

April Community Dinner Easter Special



Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative

May 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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May Dates

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

June Dates

- 1st - 30th Pride Month
- 9th Public Holiday
- 18th Community Dinner

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 hope this month finds you all well and ready for the cooler months ahead. Easter is now done, and school is back for another term.

As you have likely seen, our hub at Hopkins Road has seen lots of activity over the past weeks with the final push to get the building complete progressing much quicker than initially thought. I can proudly say that all our services are now located at 24 Hopkins Road. At times I find myself still taking a moment to reflect on the enormity of this exciting milestone in our organisation's history. We have now welcomed the Family Services Team who will be operating from the offices at the front of the building (facing the road). This team was the final group to transition to Hopkins Road.

We are now the one-stop-shop our community had always hoped for.

After what was at times logistically challenging, we held strong with our vision and have now achieved our end goal. I would sincerely like to thank you all for your patience, trust, and for working together to make this dream for our Community a reality. To be able to offer all our services from this amazing building surrounded by so many culturally significant landmarks isn't something we could have imagined and something we should all be incredibly proud of. I am looking forward to an exciting future ahead with more big achievements for GAC on the horizon.

We have NAIDOC week fast approaching in July with the theme this year being 'The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy'. Plans are already underway for events, activities and celebrations so keep a close eye on our socials for updates. It is also worth mentioning another couple of important dates in May with National Sorry Day on the 26th May and National Reconciliation Week starting from 27th May to 3rd June. There will be events held throughout the country and information will be circulated once we have further details.

On the clinic front, there have been lots of GP appointments available of late. This presents a great opportunity for Community members to book in for annual checks and to get their Flu Vaccination. Please give the clinic a call on 03 5564 3344 and one of the friendly staff will book you in.

I hope you all had a great break over Easter and the Anzac Day public holiday. Warrnambool May Race Carnival starts on Tuesday 29th April and this year Warrnambool will observe Thursday 1st May as a Public Holiday. Please make a note that the clinic and all other services will not be operating on this day.

I look forward to seeing you in the upcoming festivities and will hopefully be able to share some official opening news in the coming newsletters.

Tdo ngatook,
Danny Chatfield



ALLIED HEALTH VISITS



OPTOMETRY

9th of May
4th of July



AUDIOLOGY

14th of May
Fully booked



PHYSIOTHERAPY

June 20th
July 18th
August 29th
September 12th
October 24th
November 21st
December 19th



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

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

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!



Gunditjmara Health Clinic on 5564 3344



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

MAY

Monday 12th
Monday 26th



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

MAY

Tuesday 13th
Tuesday 27th



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

MAY

Wednesday 14th
Wednesday 28th



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

MAY

Thursday 15th
Thursday 29th



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!**





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

Wata Takoort Group: Connecting, Creating, and Exploring Together

Every Monday and Thursday, the Wata Takoort Group comes together for a week full of connection, creativity, and culture. It's a friendly, social group where everyone is welcome to join in, meet new people, and enjoy time together.

Each month, we head out on a "Mystery Trip," visiting special places both on and off country. Transport and lunch are provided, so all you need to bring is your sense of adventure!

When we're not out and about, you'll find us at Harris Street Reserve, getting creative and keeping culture strong. We run activities like drum making, arts and crafts, cultural workshops, and so much more. It's a great time for community, creativity, and connection.

Come along, have a yarn, and be part of Wata Takoort!



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



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


2025 ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY JUSTICE AWARDS Nominations Now Open

The Regional Aboriginal Justice Awards are held every second year and acknowledge key community members or groups who have contributed to improved justice outcomes for Aboriginal people.

The following categories are now accepting nominations:

- 🏆 Adult and Elder Award - Acknowledging excellence in an initiative that promotes adults and Elders.
- 🏆 Children and Youth Award - Acknowledging excellence in an initiative that promotes children and youth.
- 🏆 Strengthening Culture Award - Acknowledging excellence in an initiative that promotes cultural strengthening within the Justice environment.
- 🏆 Local Hero Award - Acknowledging excellence by an individual who has championed strengthening Aboriginal Community Justice outcomes within the region.

Regional winners in each category are then eligible to win the State Aboriginal Justice Award.

 You can download the nomination form here:
https://bit.ly/rja_nomination_2025



GUNDITJMARA NAIDOC AWARDS



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



Now open!

Categories:

Aboriginal Elder of the Year
Male 50+

Aboriginal Elder of the Year
Female 50+

Aboriginal Community Member
Male 25-50

Aboriginal Community Member
Female 25-50

Aboriginal Youth
Male 15-25

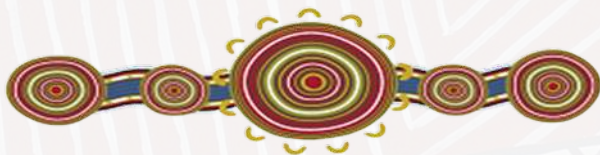
Aboriginal Youth
Female 15-25

How to nominate:

 www.gunditjmara.org.au/naidoc-awards

 Pick up hard copy forms at 24 Hopkins Road.

