



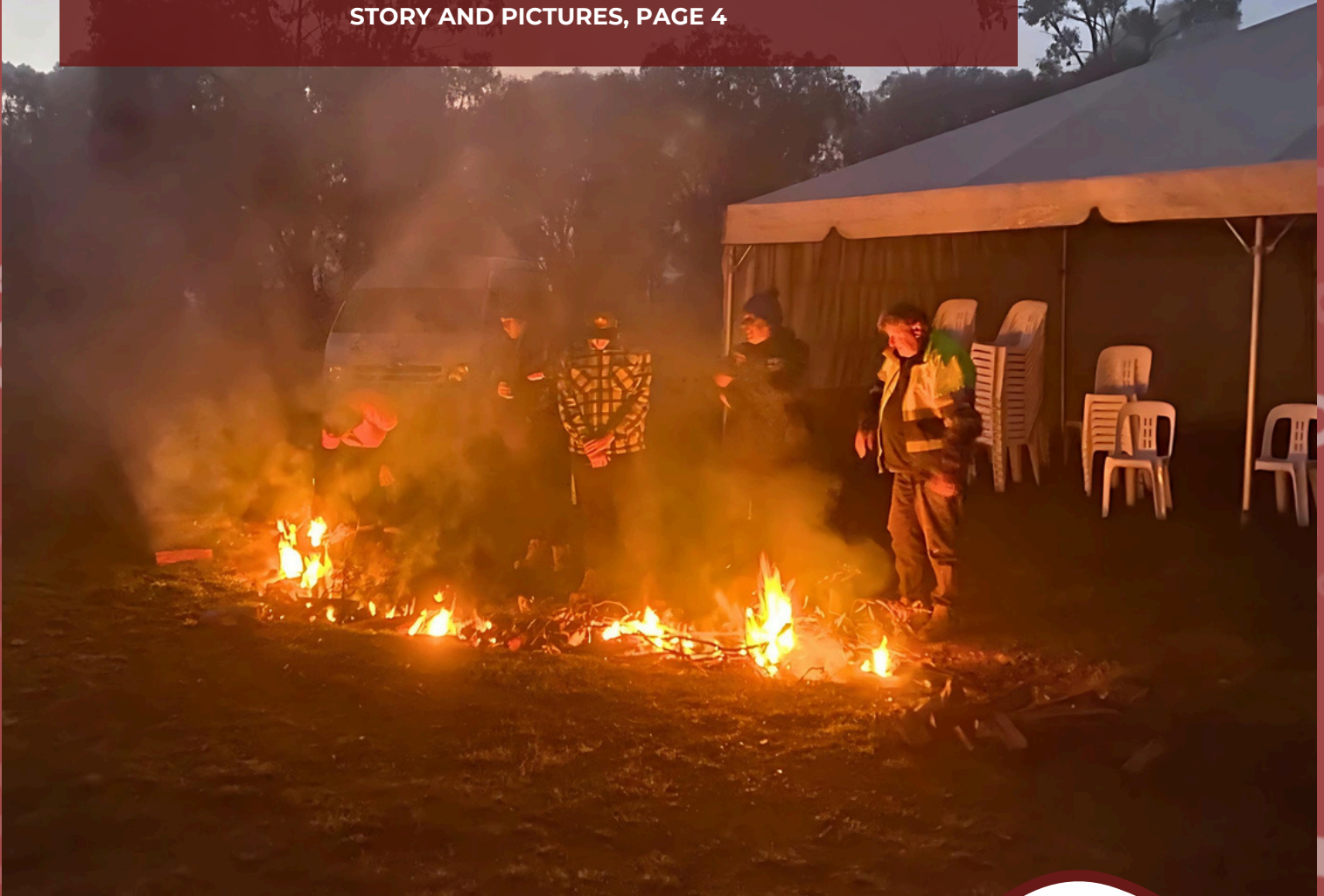
NJERENDA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION | AUGUST 2024 EDITION

# NJERENDA NEWS

## Sharing Culture

After a wet weather delay, our men and boys gathered for a day of fun, games and learning to mark NAIDOC Week 2024.

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**Njernda**  
Aboriginal Corporation



## FOOTY FEVER AS AUSKICK BEGINS

### What a great response to the launch of our Auskick program!

The free footy skills program is taking place each Wednesday afternoon at the Echuca South Recreation Reserve and is open to boys and girls up to the age of 12. The last of the five sessions will be held on

Wednesday 11 September, so there are still chances to get involved! If you would like to learn more, please contact Laura Hudson from Yinya Mulana on 0437 856 375. It's great to see our kids having fun and on their way to becoming footy stars.



