



Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative

April Newsletter 2025



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 - Health Clinic
- Pg 4 - Group updates
- Pg 6 - Community Notices
- Pg 8 - Employment
- Pg 9 - Activity Sheet
- Pg 10 - Emergency Contacts
- Pg 11 - Feedback and Complaints

April Dates

- 16th Strategic Planning Consultation
(Members only)
- 17th Community Dinner
- 18th Good Friday
- 19th Saturday before Easter Sunday
- 20th Easter Sunday
- 21st Easter Monday
- 25th ANZAC Day

May Dates

- 1st May Races public holiday
- 21st Community Dinner
- 26th Sorry Day
- 27th Reconciliation Week

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)

I'll start by wishing everyone a Happy Easter. The year has gained momentum quickly and in no time at all we are about to start first term school holidays and the Easter break.

Things have been busy at Hopkins Road. As I write this, construction is winding up and by Easter my hope is that all our services will be finally under the same roof. The vision of having a one-stop-shop will finally be reality. Although the process has been a lengthy and at times logistically challenging, we are grateful that the process has been relatively smooth, fast and far less disruptive than our original plan of redeveloping. We now have space, purpose-built areas for our services and a beautiful, calm location for our Community to enjoy. It will take some time to learn how to utilise some of our spaces effectively, but the end goal is now so close. I look forward to the next chapter and our official opening. Stay tuned for updates in the coming months.

Anzac Day is Friday 25th April. Gunditjmarra will again have representation at the dawn service and the 11 am service outside the Warrnambool RSL. It is a little-known fact that in both World Wars, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had the highest participation rates in the military as a proportion of their population in Australia. As a sign of respect, if you're able to attend both services to acknowledge our ancestors who lost their lives during the wars, it would be appreciated.

As mentioned earlier, Easter and the school holidays are nearly here. The school holiday program is once again being run and from all accounts it has been well supported with many exciting activities on the agenda.

Please remember that if your child isn't feeling well, please keep them home. Also, if your child does require some extra support to facilitate their participation in the program, please contact the organisers to discuss prior. The programs are held to benefit the children and the more information we have the better our programs can be run. We encourage your feedback and are always looking for new and exciting ideas for our young community members to enjoy.

Important dates to remember are Friday 18th April which is Good Friday and Monday 21st April which is Easter Monday. Our clinic and services will be closed on both days. Friday the 25th April is Anzac Day which is also a public holiday with our services also closed on this day.

I hope you have a lovely Easter break and enjoy time with your loved ones. Don't eat too much chocolate!

Tdo ngatook,
Danny Chatfield



Health Clinic

ALLIED HEALTH VISITS



OPTOMETRY

11th of April
&
9th of May



AUDIOLOGY

14th of May



DENTIST

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

**Currently unavailable at
Gunditjmara Health Clinic*



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

Can't make your appointment?



Please contact the Gunditjmara 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!

Increase to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 715 Health Check Voucher



In replacement of the \$25 Kmart voucher, effective immediately when you book in for your yearly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 715 Health Check through Gunditjmara Health Clinic you will now receive a \$100 voucher of your choice from 5 different 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 Gunditjmara Health Clinic on 5564 3344



GUNDITJMARA HEALTH CLINIC

HEALTHY KIDS, DEADLY FUN!

These April School Holidays

Monday 7th of April to Sunday 27th

For any children ATSI health checks done during the school holiday period, receive a school holiday activity voucher such as bowling, mini golf or the movies on top of the usual incentive of \$100 Voucher!

