldersvoice@firstpeoplesvic.org)
- [firstpeoplesvic.org.au/elders-voice](http://firstpeoplesvic.org.au/elders-voice)

All Elders are paid a fee for their time and contribution.

**Are you an Elder?  
We want to hear  
from you!**

We're yarning with Elders  
across the state. We're  
asking questions like:

- How do you define an Elder?
- What do Elders mean to you?
- Who should sit on the Elders' Voice?

## STOLEN GENERATIONS REPARATIONS PACKAGE INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

### Who is eligible to apply

- are an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person
- have been removed by a government or non- government agency in Victoria prior to 31 December 1976, while under the age of 18 years
- have been first removed in Victoria
- have been separated from their family for a period of time that resulted in the experience of loss of family, community, culture, identity, and language.

You cannot apply on behalf of someone who has passed.

Find out more

- 1800 566 071
- [stolen.generations@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:stolen.generations@justice.vic.gov.au)
- [www.vic.gov.au/stolen-generations-reparations-package](http://www.vic.gov.au/stolen-generations-reparations-package)
- PO Box 24053 Melbourne VIC 3001



## Community Hours

## Work Days

Come work off or complete your community work hours!

Simon Dart - Koori Local Justice Worker



Please contact Simon Dart - Koori Local Justice Worker on 0428224470 Or speak with your CCS caseworker to organise.

Each Tuesday & Thursday at Harris Street Reserve

10am to 3pm

Lunch included on completion each week

Culturally safe space and environment

Come have a yarn with Neil

ABORIGINAL HOUSING VICTORIA



from Aboriginal Housing Victoria



Have a question about Aboriginal Victorian Housing?

Have a question about maintenance?

Visiting 27th of October and back December 1st

## Employment

## NGATANWAAR (WELCOME)

Due to enormous expansion and internal promotion, we are seeking the services of multiple roles in our organisation.

Work in an appreciative and supportive environment, that offers generous remuneration – including tax savings and additional leave where you will achieve real and meaningful outcomes that positively affect our community.

JOIN OUR TEAM

### Current Vacancies

- Aboriginal Practice Lead (Orange Door)
- Alcohol & Other Drugs Clinician
- Psychologist
- General Practitioner
- Home and Community Care
- Holistic Family Violence Caseworker
- Integrated Family Services/ Family Preservation Reunification Practitioner
- Independent Living Access Support Officer
- Kinship Care Caseworker
- Social and Emotional Wellbeing Early Years Caseworker

### Why work with us?

We exist to provide community controlled, culturally appropriate holistic services that meet the identified needs of the Aboriginal people and the broader community. You'll work in an inclusive, flexible and supportive environment, that offers generous remuneration where you will achieve real and meaningful outcomes that positively affect our community.

