

# NJERNDANEWS



## CONNECTING WITH CULTURE

WE HAD A FANTASTIC DAY AT BAROONA FARM FOR OUR YARKA YAKAPNA CORROBOREE, WITH COMMUNITY, FRIENDSHIP AND ACTIVITY ALL ON SHOW. DETAILS AND PICTURES - PAGE 4

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**Njernda**  
Aboriginal Corporation

## CEO'S MESSAGE - TRACEY DILLON



**The Voice Referendum will be held later this year at a date to be fixed by the Prime Minister.**

**The Commonwealth Parliament will consider legislation in June that enables the Referendum and the question that will be put to all Australians.**

**The proposed First Nations Voice to Parliament and setting it in the Australian Constitution is clearly important for every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.**

**However it is also important for every current and future Australian.**

**How the Yes and No Campaigns are run will also be a measure of Australia's maturity.**

**How people vote is up to them.**

**But Njernda wants our Members and the broader Echuca community to have the best and most accurate information on the proposal.**

**Our Board will soon consider options both on the Voice Proposal and how we go forward in a constructive manner.**

**More details will be released on the Voice Proposal along with Fact Statements in future editions of this Newsletter and on our Social Media.**

**“ What will the Voice to Parliament look like and do? ”**

**The Voice will give independent advice to the federal parliament and government.**

**It will be empowering, community-led, inclusive, respectful and culturally informed.**

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***To learn more about the proposal, visit [voice.niaa.gov.au](https://voice.niaa.gov.au)***

## BEAUTIFUL SHAWLS AND WELLNESS DAY



**Our event combining women's health, art and fashion in Echuca has helped to increase awareness of breast cancer.**

In partnership with BreastScreen Victoria and Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health, we offered free breast screening to First Nations women aged over 40 over several days during April - and more than 40 women turned up!

To encourage Aboriginal women to take part, anyone having their first scan was presented with a 'beautiful shawl'.

The shawls were designed by local Alkina Edwards and were given alongside a gift bag. "The Yorta Yorta name of our shawl is Winyarr Malka - which means "Women's Shield" in English," community engagement officer Kristie Hearn said. "The design represents the strength and support given to women who are affected by breast cancer."

A special women's health and wellbeing day was held, with presentations, music and information sessions to promote health prevention and community support.

### Do you want your child in kinder in 2024?

*Kinder is the best place to play, learn, grow, and make new friends.*

*Helping our deadly kids become school ready!*

**Opening date: 1<sup>st</sup> May**

**Closing date for registrations is 16<sup>th</sup> July 2023.**



Come in to Berrimba for a yarn with Skye today

## YARKA YAKAPNA CORROBOREE

### How good was the vibe at our Yarka Yakapna Corroboree at Baroona to finish off the school holidays?

Bringing community together is one of the things we are working hard on doing at Njernda. Everyone who came to enjoy the day - in perfect weather - came in great spirit and there were smiles all round. The kids especially loved the chance to have fun, learn more about our culture and community and let off some steam! A big shout out to all who were involved in pulling the day together. Our staff, the partnership organisations, but in particular the amazing Njernda Family Services Team. Everyone's contribution made it a deadly day of celebration and friendship.

And a big special thanks to the children of staff who helped out to make sure that other children had a fantastic day. What a privilege it was to have Uncle Colin Walker join in on the cultural walk and support Uncles Des. Thanks to Darren and Noel who kept the sausages sizzling, Shelley and Cheryl who made the fantastic curries and fried scones, Aunty Rhonda who ran the yabbies race and Smokin Gums who provided music all day. There are too many names to mention, but to everyone who did something to make this a special day - and you know who you are - we are all grateful! And to all of community who came along to enjoy being together and having fun...a huge thank YOU!



## BERRIMBA NEWS - AN EARLY YEARS UPDATE

We have started calling for expressions of interest from families with pre-school aged children for **2024** enrolments here at Berrimba. For more information about the education we provide here at Berrimba, including our bush kinder program, you can drop in to the child care centre on Hare Street for a chat, or contact Skye Cemino on 0459 854 332.

**OUR GOAL:  
CHILDREN HAVE  
A STRONG SENSE  
OF IDENTITY AND  
ARE CULTURALLY  
SUPPORTED.**



Over the past month in the Toddlers' Room we have been very busy making sure culture is a big part of our everyday play and learning.

We have been busy making rainbow serpents, learning the story of Biami and understanding symbols that are important to Aboriginal people.

We have started to use some of these symbols throughout our room and as part of our everyday learning.

As a result of this work, a permanent cultural table is now set up for the children to explore.



In the 3-5 year old room we have been learning about symbols for storytelling in sand, as well as new Yorta Yorta words. We have then been drawing our families on the whiteboards identifying our own families.



## BERRIMBA NEWS - AN EARLY YEARS UPDATE



The school holiday program at Berrimba was very busy. We were out every day doing different activities and having a lot of fun.

We started off with a movie day at the cinemas where the children chose to watch *The Super Mario Bros*. We went on bush walks, visited different parks and took bus trips to surrounding towns.

Some of the favourites were:

- Bendigo splash park
- Cohuna skate park and ice creamery
- Shepparton (Rebound and Kidstown)
- Moama mini golf.

We are all looking forward to the next holidays so we can go on all new adventures.



In the Babies Room we made poppies to commemorate Anzac Day and read the story *Anzac Ted*, a tale about a bear who went to war. We also made a display with photos of Berrimba family members who served in different wars.

We have also been making our own animal tracks. The children have been stamping them to create their own works of art.

We have also been looking at different Indigenous symbols and using our traditional words as well as English.



