



Congratulations to our NAIDOC Award Winners!

Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative

August Newsletter 2025



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



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August Dates

- 9th International Day of the World's Indigenous People
- 16th National Children's Book Week

September Dates

- 4th Indigenous Literacy Day
- 14th R U OK Day
- 26th AFL Grand Final - Public Holiday

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



Follow our Socials:



Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative



[gunditjmaracoop](https://www.instagram.com/gunditjmaracoop)

NAIDOC Week Wrap Up

Wednesday morning we officially opened our new building at 24 Hopkins Rd, Warrnambool. The day began with a community breakfast, followed by a Welcome to Country by Harmony Smith, a Smoking Ceremony by Danny Pearson, and the flag raising by Uncle Rob Lowe Snr, Dominique De Bono and Alkira Couzens. We then unveiled the official plaque and closed the ceremony with traditional dances by Meerrmay Maarr (Gunditjmara Cultural Girls Group) and the deadly Koko Blokes.

Following the official building opening we presented our Gunditjmara NAIDOC Awards for 2025.

This years recipients voted by community and selected by the board were:

Youth of the Year (Female): Alkira Couzens

At just 16, Alkira balances school, work, and a traineeship while teaching culture to little ones with pride and purpose.

Youth of the Year (Male): Jake Proctor

A newly qualified baker, Jake shows that hard work and dedication go a long way. A strong role model for young mob.

Youth of the Year (Male): Kobi Chatfield

Kobi leads through sport and ceremony, designing uniforms and regularly delivering Welcomes to Country.

Community Member (Female): Ashlee Bennett

Ashlee supports families with care and cultural safety through her work in family violence advocacy.

Community Member (Female): Jess Chatfield

Jess teaches traditional weaving and shares history, keeping culture alive and strong.

Community Member (Male): Levi Geebung

A cultural mentor, artist and proud dad, Levi empowers others through healing, art and knowledge.

Elder of the Year (Female): Aunty Tracy Roach

Aunty Tracy inspires through her artwork and workshops, encouraging creativity and connection.

Elder of the Year (Female): Aunty Roslyn Britton

Aunty Ros leads with strength and wisdom, supporting families through her cultural safety work.

Elder of the Year (Male): Uncle Robert Lowe Snr

A founding leader of many Aboriginal orgs, Uncle Rob's legacy is felt across generations

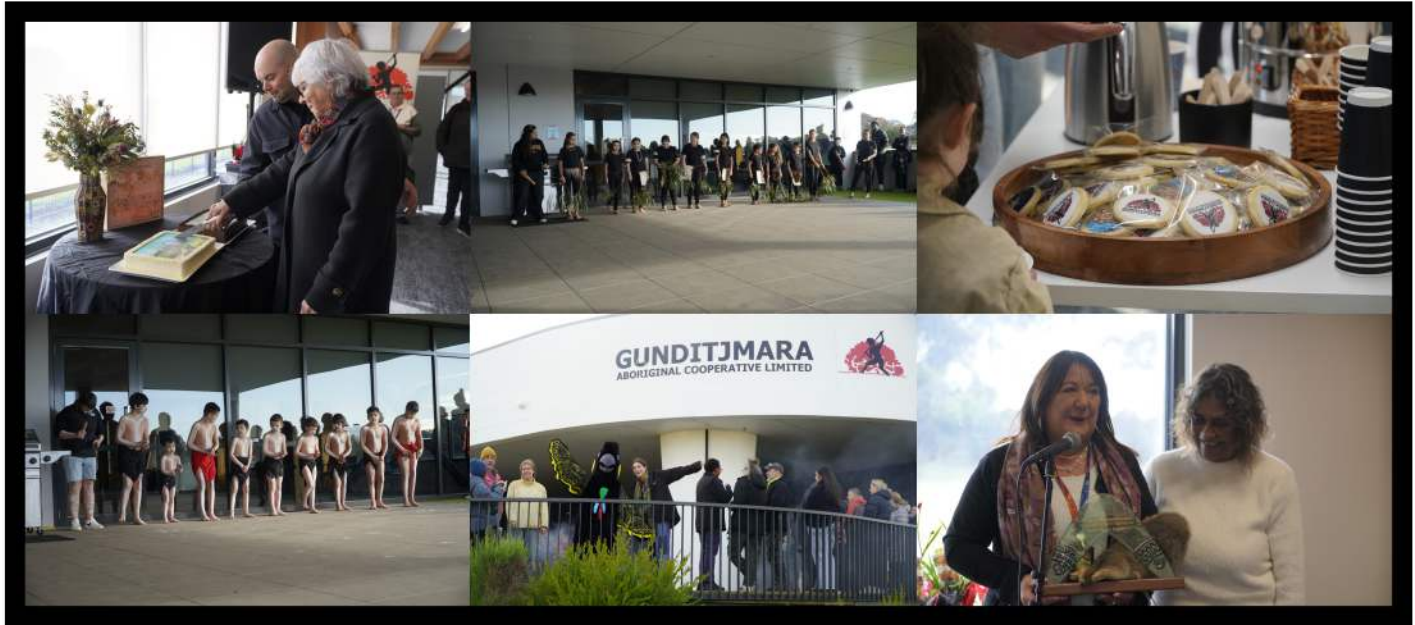
That afternoon, community members braved the windy Warrnambool weather and headed to Moyjil / Hopkins River to take part in a community sand art project with Lowell Hunter (AKA Salty One) - a proud Nyul Nyul Saltwater man from the Kimberley in Western Australia who grew up on Gunditjmara Country.