### How to apply:

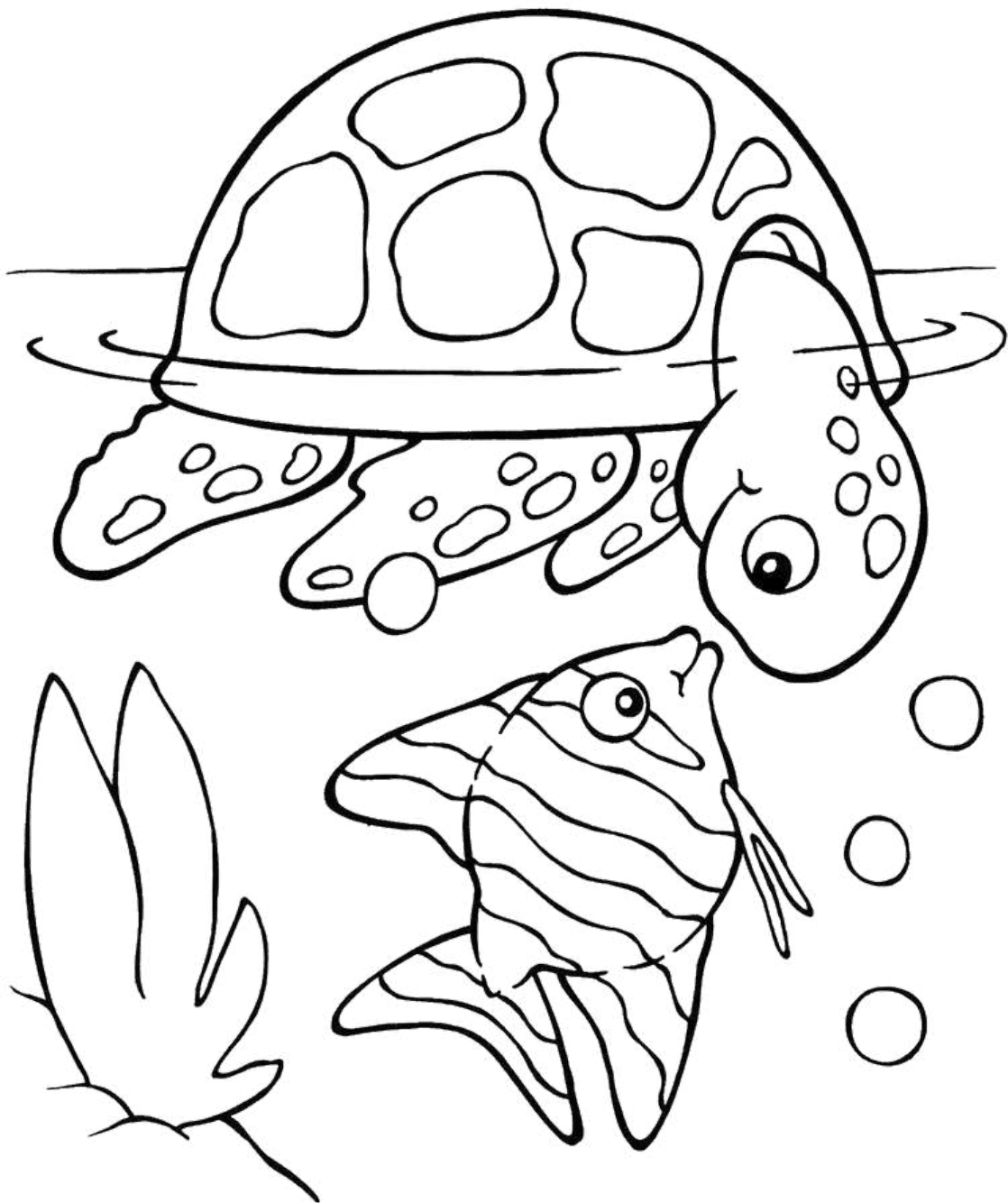
Position descriptions are available to view at [www.gunditjmara.org.au/current-vacancies](http://www.gunditjmara.org.au/current-vacancies) Please send your covering letter (addressing the key selection criteria) and resume to [recruitment@gunditjmara.org.au](mailto:recruitment@gunditjmara.org.au) with the job title in the subject box.



Scan me to learn more!



Colour me in!



## Family Violence supports

- Safe Steps 24/7 Family Violence Response Centre: 1800 015 188
- Emma House Domestic Violence Service Warrnambool: 5561 1934 (Mon-Fri 9-5pm)
- Elizabeth Morgan House Aboriginal Women's Service: 9403 9400
- InTouch (CALD): 1800 755 988
- w/respect (LGBTIQ): 1800 542 847
- Mental Health crisis number: 1800 808 284
- Lifeline 13 11 14
- National Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Hotline (24 hours): 1800 737 732 (1800 Respect)

## Men's Family Violence supports

- Men's Referral Service: 1300 766 491
- Dardi Munwurro phone support (24 hours): 1800 435 799
- Emergency Services: 000
- Mental Health crisis number: 1800 808 284
- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Suicide Call Back Service (24/7 support): 1300 659 467

## Child and Parenting supports

- Child Protection After Hours: 13 12 78
- Parentline: 8am-Midnight 7 days a week: 13 22 89
- Mental Health crisis number: 1800 808 284
- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Kids helpline: 1800 55 1800