## COVID-19 BOOSTER DOSES NOW AVAILABLE

Getting your booster dose is still the best way to prevent severe illness or hospitalisation, especially in people over 65 and those at higher risk of severe illness. The new 2023 bivalent vaccines are preferred for booster doses.

### WHY?

Immunity wanes over time so your protection against the virus is low.

### WHEN?

You can have your booster dose six months after your last dose or COVID infection.

### WHO?

Everyone aged 18 and above! Children aged between 5 and 17 years who are at risk of severe illness are also eligible to receive a 2023 booster dose.

- **Contact Njernda Health on (03) 5480 6252 for an appointment, or if you have any questions**



**INAUGURAL**  
*Njernda Community*  
**HEALTH  
FAIR**

**Wednesday 17th May 2023**  
*Come to our Njernda Community Health Fair and find out information regarding your health and wellbeing.*

- VACCHO
- Echuca Regional Health
- Beat the Boondah (GAMS)
- Ambulance Victoria
- HACC/CHYSP Activities
- Njernda Wellbeing Services
- AOD Information and activity
- Raffles and lucky door prize
- Gift bags and incentives
- BBQ Lunch

Part of  
**Njernda  
Health Week**

**May 15 - 19**

**Njernda Health  
84 Hare Street  
ECHUCA**

**More information:  
(03) 5480 6252**

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

# Reconciliation Community Walk

Let's walk together as one community




Monday  
29th May 2023  
Alton Reserve  
111 Hare Street, Echuca  
10:00am - 11:30am

A Smoking Ceremony by Uncle Rick Ronnan at the Alton Reserve will begin our walk which will be led by our Rainbow Serpent making its way down Hare Street, through the Historical Port of Echuca onto the Hopwood Gardens where we will be conducting a Welcome to Country, guest speeches and flag raising ceremony.



## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Every year on 26 May, National Sorry Day remembers and acknowledges the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were forcibly removed from their families and communities, which we now know as 'The Stolen Generations'.



# National Sorry Day Breakfast

Join us for breakfast:  
Njernda Medical Centre  
84 Hare Street, Echuca  
Friday 26th May 2023  
7.00am - 10.30am

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

# yarka yaka daya

**TUESDAYS**  
10am-12 noon  
DURING SCHOOL  
TERMS



**BERRIMBA CHILD CARE**  
94 Hare St, Echuca

**FREE!**

**Fun & Creative  
Activities**

More information: Emma Taylor  
Best Start/Early Years Facilitator 0407 462 711

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## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



# FOR OUR ELDERS

2-9 JULY 2023

### WATCH THIS SPACE!

**NAIDOC 2023 will be here quicker than you can imagine!**

We've got some HUGE community celebrations planned, and we can't wait to share them with you in future editions of Njernda News and on our social media channels.

But if you would like to get involved and be part of the planning, have a yarn with Uncle Keith Hearn, who is now our Community Engagement Officer.



### Births, Deaths and Marriages is coming to visit your mob

**Tuesday 7 June 2023**

**Njernda Family Services**

10am-2pm, 103-107 Hare St, Echuca

Birth certificates can help you to access important services. You can ask us how to register a birth, apply for a birth certificate, or access our other services. Help with fees is also available.

**Do I need to bring anything?**

- If possible, please bring along proof of identity (e.g. your licence, medicare card or health care card).
- Don't have any ID? Our team can still assist you, so please come along!

**For more information**

- Visit [bdm.vic.gov.au/koori](http://bdm.vic.gov.au/koori)
- Contact our Marguk-bulok koolin-ik Team (Aboriginal Outreach) at [bdm.koori@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:bdm.koori@justice.vic.gov.au)

## MORE STORES STOCKING BAROONA WATTLESEED

### There are new locations in our region where you can find Baroona Wattleseed!

We've loved the response so far to this versatile product, grown at produced at our Baroona Farm near Echuca.

With demand for Baroona Wattleseed growing, we've thrilled to announce that in addition to Monkee & Co, packs are now available at:

- **Lets Do Coffee Echuca on Pakenham Street**
- **Port Of Echuca Discovery Centre.**

Why not support our own local community enterprise, and pick up some Baroona Wattleseed or try it in your next cake, coffee or milkshake?



## WORKING AT NJERNDABORIGINAL CORPORATION

We Are

# HIRING

### MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN (female)

Develop and implement holistic, life-changing programs and strategies to support Aboriginal people at risk of or indicating mental health issues.

- Salary packaging available
- Flexible position/career support
- Innovative, growing organisation

*This is an "Indigenous Only" role under Special Measures of the EEO Act 2010, Section 12.*



**More info and apply:**

**W:** [njernda.com.au](http://njernda.com.au)  
**E:** [jobs@njernda.com.au](mailto:jobs@njernda.com.au)  
**P:** (03) 5480 6252

**Njernda**  
Aboriginal Corporation

A career at Njernda can take you anywhere! And we love to support our Mob to step up into real jobs that make a huge difference.

**Check our website and follow our social media channels to keep up with what's available.**



We encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, but unless stated, our jobs are available to all qualified applicants.

If you're interested in any of our listed jobs, or want to know more about what it's like to work at Njernda, have a yarn with Aunty Trish or the HR Team.

Get all the details of all our jobs and apply on our website, [njernda.com.au](http://njernda.com.au)

### CONTACT US:

Njernda Aboriginal Corporation  
51 - 55 Heygarth Street Echuca (Corporate Office)  
Phone: (03) 5480 6252  
[www.njernda.com.au](http://www.njernda.com.au)

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