



# Halloween Community Dinner

Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative

## November 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 & complaints

### November Dates

- 1st Indigenous Remembrance Day
- 11th Remembrance Day
- 19th Community Dinner
- 25th Start of '16 Days of Activism'  
International Day for the Elimination  
of Violence against Women

### December Dates

- 10th Human Rights Day
- TBC Koori Xmas

Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative will be closed from December 19<sup>th</sup> 2025 and returning Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2026

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)



Follow our Socials:



Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative



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

### Leadership Update – Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative



Ngatanwarr Members, Community, Staff and Partners,

#### **Announcement of CEO Resignation**

The Board of Directors of Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative advises that Mr. Danny Chatfield has resigned as Chief Executive Officer to take on a new career path. Danny is currently on leave and will formally finish in the role on 17 October 2025.

We thank Danny for his leadership and commitment during his tenure. A key achievement under his guidance was the purchase of our state-of-the-art Hopkins Road facility, which brought together our service offerings under one roof and created a one-stop hub for our community.

We acknowledge Danny's contributions and leadership and wish him every success in his future endeavours.

#### **Acting CEO Arrangements**

The Board has commenced recruitment for a new CEO through an open process to secure the right leader for Gunditjmara's next phase of growth and service delivery.

From Thursday 2nd October, Ms. Tanya Wines will serve as Acting CEO until the appointment of a permanent successor. Tanya is currently our General Manager of Health and brings over 20 years' experience in health and community services, including leadership roles at Timboon and District Healthcare Service where she was Director of Community Health. Her background as a Medical Scientist and senior manager in rural and regional health provides strong grounding in governance, service delivery, and community engagement.

Tanya is committed to ensuring stability and continuity during this period and to supporting staff and community as the Board completes the recruitment process.

All services and reporting lines continue as normal.

We thank our community and partners for their ongoing support and will provide further updates as recruitment progresses.

Woorook,

Board of Directors

Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative



## ALLIED HEALTH VISITS

At our health clinic



### PHYSIOTHERAPY

November 21st  
December 19th



### OPTOMETRY

**Returning late 2025**  
Please contact Penry  
Routson Optometrists  
directly on  
(03) 5561 2331



### DENTIST

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

\*Currently unavailable at  
Gunditjmara Health Clinic



### AUDIOLOGY

TBC

## 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 Gunditjmara 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 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.



*Tdo gantunk!*



Gunditjmara 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

### NOVEMBER

Monday 10th  
Monday 24th



Any questions or transport contact:  
Jaynaya - 0459 595 113  
Bobby- 0456 807 196



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

### NOVEMBER

Tuesday 11th  
Tuesday 25th



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

### NOVEMBER

Wednesday 12th  
Wednesday 26th



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

### NOVEMBER

Thursday 13th  
Thursday 27th



For any questions or transport contact:  
Teneshia - 0458 645 615  
Nyteisha - 0475 569 644



Every Monday and Wednesday



10:30am-12:30pm



Warrnambool Scout Hall  
Behind our 24 Hopkins Rd Site



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

New  
Location!



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

What a beautiful and busy month it's been for our Wata Takoort mob! We've shared stories, cooked up a storm, celebrated our own, and even ventured off to Melbourne / Naarm for some unforgettable experiences.

We started the month by celebrating Aunty Glenda birthday then celebrating Kritzy's at the end of the month. Coming together with cake, laughter, and plenty of love. There's nothing better than seeing everyone gathered to honour the special people who make our group what it is.

In the kitchen, Neil and Jemma led the way with another delicious cooking session - this time whipping up rum balls and beef stir fry. The smell alone had everyone smiling, and it didn't take long for the plates to be cleared!

Our creative side came alive as we began work on our possum skins, sketching early designs and story ideas in pencil. We're all so excited to welcome special guests in the coming weeks to help us bring those stories to life through the burning process.

Some of our group also hit the road for a camp to Melbourne / Naarm, where we visited Connie Hart's "One Stitch at a Time" exhibition, caught the Michael Jackson musical, and went on plenty more adventures together.

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We also held an event for the Seniors Festival at Harris Street Reserve, where the focus was on sharing culture and creativity. Our mob took part in basket weaving, boomerang painting, and possum skin burning.

To round out the month, a few of our Elders travelled to the Elders Summit in Naarm, representing community and sharing knowledge with others. We're proud of the strong voices that continue to guide and inspire us.



## 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](mailto: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 11am to 12:30pm

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

**i** For more information please contact Vicki on 0439 999 601



## Aboriginal Advisory Group Expression of Interest

The Southwest Orange Door would like to invite Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to submit an expression of interest to join their Aboriginal Advisory Group.

### What's the purpose?

The Aboriginal Advisory Group will create a clear mechanism for Aboriginal communities and services to:

- Collectively advise the Hub Leadership Group (HLG) on implementing the principles of self-determination, service choice and cultural safety within The Orange Door
- Inform decision-making about the ongoing operation of The Orange Door, in relation to the needs of Aboriginal communities across The Orange Door Southwest area.
  - Support engagement of Aboriginal services within The Orange Door.

To express your interest, please download the form: [https://bit.ly/EOI\\_AGG](https://bit.ly/EOI_AGG) and email the completed form to [southwest.aag@orangedoor.vic.gov.au](mailto:southwest.aag@orangedoor.vic.gov.au)

📞 For any additional information or assistance submitting your form, please don't hesitate to call Belinda King on 1800 271 180

## Help Shape WDAC's Dental Feasibility Study



WDAC has created a short community survey to gather valuable insights directly from our community members. Your feedback will help shape their Feasibility Study and guide future planning across the Western District.

- 🎯 12 quick and easy rating-scale questions
- 🎯 Completely confidential - no personal info collected (just postcode)
- 🎯 Takes only a few minutes to complete
- 🎯 All data will be deleted once the project is complete

Scan to have  
your say

or visit  
[https://forms.office.c  
om/r/2rPZFW1Z0K](https://forms.office.c om/r/2rPZFW1Z0K)



Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative

## Breakfast Program



Enjoy a free feed and let Bobby and Mikey deal with the school drop off.



7:00am to 8:20am

Providing pick ups from 7:15am  
Limited spots available



Every Friday in Term 4



64 Harris Street

Harris Street Reserve, Warnambool

School age mob only | Parents/Guardians welcome | No RSVP required - just show up



For more information contact  
Bobby on 0456 807 196



## Celebrating 20 years at GAC!

Wednesday 15 October 2025, we celebrated a very special milestone. Please join us in congratulating Jenny on 20 years of service with Gunditjmarra Aboriginal Cooperative.

You will have seen Jenny's smiling face on our front desk at the Gunditjmarra Health Clinic or her lovely voice answering the phone. We are beyond lucky to have her apart of our team.

Thank you Jenny for everything you do and for the countless ways you support the team and community



## 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.gunditjmarra.org.au/current-vacancies](http://www.gunditjmarra.org.au/current-vacancies)

Current  
Vacancies

- Independent Living Intake Coordinator
- Aboriginal Family Preservation & Reunification Response (AFPR)
- ARED Practitioner
- General Practitioner
- Psychologist

#### How to apply:

Position descriptions are available to view at [www.gunditjmarra.org.au/current-vacancies](http://www.gunditjmarra.org.au/current-vacancies)

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





# Acknowledgement of Country

# 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](http://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

## Feedback & Complaints

### 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](mailto:media@gunditjmara.org.au)

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### 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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.