## Housing or Homelessness supports

- Crisis/Homelessness 1800 015 188
- Brophy Family and Youth Services (12-25yo) Mon-Fri 9am-5pm: 5561 8888
- Salvo connect (25yo+) Mon-Fri 9am-5pm: 5564 9111

## Health and wellbeing

- South West Health Care: Ryot St, Warrnambool VIC 3280 5563 1666 (24/7)
- South West Healthcare; Emergency Department for GP service and health needs (24/7): 5563 1666
- Nurse on-call: 1300 60 60 24

## Mental health supports

- Mental Health crisis number: 1800 808 284
- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Kids helpline: 1800 55 1800
- Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636
- Headspace (12-25yo): 9am-1am 7 days a week: 1800 650 890
- Suicide Call Back Service (24/7 support): 1300 659 467

## Alcohol and other drug supports

- Regional Victorian AOD Intake Line: 1300 022 760 (Mon – Fri) 9:00am - 5:00pm
- Victorian AOD counselling and referral service: 1800 888236 (24/7 support)
- Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636
- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- DirectLine alcohol and drug counselling: 1800 888 236

## South West Healthcare supports

Kaye Smith Aboriginal Liaison - Mental Health Services  
South West Healthcare  
Koroit Street Warrnambool 3280  
Monday to Thursday 08.30am to 5.00pm  
Mobile: 0466 862 869  
Phone: 1800 808 284 and dial 1

## Aboriginal Health Liaison Officer

South West Healthcare  
Koroit Street Warrnambool 3280  
Monday to Friday 08.30am to 05.00pm  
Dominique - 0422343442  
Corey - 0481093529

## The Orange Door – Wimmera South West

571-575 Raglan Parade Warrnambool (Next To Macca's)  
1800271180  
For All Family Violence related Referrals and support, Child Wellbeing Support and Other Referral pathways including Mental Health AOD, Parenting Support, Men's Behavioural Change.



### What would you like to see in our newsletter?

Share with us your feedback by handing in this page to the Gunditjmarra Main Office on Kepler St or by emailing us on [media@gunditjmarra.org.au](mailto:media@gunditjmarra.org.au)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Do you have feedback, suggestions or a complaint?

#### Complaints

##### **Making a Complaint**

A person wishing to make a complaint may do so in writing or verbally to any GAC representative including;

The staff member they were dealing with at the time

- The manger / team leader of that staff member
- An executive director

Clients also have the right to make a complaint to external organisations such as:

- The Governing body or the Commissioner
- Clients should be notified of their rights to make an external complaint to the above bodies.

##### **Complaints can be made by:**

- Submitting a completed Clients & External Stakeholders Complaints Form into the Suggestion Box located at reception at GAC's Kepler St and Banyan St work sites. The Clients & External Stakeholders Complaints Form can be accessed online here or at reception as a hardcopy upon request.
- Submitting a written complaint to the relevant manager or executive director.
- Via telephone to the relevant manager or executive director on 03 5559 1234.
- Anonymous complaints can may be made by phone, writing and or face to face meeting.

Alternatively you can fill out the complaint form via our website [www.gunditjmarra.org.au/feedback](http://www.gunditjmarra.org.au/feedback)

#### Feedback

##### **We love to hear your feedback!**

Please fill out a feedback form below and leave it in the feedback box at reception.

This form can be accessed via our website at [www.gunditjmarra.org.au/feedback](http://www.gunditjmarra.org.au/feedback) or can be supplied upon request at Head Office reception at 135 Kepler Street Warrnambool, VIC 3280

Once this form is completed, you can get it to us by:

- Send us an email with the form attached via [feedback@gunditjmarra.org.au](mailto:feedback@gunditjmarra.org.au)
- Write to us at: Gunditjmarra Aboriginal Cooperative, PO Box 732, Warrnambool, VIC, 3280
- Dropping it off in person to the above address

Alternatively, you can:

- Call reception on 03 5559 1234

Your feedback will then be forwarded to the appropriate manager.