Call the Gunditjmara Health Clinic to book in your child's
ASTI Health Check:

☎ 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 Monday fortnightly

APRIL

Monday 14th
Monday 28th



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 Tuesday fortnightly

APRIL

Tuesday 1st
Tuesday 15th
Tuesday 29th



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 Wednesday fortnightly

APRIL

Wednesday 2nd
Wednesday 16th
Wednesday 30th



For any questions or transport contact:
Levi - 0447 197 018
Coedie - 0455 309 142



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

APRIL

Thursday 3rd
Thursday 17th



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



Every Wednesday and Friday



10:30am-12:30pm



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





A group for Aboriginal Dads and Dads of Aboriginal Children



To learn more information or to express your interest, please contact Bec Clayton on 0448 872 366 or Belinda Payne 5559 1234

Keep an eye out for more information

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



For more information, please contact:

• Karen Chatfield: 0459 957 417

• Kiri McKane: 0459 907 685

March

In March, the Wata Takoort group was out and about!

Our monthly outing took us to Portland where we went for a ride around Portland on a tram, learning about the history. We participated in Close the Gap Day activities, had our monthly BINGO, which we had a lot of fun.

We hosted a variety of guest speakers who shared insights about their work and how we could potentially collaborate with them.

April promises to be another busy month, featuring more guest speakers, BINGO, a special mystery trip, baking with Jemma and Neil and much more.



Community Notices

! Reminder

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

Please note 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

KOORI Strong
KOORI Proud
KOORI Justice
Victorian Aboriginal
Justice Agreement



**THE NEXT
GENERATION:
STRENGTH,
VISION &
LEGACY**
6-13 JULY 2025

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 a
Employee Working
with Children Check





Pass a National
Police Check



Home Environment
Check by GAC

For more information, contact Kelsie Twaddle:

 kelsie.twaddle@gunditjmara.org.au  0493 775 287

CALLING ARTISTS

WE'RE UPDATING OUR BRANDING



The Artist chosen will receive \$3,000 and have your artwork used organisational wide uniforms, forms on our platforms & so much more

Artwork must include cultural story lines:

- The Hopkins River
- Eels
- Wrap Around / Community Support

HOW TO SUBMIT

Bring into 24 Hopkins Road
Warrnambool VIC 3280
Email
media@gunditjmara.org.au



For any questions please
contact us on 5559 1234



Applications close 08/04/25



This year, the National NAIDOC Committee takes an important step toward independence, embracing self-determination as a model for the next generation. With every story shared, every act of resilience remembered, and every cultural practice celebrated, we honour a legacy that reaches far into the past and extends into the future. As we celebrate this milestone, we look toward the next 50 years with excitement and confidence, while everyday ensuring that NAIDOC remains a movement grounded in community-led vision and integrity.



Read more:

<https://www.aidoc.org.au/about/aidoc-theme>

About the settlement of up to \$202 million for the Northern Territory Stolen Wages Class Action

YOU MUST REGISTER NOW TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ELIGIBILITY

The Commonwealth Government has agreed to a settlement of the Northern Territory Stolen Wages Class Action in which it will pay up to \$202 million including costs (depending on how many people register). The Court will need to approve the settlement before any money is paid out. Ms Minnie McDonald brought the class action in the Federal Court against the Commonwealth Government on behalf of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who worked in the Northern Territory between 1933 and 1971 and were paid little or no wages. A detailed notice giving information about the proposed settlement has been published. You can get a copy by contacting Shine Lawyers on the contact details below.

If you want to find out more about the case, the settlement or ask for a registration form, you can

- Call Shine Lawyers on 1800 860 378
- Email Shine Lawyers at ntstolenwages@shine.com.au
- Go to shine.com.au/stolenwagesnt



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



YOUNG MOB INSPIRATION DAY with Eddie Betts

All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young
mob aged 5 to 25 are invited

-  Sunday 6th of April 2025
 -  11am start
 -  Mack Oval, Warnambool VIC 3280
 -  Eddie Betts Storytelling Yarn with Youth 12-25
 -  Health Kicks Clinic for children aged 5-12 with Eddie Betts & special guests
- PLUS MORE ACTIVITIES**

BBQ Lunch Provided



 For more information
contact us on 5559 1234



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:



Meeting Details

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

 For more information please contact Vicki on 0439 999 601

Employment



NGATANWAAR (WELCOME)

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.