Nominations must be received by COB 4pm (AEST) on Friday 13th June 2025.



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

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.

Current Vacancies

- Clinical Lead (Registered Nurse)
- Intensive Family Services/Family Preservation & Reunification
- Social & Emotional Wellbeing Caseworker (Adult)
- Psychologist
- Kinship Care Practitioner (Maternity Leave Cover)
- General Practitioner
- Home and Community Care Support Worker

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.

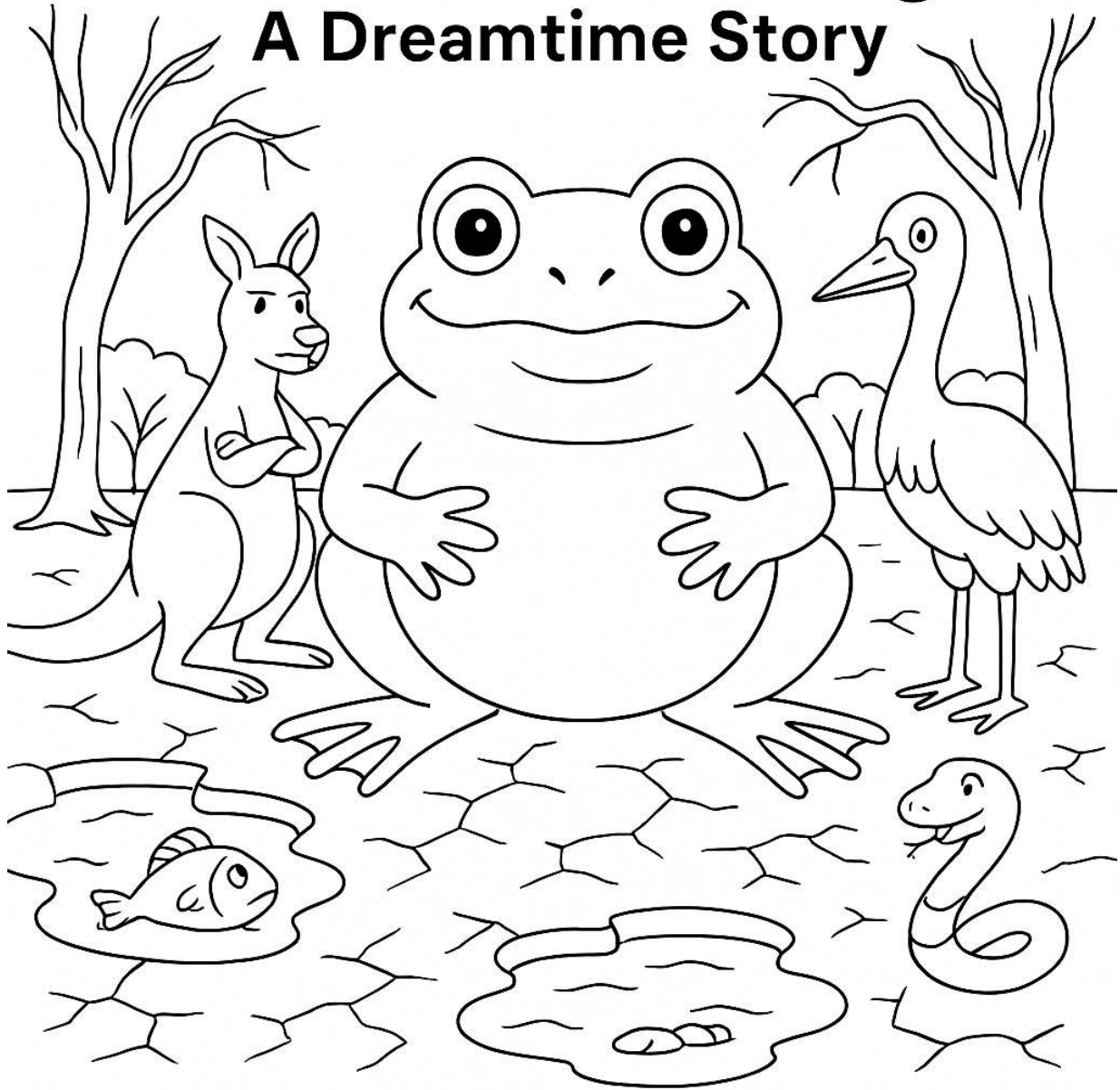


Scan me to
learn more!

OR

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

Tiddlick the Frog – A Dreamtime Story



Tiddalick was a giant frog who drank up all the water, causing a drought. The other animals were very thirsty and sad. They thought of a way to get the water back: they made Tiddalick laugh until the water gushed out of him and back into the rivers and lakes.

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.