To finish the week, on Friday we travelled with community members to Naarm / Melbourne to take part in the official NAIDOC March.

We hope you all had a deadly NAIDOC Week - we sure did!



NAIDOC Week Wrap Up



ALLIED HEALTH VISITS



OPTOMETRY

August 1st



AUDIOLOGY

TBC



PHYSIOTHERAPY

August 29th
September 12th
October 24th
November 21st
December 19th

NEW



DENTIST

Please contact
South West Health
Care Dental directly
on 03 5564 4250



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

*Currently unavailable at
Gunditjmarra Health Clinic

Increase to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 715 Health Check Voucher



Replacing the \$25 Kmart voucher, effective immediately when you book in for your yearly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 715 Health Check through Gunditjmarra Health Clinic you'll now receive a \$100 voucher of your choice from five businesses.

The 715 health check is for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members only. Please contact the clinic to check for eligibility. Please note, you are entitled to 1 \$100 gift card (of choice) per health check.



To book in please contact 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 guntunk!



Gunditjmarra Health Clinic on 5564 3344

AUSTRALIAN
Clinicalabs

Opening Hours:

Monday - 8:30AM to 1:30PM

Tuesday - 8:30AM to 1:30PM

Wednesday - 8:30AM to 1:30PM

Thursday - 8:30AM to 1:30PM

Friday - 8:30AM to 1:30PM

Saturday & Sunday - CLOSED

Available at 24 Hopkins Road
Warrnambool, VIC 3280

Groups



Join us for our Aboriginal Youth Group !
Participate in activities with other young
mob aged 13 to 18 every second Monday

AUGUST

Monday 4th
Monday 18th



Any questions or transport contact:
Jaynaya - 0459 595 113
Coedie - 0455 309 142



Join us for our Aboriginal Womens Group !
Participate in other activities with mob
every second Tuesday

AUGUST

Tuesday 5th
Tuesday 19th



For more information or to arrange
transport contact Joanne on 0439 999 602



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

AUGUST

Wednesday 6th
Wednesday 20th



For any questions or transport contact:
Dylan - 0438 861 272
Coedie - 0455 309 142



Join us for our Aboriginal Early Years !
Participate in activities with other young
mob aged 5 to 12 every second Monday

AUGUST

Thursday 7th
Thursday 21st



For any questions or transport contact:
Teneshia - 0458 645 615
Coedie - 0455 309 142



Every Monday and Wednesday



10:30am-12:30pm



Contact Bron at Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative on
5559 1234 for a yarn to enroll your child or find out more.

New
Dates!



The Independent Living Team provide home and social support services to our local community, working each day to make a positive impact.

Our aim is to support healthier, happy, stronger lifestyles for our community.

Our Home Care Support workers support clients to:

- Live healthy, independent, and active lives.
- To remain at home safe and supported.
- To keep connected to community and culture.



If you are looking for services, and you have a Home Care Package or NDIS, please reach out to see how we can help you.



Wata Takoort Come All

This past month at Wata Takoort, we started the month by coming together to celebrate and remember the life of Judy Sumner. A beautiful and respected Elder, Judy's impact on our group will never be forgotten. We hold her memory close and continue to walk in her footsteps with pride.

We attended NAIDOC Week celebrations at different organisations. It was a week of pride, resilience and strength. Being present at so many events reminded us of the importance of celebrating our culture.

In the kitchen, we had the pleasure of cooking with Neil, with the help of our very own Jy-lee. Together we cooked up and enjoyed the simple act of preparing and sharing food together.

Throughout the month we celebrated birthdays. It's always beautiful to come together and honour the lives and milestones of our mob.

Our time together reminds us that Wata Takoort is more than just a group. It's a space to feel safe, supported and strong. Whether it's through yarns, shared meals, or standing together at community events.

For more information, please contact:
Karen Chatfield: 0459 957 417



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Community Notices

! Reminder

Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative is a smoke-free/vape-free organisation.

Please note that any form of smoking or vaping is not permitted on our premises at 24 Hopkins Road - Including the carpark.



A Sheriff Aboriginal Liaison Officer (SALO) can help with your outstanding fines and warrants.

Your SALO: Kaleb Comollatti

Mobile: 0475 045 004

Email: kaleb.comollatti@justice.vic.gov.au



Join Our Respite Carer Pool Today!

Make a positive impact on a child's life by joining our respite care program. Provide short-term, temporary care in your home or other convenient location tailored to meet the child's needs.