## AWARD NOMINATION FOR LMARG



Photograph: Ashlee Jensen, Wirrim Media

**The Loddon Mallee Aboriginal Reference Group (LMARG) has been selected as a finalist in Reconciliation Australia's Indigenous Governance Awards.** Award judges Romalie Mokak, Bhiemie Williamson and Sarah Brown recently visited Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative (BDAC) and met with Dallas Widdicombe - the CEO of BDAC and the current Chair of LMARG and the LMARG leaders including the CEO of Njernda.

Njernda has been a member of LMARG since it started over 25 years ago. LMARG is a consortium of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) in the Loddon Mallee region of Victoria. The association provides a forum for strategic planning and collective decision-making amongst ACCOs, helping members collaborate and support one another as we work towards a common goal. Together, we can coordinate our actions, distribute our resources and achieve much greater outcomes.

## FOCUS ON HOMELESSNESS



**Recently we joined forces with Anglicare Victoria to raise awareness about the difficulties faced by people experiencing homelessness in our community.**

It is great to see people come together to support our local community. We had some positive feedback, and we look forward to further strengthening our working relationship and continuing our work alongside each other, and together to best support our local community.

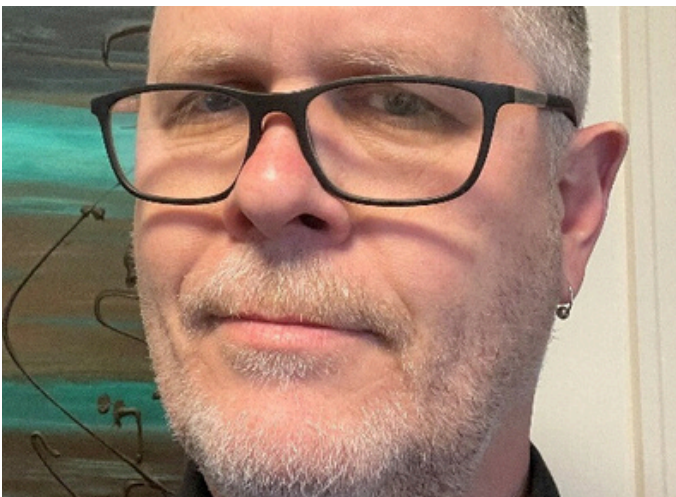
## JAWUN SECONDEES GAINING EXPERIENCE

**A very warm welcome to our two new Jawun Secondees, Patrick and Tyler, who have begun their placement here at Njernda for six weeks.**

Patrick is a Research Development Manager, Discovery with the Faculty of Science Research Office, University of Melbourne. He says he hopes to return to Melbourne better equipped to understand the challenges faced by Indigenous people, communities and organisations, and to communicate those challenges to my colleagues.

Tyler is Senior Project Officer, Central Australia Training Hubs, Skills and Training Group from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations. He is looking forward to gaining a unique understanding of the operating environment, different perspectives and challenges from within an Indigenous organisation.

Jawun partners with Indigenous communities in place-based capacity building, to empower Indigenous-led change and foster meaningful connections between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.





## MEN'S DAY OUT A BIG SUCCESS

**Njernda Wellbeing Unit held a Men's Day Out at Baroona Farm during early August, with 35 local men and boys taking part.**

Welcome to Country was performed by Uncle Ross Morgan. The day included a series of traditional Indigenous games, testing throwing skills, accuracy, timing, power and strength.

The day also introduced a didgeridoo workshop, where participants could learn different techniques such as circular breathing, under the watchful eye of an instructor.

We had great participation in all of the games with a lot of standout skills being shown, We were happy to have the Boys to the Bush mob come and join us and bring along a few of their young fullas, we had representation from Echuca Police and Cr Paul Jarman from the Campaspe Shire joining in on the events.

As always, Let's Do Coffee did a great job in making sure the men had there caffeine fix.

The men were treated to a camp over feast with roast marinated lamb legs, kangaroo stew, chicken stew, roast pumpkin and potatoes, camp oven damper and various salads.

The day was wound up with a raffle of some great prizes including a hand-painted didgeridoo from local artist Kevin Williams.

With more community support we hope to be able to run at least two of these events per year in the warmer weather and during NAIDOC's winter weather, we hope to be able to hold an indoor event for our men.



Health Update

## BOWEL CANCER TESTING NOW EASIER



**The Australian Government's National Bowel Cancer Program sends a free at home bowel cancer screening kit every two years to Australians aged 50-74.**

But as of July 1, 45-49 year old Australians are able to register to order a kit and join the program. The program aims to reduce deaths from bowel cancer by detecting early signs of the disease. Bowel cancer is the third most common cancer among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It has the highest survival rate of all cancers among this population, however it also has one of the highest mortality rates, which may be due to low participation in bowel screening programs. So, check in with your loved ones and encourage them to DO their free test! The best place to learn more about bowel cancer testing is [www.health.gov.au/nbcsp](http://www.health.gov.au/nbcsp)

**We're encouraging people to learn more about foster caring ahead of Foster Care Week in September!**

**It's Foster Care Week!**

8-14 September 2024



Play a Part. Become a foster carer.

fostering CONNECTIONS

VICTORIA State Government

Njernda Aboriginal Corporation



**Due for a health check?**

If you attend a 20-minute appointment with the Aboriginal Health Worker, followed by a 40-minute appointment with the Doctor, you will receive a \$25 gift card!