- Psychologist
- Kinship Care Practitioner (Maternity Leave Cover)
- General Practitioner
- Home and Community Care Support Worker

*This is an Aboriginal identified position.

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



Scan me to
learn more!

OR

Visit:
www.gunditjmara.org.au/current-vacancies

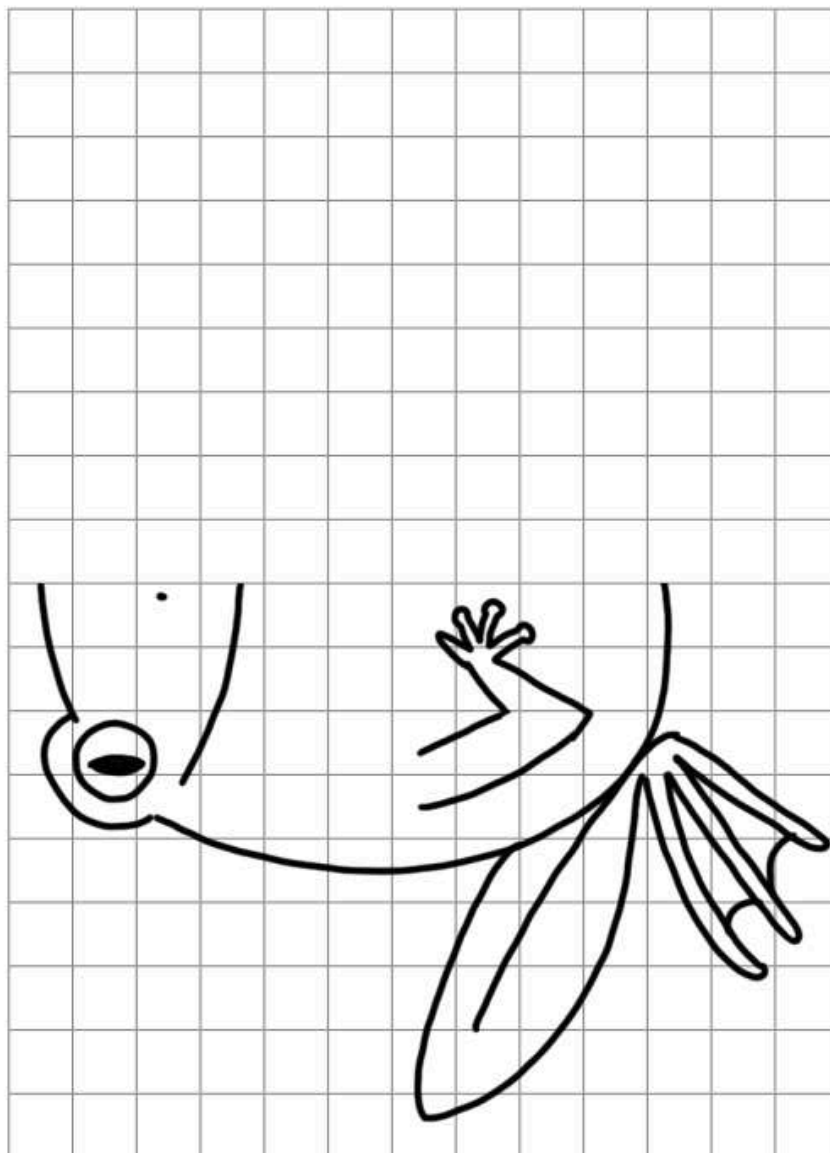


FINISH THE FROG



Did you know?
Frogs are environmental
indicators: if our frogs are
healthy and abundant, then
our waterways are most
probably healthy too.

Help Amir complete a happy,
healthy frog using the grid
alongside. You can colour it
in too!



VISIT THE JUNIOR LANDCARE LEARNING CENTRE

JUNIORLANDCARE.ORG.AU/LEARNING_ACTIVITY/CREATING-A-FROG-FRIENDLY-HABITAT-RESEARCH/

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 (12-25yo): 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 to the Gunditjmara Main Office on Kepler St 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 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.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.