Requirements



Must obtain an Employee Working with Children Check



Pass a National Police Check



Home Environment Check by GAC

For more information contact:

 Sally Goullet
[0447 149 376](tel:0447149376)

 Alison Lumsden
[0467 777 230](tel:0467777230)

Connect and Thrive: Join a Yarn SMART Recovery Meeting



Yarn SMART Meetings

SMART Recovery Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recovery program is dedicated to providing culturally appropriate and empowering support to Indigenous individuals seeking to overcome addiction and achieve lasting recovery.

SMART Recovery's 4-point program principles:

1. Building and maintaining motivation
2. Learning to cope with urges and cravings
3. Problem solving
4. Find a lifestyle balance

The 4Cs are based on Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing models of care:

Country



Culture



Community




Connection



Meeting Details

- 64 Harris Street, Warrnambool VIC 3280
- Fridays 1pm to 2:30pm

For updates, please refer to our social media or contact us on 5559 1234

 For more information please contact Vicki on 0439 999 601



POLICE ABORIGINAL LIAISON OFFICERS

Warrnambool Police Station - 5560 1333

Police Aboriginal Liaison Officers (PALOs) are members of Victoria Police who have PALO duties along with their operational role. The PALO program addresses Recommendation 231 of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC).

PALOs focus on cultural safety and work with the Aboriginal community to:

- resolve local issues
- facilitate access to police services (including reporting crime)
- help police members become culturally conscious and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal people and communities
- provide a contact point for community members who want support to engage with police, and
- provide advice to their peers and colleagues on local Aboriginal issues.
- To get in touch with a PALO, contact your local police station.

Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers

The ACLO roles help police to:

- deliver effective services
- have a positive influence on Aboriginal Victorians' perceptions of personal and community safety

The ACLOs liaise between the Victorian Aboriginal Community and Victoria Police. They are community representatives within the organisation. In consultation with the community, ACLOs:

- provide advice to senior police members on local Aboriginal issues
- encourage Aboriginal communities to engage with police members to resolve issues
- help to develop, put in place and deliver appropriate training programs.

ACLO – Michelle Ellis

Email: michelle.ellis@police.vic.gov.au

Phone: 5560 1249 Mobile: 0438 682 356

Employment

JOIN OUR TEAM

Work in an appreciative and supportive environment, that offers generous remuneration – including tax savings and additional leave, where you'll achieve meaningful outcomes for our community.

Scan me to
learn more!



OR



Visit:

www.gunditjmara.org.au/current-vacancies

Current Vacancies

- Social & Emotional Wellbeing Caseworker (Adult)
- Kinship Care Practitioner (Maternity Leave Cover)
- Intensive Family Services/Family Preservation & Reunification (12 Months)
- Aboriginal Tenancy's at Risk (ATAR)
- Home and Community Support Worker
- Social Worker
- The Koori Way Worker (Tackling Indigenous Smoking)
- Local Justice Worker
- Psychologist
- General Practitioner

How to apply:

Position descriptions are available to view at www.gunditjmara.org.au/current-vacancies

Please send your covering letter (addressing the key selection criteria) and resume to recruitment@gunditjmara.org with the job title in the subject box.



THE STORY OF YOU

You can write or
draw your story!

In the boxes below, share
your story!
You can draw, you can write or
you can do both!

The diagram is a mind map with a central white box. Seven lines radiate from this central box to seven smaller rectangular boxes, each containing a question. The boxes are color-coded: red for 'Where were you born?', 'My dream is to be...', and 'My favourite food is...'; yellow for 'Who is your mob', 'My best memory is...', and 'I like to...'; and black for 'Draw your Totem'. The boxes are arranged in a circular pattern around the center.

Where were you born?

Who is your mob

My dream is to be...

Draw your Totem

My favourite food is...

My best memory is...

I like to...

Emergency Contacts

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE CALL 000

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 (12-25yr): 9am-1am
7 days a week: 1800 650 890
- Suicide Call Back Service (24/7 support):
1300 659 467
- 13YARN - 24/7 Crisis Support for Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islanders: 13 92 76

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

South West Healthcare Supports

Aboriginal Programs – Aboriginal Liaison Officers
Koroit Street Warrnambool 3280
Monday-Friday 8.00am-5.00pm
ALO – 0422 343 442
ALO – 0481 093 529

Aboriginal Liaison-Mental Health Services
Kaye Smith – 0466 862 869
Reception: 1800 808 284 then select option 3.

Victorian Virtual Emergency Department

For non-life-threatening emergencies. Open 24/7
Website: ved-avhcp-enrollment.nh.org.au

The Orange Door – Wimmera South West

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

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

What would you like to see in our newsletter?

Share with us your feedback by handing in this page in at Gunditjmara aboriginal Cooperative at 24 Hopkins Rd Warrnambool or by emailing us on media@gunditjmara.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 manager / 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 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 be made by phone, writing and/or face-to-face meeting.

Alternatively you can fill out the complaint form via our website www.gunditjmara.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.gunditjmara.org.au/feedback or can be supplied upon request at Head Office reception at 24 Hopkins Road 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@gunditjmara.org.au
- Write to us at: Gunditjmara 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.