## FOOD AND CULTURE IGNITE DUNGALA DREAM



### It's great to see a local business with an Indigenous flavour flourishing in Echuca.

Dungala Bakehouse has opened on Hare Street, and looks fantastic after a facelift. "I've always had a goal and dream to open my own business," owner Krystal Henderson says. "But thought it was out of reach and too hard. I come from working the last 12 years in government and realised the time was right for me to step out of my comfort zone and take on the challenge.

I saw an opportunity with owning the Bakehouse and wanted to transform the business into something the represents me and my community. I see so much opportunity for the shop and have lots of plans to grow. My hopes for the business is that I'd love to build the brand within the local community and provide a safe space for connection and positive experiences and provide an opportunity for the wider community to expose themselves to learning and understanding of Aboriginal culture and community, and what better way to do this than with food!"




## NETBALL STARS SHINING ON COURT

### Our netball program is coming to an end after a very enjoyable season for everyone involved!

Congratulations to Jaydah for winning on court for a team she filled in for. The girls love helping other teams, if short of players.



COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



# NJERND A

## HOMEWORK CLASSES

### PRIMARY SCHOOL

Primary focus on literacy and numeracy.

ENROLEMENT REQUIRED

Registration process

WEDNESDAY 3.30 TO 4.30PM  
AT NJERND A YOUTH HUB  
86 ANNESLEY STREET, ECHUCA

CONTACT: NICOLE COOPER  
KOORI KIDS ENGAGEMENT WORKER  
PH:0499 820 320

HOSTED BY  
**Njernda**  
Aboriginal Corporation

COME JOIN US!

# Yarka Yakapna Corroboree

FAMILY FUN DAY!



**FUN ACTIVITIES FOR ALL!**

- Hair Braiding
- Inflatable Games and Rides
- Laser Tag & Rock Climbing
- Arts and Crafts
- Face Painting
- Promotional tents
- Dunk Tank
- Yabby Races
- And More!!

**WHEN**  
Thursday 3 October 2024  
10am to 3pm


**WHERE**  
Baroona  
Entry via Corner of Braund Road and Latham Road

**MUSIC**  
Live entertainment from the Smokin' Gum

**FREE EVENT**

This is an Alcohol & Drug free event.

SCAN ME! 



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### SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

**DETAILS UPDATED**

NJERND A MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THIS MEETING, TO BE HELD:

**MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER AT 5PM**  
**NJERND A COMMUNITY HUB**  
**34 ANNESLEY STREET.**

PLEASE REGISTER ON ARRIVAL.

THE MEETING WILL CONSIDER FOUR RESOLUTIONS, INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF DIRECTORS ON THE NJERND A BOARD, AND THE PROPOSED SALE OF TWO PROPERTIES.

[www.njernda.com.au](http://www.njernda.com.au)



**25th & 26th September**  
**Bendigo**

Age - Division  
9 & Under  
12 & Under  
15 & Under  
17 & Under

**Venue**  
Mercy Junortoun Sports Precinct  
1 St Vincents Road, Junortoun

Registration Packages will be available on a later date

In Partnership with



For more information please call June Bamblett (03) 9416 4266




## WELCOME TO AUNTY COL

### Colleen Day has joined the Njernda team, working with our burraais as Aboriginal Best Start Facilitator.

Colleen is a Yorta Yorta/Wemba Wemba woman who loves gardening.

She's also passionate about giving our children the best possible start in their lives.

"I'm all about ensuring our future generations are giving the best in life to help them in the future," she says.

"I'm motivated by our Culture and community - keeping it alive and thriving with dance and language and sport"

We're thrilled to have Aunty Col on board to work with our families to build on the strength of our Culture.

Congratulations Aunty Col, and good luck for the role!



## WORK WITH US!

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 our HR Team. Get all the details of all our jobs and apply on our website HR Team.

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

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.**



Want to boost your career in healthcare?

### Aboriginal Children's Health and Wellbeing Liaison Officer


Enhance the experience Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and their children have when accessing services within the Loddon Children's Health and Wellbeing Local, and ensure their cultural needs are met.

- Grow your professional network
- Supportive culture
- Innovative, growing organisation

Part time role funded until June 30, 2025 with possibility of extension.

See [njernda.com.au](http://njernda.com.au) to learn more!

**More info:**  
W: [njernda.com.au](http://njernda.com.au)  
E: [jobs@njernda.com.au](mailto:jobs@njernda.com.au)  
P: (03) 5481 0610



**Njernda**  
Aboriginal Corporation

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